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# ANNOTATIONEN

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**Carola Lentz/David Lowe: Remembering Independence (= Remembering the Modern World), London/New York: Routledge 2018, xii + 244 p.**

In 2018 “Remembering Independence”, co-authored by Carola Lentz and David Lowe, appeared as the fifth book in the Routledge series “Remembering the Modern World”.

The title is slightly misleading as in reality the book does not focus on collective memories and commemorations of (national) independence in general, but only of decolonization in Africa and Asia. The countries that are dealt with in detail are Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Namibia and Papua New Guinea.

The book consists of an introduction, six chapters, and a section with final reflections. It also contains a twelve pages long index that allows for detailed search of individual facts. The first chapter sketches the conceptual framework and introduces the ‘media’ where the remembrance of independence takes place. The books, museums, monuments, heroes, martyrs, and national days highlighted in this chapter presage the following chapters 2 to 4. These deal with independence days as mediating moments between past, present and future (chapter 2), the iconic national

heroes around which both unity and division, inclusion and contestation crystallize (chapter 3), and the smaller “martyrs, victims, and anti-heroes” of liberation who vie for a place in the national gallery (chapter 4).

The two last chapters of the book add a spatial and temporal dimension to the analysis. In chapter 5 regional differences as well as the concentration of commemoration in specific places – typically the capital cities – is used to ‘map’ the remembering of independence. Chapter 6 in turn deals with the temporal flexibility in choosing which past is remembered for which future as part of contemporary political agendas.

Richly illustrated and replete with insightful examples, this book gives an agreeable access to the politics and practices of national remembrance and identity in post-colonial Africa and Asia.

Geert Castryck

**Trevor Burnard/John Garrigus: The Plantation Machine: Atlantic Capitalism in French Saint-Domingue and British Jamaica, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press 2016, 350 pp.**

The co-authored book, *The Plantation Machine*, appears in an active and important book series at the University of Pennsylvania

nia Press, “The Early Modern Americas”, that is devoted to “explor(ing) neglected aspects of early modern history in the western hemisphere.” This book certainly hits the mark. Though either case alone could hardly claim to be “neglected” over the course of the last decades, comparative studies involving slave societies in different imperial contexts are rare. This book demonstrates the value of such a difficult endeavour.

The authors, who are both well-known experts on Saint-Domingue and Jamaica respectively, combine their in-depth archival knowledge to show the differences and similarities – while highlighting the parallel development – of French and British Caribbean plantations and slavery in the two most important, or rather productive, plantation colonies. The purpose of their book is not to develop categories for comparison. Rather, the book offers “a twin portrait of societies moving along parallel pathways” (p. 8). What they aim to accomplish, therefore, is not just a comparison of two local slave societies but to illustrate the central importance of the “integrated” plantation system in European imperial projects in the mid to late eighteenth century, therefore prior to the later integrated system in Cuba. This is just one example of how this book refines our historical knowledge of slavery in the Caribbean. Finally, the authors demonstrate not only the workings of the plantation “machine”, but the extent to which production methods on sugar plantations and the wider reverberations of that system in Saint-Domingue and Jamaica influenced French and British imperial policy and metropolitan societies. Moreover, these slave societies and plantation systems are

important to understanding the history of capitalism.

The book consists of ten chapters. Several paint a picture of certain aspects of life on the islands (e.g. chapters on urban life and internal enemies) while others are temporal or based on events (e.g. chapters on the Seven Years’ War and the American Revolution). Therefore, the book contains thematic and narrative chapters. Each chapter considers the topic or event on both islands but depicts the islands separately and successively within each chapter. This narrative style gives the reader the experience of observing the “twin portrait” of these societies that the authors want to impart. There are also illustrations and maps that support the text as well as an extensive index.

This book is recommended for historians of the Atlantic, slavery, the Caribbean, early modern empires, the Age of Revolutions, race, and capitalism.

Megan Maruschke

**Marcel van der Linden: Workers of the World. Eine Globalgeschichte der Arbeit (= Globalgeschichte, Bd. 23), Frankfurt am Main: Campus Verlag 2017, 503 S.**

Marcel van der Lindens großartige Essay-sammlung (zuerst 2008 bei Brill, Leiden erschienen) ist nun auch vollständig in deutscher Sprache verfügbar. Ihre Bedeutung als Markstein bei der Herausbildung einer tatsächlich global orientierten Geschichte der Arbeit kann kaum überschätzt werden, denn der Verfasser schöpft aus dem Reichtum seiner Erfahrungen mit Forschungsansätzen, die den