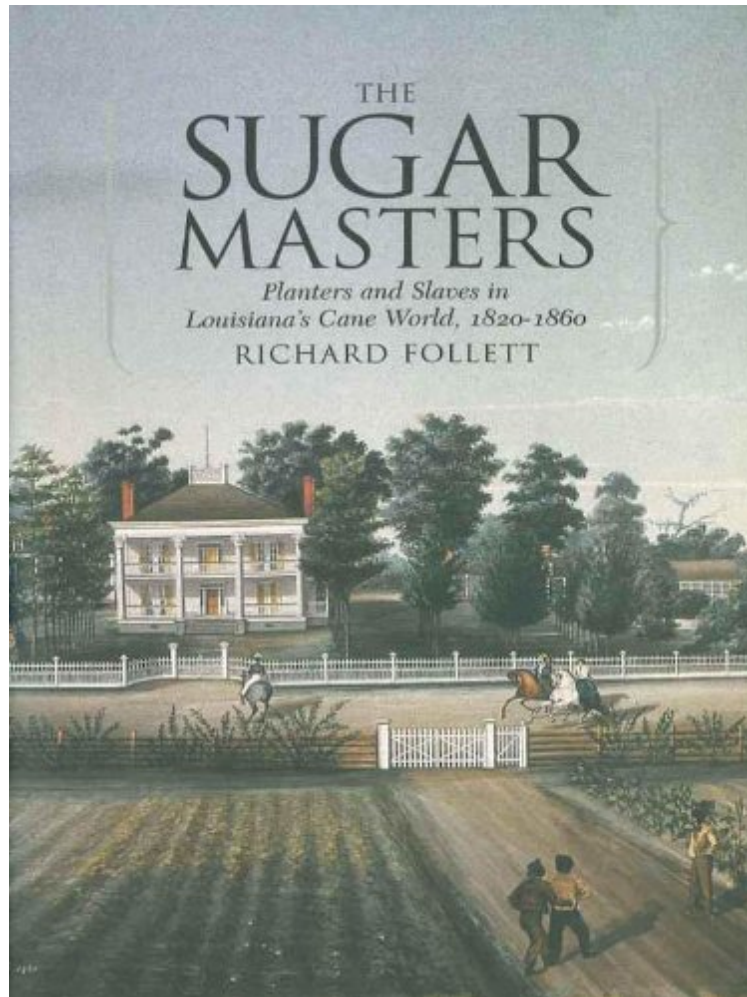


[Free] The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820ndash;1860

The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820ndash;1860

Richard Follett

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Richard Follett : The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820ndash;1860 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820ndash;1860:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Great!!By Maria P. MaglianoI thoroughly enjoyed Follet's book. It is well researched, well written and shows how the desire for economic success by the Lousiana planter class drove the ideology and practice of slavery on the sugar plantation. Follet also shows us how slaves attempted to derive economic and personal independence within the contstraints of the plantation economy and racism. The Lousiana sugar economy differed from other sugar economies in the Caribbean and Follet shows it in its very particular context while touching on broader themes in the antebellum South and U.S. history as a whole. My only regret is the

organization of the work, which wasn't clearly outlined and seemed to flow from one topic to another without real warning or structure, though with logic. But other than that, I found it thoroughly instructive, thoughtful, and objective. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book! Purchased this specifically to get the history on a plantation I was married at! Very informational I found it hard to put it down. 3 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Not an accurate depiction! By Angela Miller I had to read this book for a grad course on Slave History in America. This book was SO boring! The author repeats himself endlessly, as if he was just trying to meet a page or word requirement and ran out of things to say. There are many more books that are much better reads than Sugar Masters. As a native of south Louisiana and a history teacher, I can assure you that the slant in this book does not portray a completely accurate description of what life was like on most sugar plantations. For a much truer picture, I suggest Africans in Colonial Louisiana by Hall. Follett makes it sound like every single white person in south Louisiana was a racist who hated the slaves. My ancestors were sugar cane farmers (not plantation owners) who worked side by side in the fields with African American farmers. They farmed sugar cane together, picked cotton together, etc. Follett seems to have an agenda of making this Deep South area look as bad as possible. His twists on the facts is a shameful turn on the true history of the slave era in Louisiana.

Focusing on the master-slave relationship in Louisiana's antebellum sugarcane country, *The Sugar Masters* explores how a modern, capitalist mind-set among planters meshed with old-style paternalistic attitudes to create one of the South's most insidiously oppressive labor systems. As author Richard Follett vividly demonstrates, the agricultural paradise of Louisiana's thriving sugarcane fields came at an unconscionable cost to slaves. Thanks to technological and business innovations, sugar planters stood as models of capitalist entrepreneurship by midcentury. But above all, labor management was the secret to their impressive success. Follett explains how in exchange for increased productivity and efficiency they offered their slaves a range of incentives, such as greater autonomy, improved accommodations, and even financial remuneration. These material gains, however, were only short term. According to Follett, many of Louisiana's sugar elite presented their incentives with a "facade of paternal reciprocity" that seemingly bound the slaves' interests to the apparent goodwill of the masters, but in fact, the owners sought to control every aspect of the slaves' lives, from reproduction to discretionary income. Slaves responded to this display of paternalism by trying to enhance their rights under bondage, but the constant bargaining process invariably led to compromises on their part, and the grueling production pace never relented. The only respite from their masters' demands lay in fashioning their own society, including outlets for religion, leisure, and trade. Until recently, scholars have viewed planters as either paternalistic lords who eschewed marketplace values or as entrepreneurs driven to business success. Follett offers a new view of the sugar masters as embracing both the capitalist market and a social ideology based on hierarchy, honor, and paternalism. His stunning synthesis of empirical research, demographics study, and social and cultural history sets a new standard for this subject.

About the Author Richard Follett is Chair Professor of American History at the University of Sussex, England.