Denmark Vesey: A Caribbean Revolution in South Carolina

During the period of slavery, successful Caribbean rebellions stoked the flames of uprising in North America; the most salient case being the Haitian Revolution (Scott 2018). Additionally, the intra-American slave trade unintentionally exported rebellion to other shores. In this paper, I speculate that Denmark Vesey’s rebellion, while was more than just a foiled rebel plot, it was a Caribbean rebellion in South Carolina. Reframing Vesey’s rebellion as a Caribbean revolt, I draw renewed connections across the Black Atlantic world and further cement the connection between uprisings in the Caribbean and the United States.

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