

Racist Regimes, Forced Labour and Death: British Slavery in the Caribbean and the Holocaust in Germany and Occupied Europe by Colin Clarke, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, Switzerland, 2024, 278 pp. EUR 199.999 (Hardcover), 978-3-031-55543-5

Colin Clarke's *Racist Regimes, Forced Labour and Death* takes readers through the long history of slavery in the Caribbean and the Holocaust in Europe from a rarely explored comparative perspective....Clarke builds a bold and insightful narrative framework, examining similar patterns of racial exploitation in two very different contexts....Clarke explains how the two, while different in time, scale and location, both aimed to eliminate fundamental human rights, through forced labour, oppression and murder. Using the theory of differential incorporation, Clarke delves deeper into how both regimes oppressed specific racial and ethnic groups, turning them into disenfranchised victims in both the Caribbean sugar fields and Nazi concentration camps.

Clarke conducts an in-depth comparison between the two regimes, focusing on four key elements: *racism, colonialism/occupation, forced labour and death*. Racism in the Caribbean was expressed through white British slaveholding, while in Nazi Germany Jews, Sinti and Roma were subjected to persecution and massacre under Hitler....Clarke exposes colonialism/occupation as a factor that facilitated exploitation of labour in both regimes. While the British colonial economy drove slavery in the Caribbean and focused on sugar production for European markets, the Holocaust in Nazi Europe was rooted in Germany's expansionist policies, which aimed to clear occupied territories for the benefit of ethnic Germans. Forced labour was the core of both systems, with Clarke highlighting that in both regimes, victimized populations were forced to work themselves to death....In Caribbean slavery, death was caused by brutal working conditions, disease and malnutrition, while in the Holocaust, death occurred through mass executions and killings in concentration and labour camps....Clarke shows that while the Holocaust is often considered to be an outright genocide, Caribbean slavery also caused mass deaths that were sustained for two centuries.

Clarke's ability to use a rarely explored comparative approach provides new insights into how slavery and the Holocaust can be understood as two sides of the same coin: racial domination. The author packages this historical material in a deep academic style but remains accessible to the general reader. Clarke's research, which involved field visits to Holocaust sites in Eastern Europe and in-depth research into the history of slavery in the Caribbean, enriches the book with accurate and relevant details. The use of differential incorporation theory exposes the structural similarities between the two regimes, particularly in the way they utilized racial and ethnic differences to justify exploitation and oppression.

Overall, *Racist Regimes, Forced Labour and Death* is an important work that breaks new ground in the comparative study of the history of slavery and the Holocaust. With a structured approach and in-depth research, Colin Clarke presents a fresh, albeit sometimes intellectually challenging, perspective. This book is highly recommended for those interested in the history of slavery, the Holocaust, and racial dynamics in colonial and totalitarian regimes.

Muhammad Hendi Hidayat Romadhoni, Jecelyn Amanda Dethan, Agnes Levina Sesa and Reski Putra Utama

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