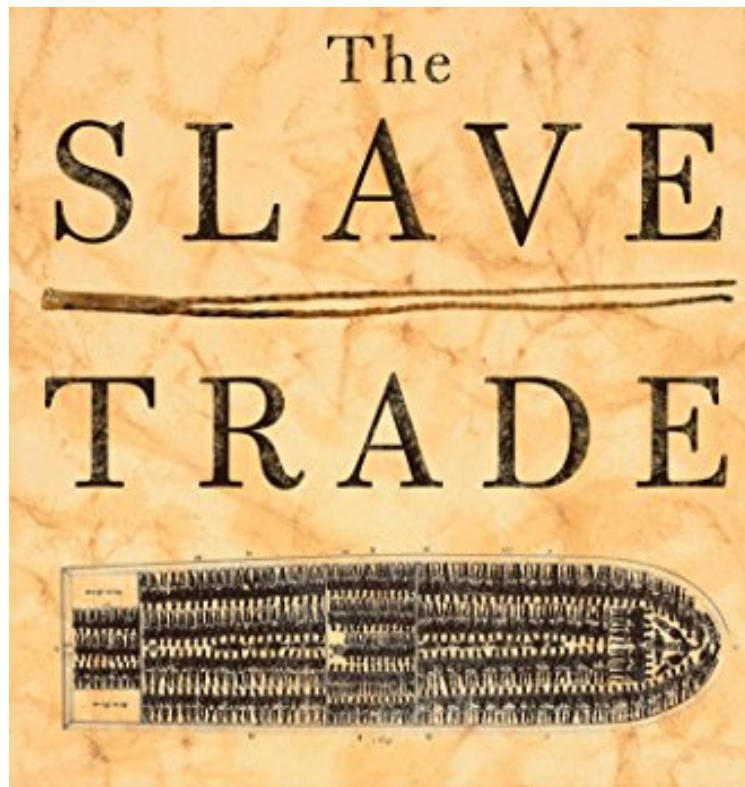


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The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade: 1440-1870

Hugh Thomas

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*The STORY of the ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE:
1440-1870*

HUGH THOMAS

AUTHOR OF *Conquest*

"Hugh Thomas has given us the most comprehensive account
of the Atlantic slave trade ever written."

—ROBERT B. EDGERTON, *National Review*

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Hugh Thomas : The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade: 1440-1870 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade: 1440-1870:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding and DefinitiveBy CanailleIt's taken a long time to get through it, but it is worth the journey.An epic, detailed examination of the African Slave Trade from its inception by the Portuguese in the 15th century to its demise in Brazil in the late 19th. There is so much missing from our popular understanding of the slave trade, the biggest - in my opinion - being the participation of coastal African peoples as

kidnappers and traders themselves. You will learn in fine, granular detail about every aspect of the trade, from the financing of voyages to the relative merits (as slaves) of the various groups that populated Africa. One thing I really like about Thomas' treatment of this subject is his avoidance of overtly shrill moralizing, instead letting the appalling facts reveal themselves in the details he provides. His chapter on the slaves' experience of crossing the Atlantic is horrifying. Overcrowded ships was merely one aspect of the crossing. All in all - a fantastic book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A heavy read, but worth the time. By Customer This is a very deep, comprehensive read -- rich with history and information, very educational and enlightening on an enormously important subject. But some sections are extremely thick with details and it can be a slow read through some parts, especially the first few chapters. But it's worth the time to get through. Not a light read. In fact, I took my time with this book, setting it aside for lighter reading from time to time. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely exhaustive and enlightening. Refreshingly bereft of political advocacy ... By JPS Absolutely exhaustive and enlightening. Refreshingly bereft of political advocacy, eye-opening in its portrayal of slavery's economy-wide importance to England's fledgling commercial and industrial development, Thomas' book makes it quite plain that elites in every population involved in the slave trade (African, European and American) avidly wished for it to exist and expand. This is a masterpiece of balanced scholarship for a uniquely volatile topic.

After many years of research, award-winning historian Hugh Thomas portrays, in a balanced account, the complete history of the slave trade. Beginning with the first Portuguese slaving expeditions, he describes and analyzes the rise of one of the largest and most elaborate maritime and commercial ventures in all of history. Between 1492 and 1870, approximately eleven million black slaves were carried from Africa to the Americas to work on plantations, in mines, or as servants in houses. The Slave Trade is alive with villains and heroes and illuminated by eyewitness accounts. Hugh Thomas's achievement is not only to present a compelling history of the time but to answer as well such controversial questions as who the traders were, the extent of the profits, and why so many African rulers and peoples willingly collaborated. Thomas also movingly describes such accounts as are available from the slaves themselves.

.com The Slave Trade is a massive (900-page) book that attempts to document the entire history of the Atlantic slave trade, a sordid business that somehow prospered for more than four centuries. As the sheer heft of the book might indicate, the story is complicated. Much of the extensive research conducted by Hugh Thomas relates to rivalries both in Europe and Africa. Those who wonder how slavery could have existed in the United States may find revelatory the moral ambiguity of how the business of transporting slaves was conducted. From School Library Journal YA-Thomas concentrates on the economics, social acceptance, and politics of the slave trade. The scope of the book is amazingly broad as the author covers virtually every aspect of the subject from the early days of the 16th century when great commercial houses were set up throughout Europe to the 1713 Peace Treaty of Utrecht, which gave the British the right to import slaves into the Spanish Indies. The account includes the anti-slavery patrols of the 19th century and the final decline and abolition in the early 20th century. Through the skillful weaving of numerous official reports, financial documents, and firsthand accounts, Thomas explains how slavery was socially acceptable and shows that people and governments everywhere were involved in it. From African kings and Arab slave traders to the Europeans and Americans who bought and transported them to the New World. Despite the volatility of the subject, the author remains emotionally detached in his writing, yet produces a highly readable, informative book. A superb addition to YA collections. Robert Burnham, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The age of exploration increased the slave trade, which had begun earlier with the Portuguese and didn't end in Brazil and Cuba until almost 1890. The volume was tremendous. Between 1492 and 1820, "five times as many Africans went to the New World as did white Europeans." Most of the great economic enterprises (sugar, cotton, etc.) of the first four centuries of colonization depended on slaves. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.