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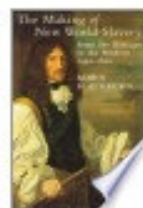
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“The” Making of New World Slavery: From the Baroque to the Modern 1492 - 1800

By Robin Blackburn

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Political alignments in Barbados during the Civil War and Restoration period are linked in intriguing ways to metropolitan politics. Thus Barbados contained an influential group of planters linked to the ‘new merchants’ of the City, and to prominent representatives of the Parliamentary cause. Maurice Thomson, who played a major role in shaping the Commonwealth’s colonial and commercial policy as a Member of the Commons Committee on Trade and Plantations, had several planter clients in Barbados.⁴⁷ Others strongly linked to the Parliamentary cause and the innermost counsels of its leaders included James Drax, probably the first planter to produce sugar; Stephen and Thomas Noel, planter brothers of the influential ‘new merchant’ Martin Noel; Thomas Kendall, a London grocer who also owned a plantation in Barbados; and John Bayes, a planter associate of Bradshaw, President of the Council of State. More ambivalent in their sympathies, but equally influential, were James Modyford, who fought for the King but then emigrated to Barbados where, as a cousin of General Monck, he played a key role in both Commonwealth and Restoration; William and Thomas Povey, merchants and office-holders; and Anthony Ashley Cooper, later Earl of Shaftesbury, an absentee Barbados planter with a lively interest in colonial projects. Finally, mention should be made of Lord Francis Willoughby, twice Governor of the island, who fought against the King but