

Immigration

Introduction:

The planters argued that the introduction of a large number of immigrant workers would guarantee them labor at least for the duration of the contract. Secondly in the long run it would serve to force down the wage level. Britain did not want her 'Great Experiment' of free labor to fail so she reluctantly agreed to the scheme.

Where did the **majority** of the immigrants come from and what territories did they go to?

Territory	Europeans	Madeirans	Africans	Chinese	East Indians
British	5,200	36,100	36, 500	17,430	416,000
French	200	300	17,000	1,500	88,000
Dutch	-	480	-	2,502	34,024

The immigrants were required to sign a contract. The provisions of the 1854 Immigration Ordinance (Trinidad) give us a good idea of the various immigration schemes that were operated throughout the Caribbean. Most of the other territories used Trinidad and or British Guiana's Ordinances as models.

1. The immigrants were required to work for a period of three to five years.
2. Jail terms were imprisoned for infringement of any aspects of the Immigration Law.
3. Time spent in jail to be added unto the period of indenture
4. Tickets of leave to be issued to immigrants to be off the estate during working hours.
5. They were required to work seven hours a day, six days per week for one shilling per day.

6. Employers had to provide housing and medical care

The Chief Justice of British Guiana called the immigration schemes "The New Slavery" because of the harsh conditions and inhumane treatment that the immigrants had to endure.