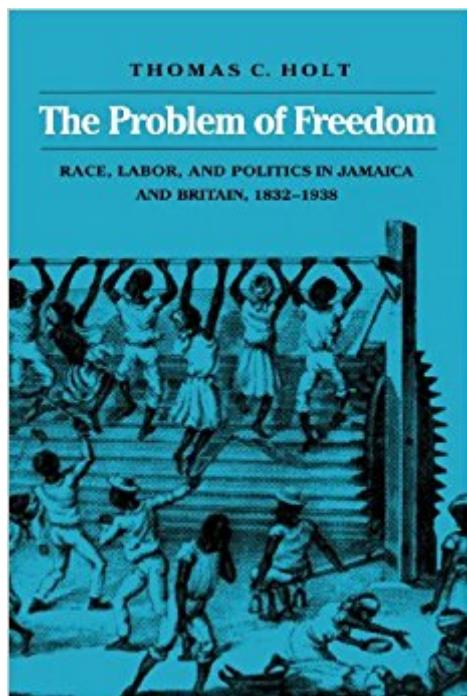


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The Problem Of Freedom: Race, Labor, And Politics In Jamaica And Britain, 1832-1938 (Johns Hopkins Studies In Atlantic History And Culture)



Synopsis

"Holt greatly extends and deepens our understanding of the emancipation experience when, for just over a century, the people of Jamaica struggled to achieve their own vision of freedom and autonomy against powerful conservative forces."-David Barry Gaspar.

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Holt studies Jamaica,from the emancipation of the slaves to the labor problems faced by ex-slaves

in the 1930s. But the narrow focus is misleading - really Holt writes about "the problem of freedom:" the task of socializing ex-slaves into becoming productive laborers - the problem of convincing freedpeople that it's in their best interest to labor for tiny wages, for the profit of the wealthy. Another major focus is the inherent contradictions of classical liberalism - economic freedom does and always has required brutal and latent inequalities in the political and social spheres. Certainly not everyone will agree with Holt, but his argumentation and analysis are impeccable. If you believe that self-determination and free enterprise are practically the same thing - or if you think that capitalism and democracy are one and the same - you must read Holt's book.

An excellent book, well researched in most parts and drawing on memory of information gleaned broadly but from lost sources for the rest (which the author admits in his introductory remarks), presenting a black history of a dark era of human history.

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