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Albion's Fatal Flaws, Past and Present



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Abstract

Douglas Hay's essay "Property, Authority and the Criminal Law", which sounds the opening shot for the collection titled Albion's Fatal Tree, has attracted a huge following, especially outside specialist legal history circles. Hay's main thesis is that some of the most characteristic features of eighteenth-century English criminal procedure for cases of serious crime require to be understood as "a ruling-class conspiracy" against the lower orders. In the present article I shall show that when tested against detailed evidence of the work of the felony courts, Hay's thesis appears fundamentally mistaken. (I shall not be discussing the other essays in the Albion volume.)

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Fatal Flaws are mental or physical weaknesses that demigods, humans, and immortals possess. These flaws can often cause the downfall of the being, but are particularly dangerous to demigods. In Greek plays, they are often referred to as "Tragic Flaws". Fatal Flaws are first mentioned in The Sea of Monsters when Annabeth Chase wants to listen to the Siren's song to learn her fatal flaw. She then explains to Percy Jackson what fatal flaws are. Fatal flaws are mentioned frequently throughout the series Albion's fatal flaws*. Douglas hay'S essay, "property, authority and the criminal. Law", which sounds the opening shot for the collection titled Album's Fatal Tree, has attracted a huge following, especially outside specialist legal history circles.1 Hay's main thesis is that some of the most characteristic features of eighteenth-century English criminal pro-cedure for cases of serious crime require to be understood as "a ruling-class conspiracy" against the lower. orders.2 In the present article I shall show that when tested against detailed evidence of