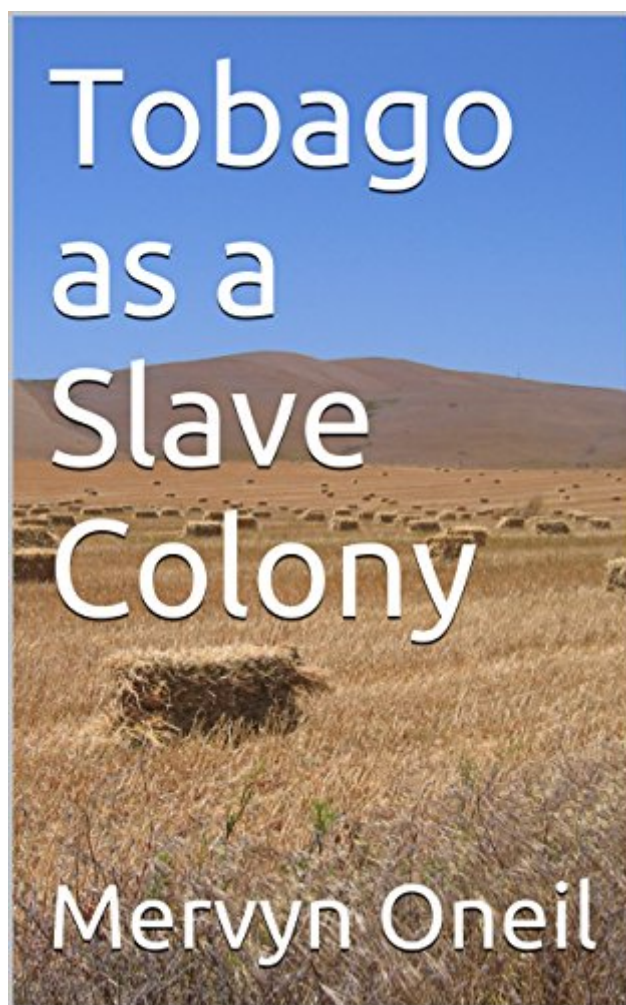


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Tobago As A Slave Colony (An Analytical History Of Tobago Book 11)



Synopsis

Tobago's Big Story is that a people who were brought to the island as chattel slaves are now owners of the island. Tobago's Big Question is where are these people today and where are they going? This is the story that has to be followed. Tobago was a typical West Indian slave colony. The points outline below highlight some aspects of slavery in the West Indies compared to that practice in North America.

- a. In the West Indies organized slave uprisings and runaways were frequent.
- b. Rebellions were in higher proportions among Africans than among Creole slaves. It was only after the African Slave Trade ended that Creoles dominate protests and uprisings.
- c. The practice of slavery in the West Indies was less harsh than in North America in only one respect. It was easier for a slave to be manumitted and gain opportunities for economic advancement but Tobago was largely an exception to that.
- d. West Indian Whites tolerated free coloreds for whom North American societies found no place. West Indian planters needed coloreds for jobs which were taken by Whites in North America.
- e. Coloreds held increasingly prominent positions in the West Indies. They were distinguished from slaves not only by freedom but by the incident of color. Unlike North America, West Indies Whites accorded coloreds special privileges. In North America one was either Black or White.
- f. A crucial difference between slavery in the West Indies and slavery in North America was the proportion of Blacks to Whites. Whites outnumbered Blacks in North America which was quite the opposite in the West Indies. The scarcity of Whites in the West Indies made them more inclined to accept a wide range of intimate associations with free coloreds.
- g. Interracial relationships were openly accommodated in the West Indies, especially between White men and colored women and their off-springs who were classified as coloreds became insular towards Blacks.
- h. Rich West Indian Whites not only recognized their colored off-springs but often educated them in Europe and large property and wealth to them as their heirs.

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