

“DEVIOUSLY INGENIOUS”: BRITISH COLONIALISM IN JAMAICA

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During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the British heteropatriarchal colonial system imposed sociocultural and structural constructs of gender and sexuality on local people as tools to maintain power and control. It created highly volatile states and a legacy of trauma for many generations of colonized people. This article, grounded in Peace and Conflict Studies, examines British colonialism in Jamaica, the use of slavery as a tool in Britain's war for trade and economic prosperity, and its impact on Jamaican inhabitants and their generations. It explores the concepts of nationalism and privilege as oppressive forces that encouraged the division of gender, class, race, and sexuality to establish and legitimize British authority over Jamaica. Finally, this article posits that British colonialism was a powerful psychological tool that was created by British economic and political elites who knew that sustaining their power into the future meant creating fragmented bodies and minds in Jamaica.

INTRODUCTION

This article explores the impact of British colonialism in Jamaica. British colonial patriarchal efforts, first developed and perfected on the island of Ireland,¹ have enslaved and colonized nations. In Ireland, the British colonial process included complete dominion and control over the land, settler economic profit, and the enslavement and servitude of the Indigenous Irish people.² The British colonial process used the gendering and creation of fragmented bodies and minds to cement its coercive control by institutionalizing unjust economic, cultural, political, economic, and patriarchal structures,

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