Settler Society in the English Leeward Islands, 1670–1776

Settler Society in the English Leeward Islands, 1670–1776, is the first study of the history of the federated colony of the Leeward Islands – Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts – that covers all four islands in the period from their independence from Barbados in 1670 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, which reshaped the Caribbean as well as the mainland American colonies. Natalie A. Zacek emphasizes the extent to which the planters of these islands attempted to establish recognizably English societies in tropical islands based on plantation agriculture and African slavery. By examining conflicts relating to ethnicity and religion, controversies regarding sex and social order, and a series of virulent battles over the limits of local and imperial authority, she depicts these West Indian colonists as skilled improvisers who adapted themselves to an unfamiliar environment and who were as committed as other American colonists to the norms and values of English society, politics, and culture.

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Map 1. Leeward Islands
Map 2. Eastern Caribbean