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William Beckford: First Prime Minister of the London Empire

By Gauci, Perry.

Yale. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. This biography of Jamaican-born sugar planter William Beckford later Lord Mayor of London provides a unique look at 18th-century British history from the perspective of the colonies. Even in his own time, Beckford was seen as a metaphor for the dramatic changes occurring during this era. He was born in 1709 into a family of wealthy planters, when the colonies were still peripheral to Britain. By the time he died in 1770, the colonies loomed large and were considered the source of Britain's growing global power. Beckford grew his fortune in Jamaica, but he spent most of his adult life in London, winning the office of Lord Mayor twice. He was one of the few politicians to have experienced imperial growing pains on both sides of the Atlantic, and his life offers a riveting look at how the expanding empire challenged existing political, social, and cultural norms. "The first complete study of the life of one of the most important transatlantic figures of the mid-18th century. the book is illuminating in detail and rich in implications." David Armitage 290.



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