

real political parties, but only skeletons of parties which are controlled by cliques—a condition ruling since 1919.

It is correctly stated in the volume that the present administration has promoted public improvements, but the public debt has risen from \$97,000,000 in 1925 to \$270,000,000; and many of the improvements were unnecessary or unwise. It should be noted also that the appropriation for the army is out of all proportion to the need or the population.

However, Mr. Wright's volume is a very honest one. It contains an excellent survey of the Cuban sugar industry and the conditions affecting it. Skilful use is made of sugar statistics and the comments thereon are accurate. Perhaps the most important fact omitted is that the first sugar mills in Cuba were established by virtue of the economic support of Philip II., and that since that time they have been an economic drag on Cuba. The sugar industry—always a parasitical growth—has never been able to pay its expenses with its own resources in normal times. It depended on slavery for its prosperity in former times and now the masked slavery of the West Indian laborers is unable to save it. Some sort of economic euthanasia is needed for industries which have developed into monstrosities as is the case with Cuba's sugar industry.

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Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America.

By ELIZABETH DONNAN. Vols. I. and II. [III. in course of preparation]. (Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, Division of Historical Research, 1930, 1931. Pp. x, 495; lxii, 731.)

The 480 documents presented in these two volumes illustrate the history of the African slave trade from 1441 to 1807. "Though the emphasis has been placed upon the English trade to the British West Indies", the larger topic of the traffic to the new world carried on by several European nations has received some consideration. Divided into two parts, volume one deals with the period from the time the traffic "became a part of European commerce until the end of the seventeenth century". Volume two carries the subject down to 1807, when British and American legislation outlawed the trade. When volume three comes out, it promises to shift the emphasis to the connection of the thirteen English mainland colonies with the traffic.

The introductory remarks, found at the beginning of parts one and two of the first volume and at the beginning of the second volume, and extending over a total of 110 pages, furnish a background for, and an interpretation of, the documents which follow. The documents themselves vary in length and nature and illuminate such topics as the beginning of African exploitation, the rivalry and friction of European nations in Africa, the development of the great commercial companies which controlled the traffic, the struggle for markets in the new world, the methods used in transportation, and many other matters. Though it is no fault of the compiler, one looks in vain for much light on the origins, habits, and customs of the people enslaved.

The compiler has drawn extensively upon both printed and manuscript materials found in British and Spanish archives and libraries. She is conscious of the fact that the depositories of other European countries would have yielded much more. She is modest in admitting that "the amount of material relating to this subject is prodigious" and that space would permit her only "to suggest possibilities for intensive study and to point the way to available material".

While acknowledging that this is an excellent piece of work for which the American historical public is profoundly grateful, to the present reviewer it seems unfortunate that the plan could not have been more comprehensive. How much more significant it would be if the treatment were even as thorough for all countries as it is for Great Britain! Still no treatment which stops at 1807 could be wholly satisfactory; one of the most important periods in the history of the African slave trade was the second quarter of the nineteenth century or long after the trade had been made piracy by the great nations of the world.

An ample index enhances each of the two volumes. The general format is good. It would probably have been appreciated by users of these volumes had the entire edition, instead of only a part of it been substantially bound, for the copies in paper covers will inevitably deteriorate unless permanently bound. But despite of what the product might have been the reviewer believes that the American historical profession owes a debt of gratitude to Professor Donnan for this excellent and useful compilation.

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