This book describes how a seemingly powerless group – the urban poor of Jamaica – won benefits and honor for themselves by being indispensable to politicians and by asserting their own claims on a society that dishonored them. The publication shows how the social power of this demeaned group altered the identity of Jamaican politics, affected the character of Jamaican democracy, and enhanced the status of a hitherto marginal group. The book concludes that even as the urban poor accumulated significant social power and notoriety, this development undermined democracy and deepened the criminalization of politics and society in this country.