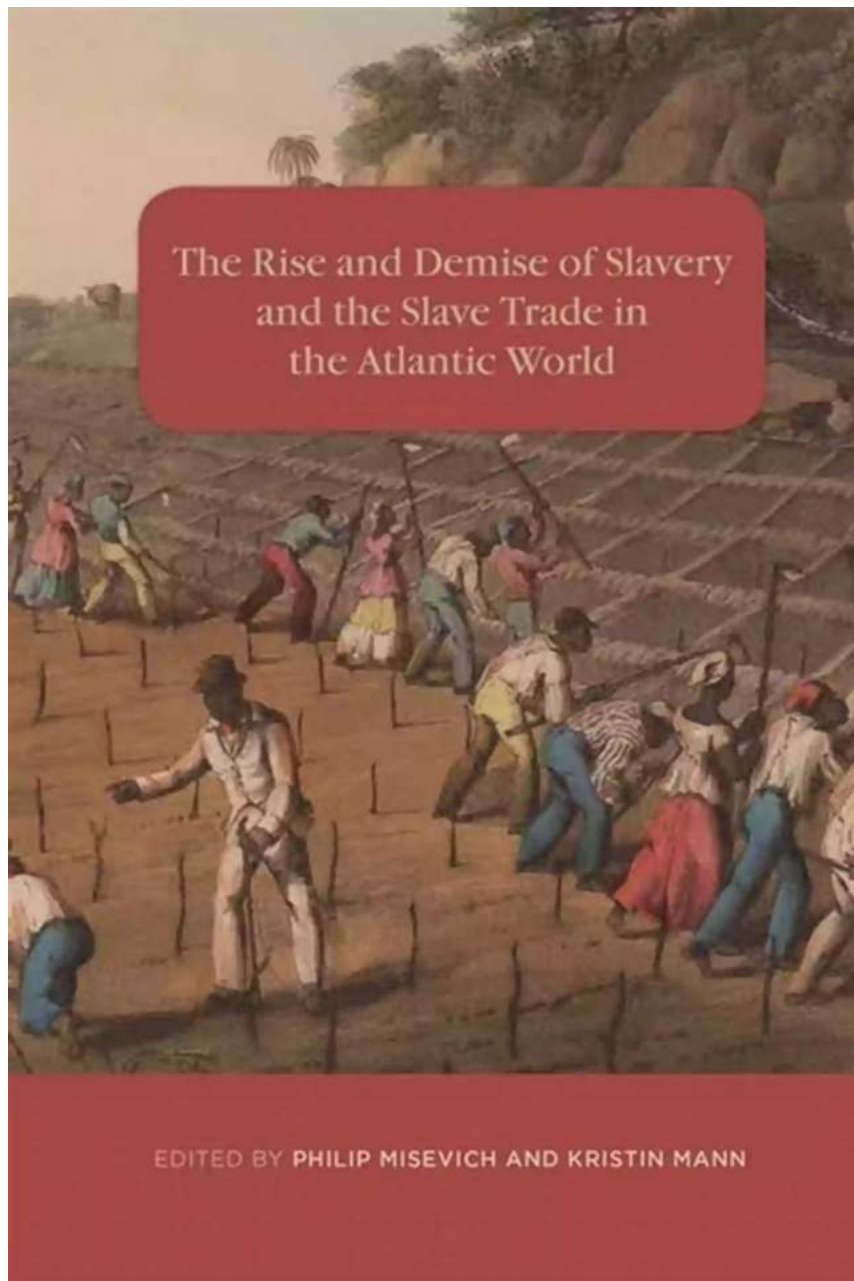


The Rise And Demise Of Slavery And The Slave Trade In The Atlantic World

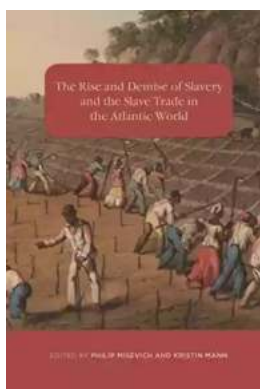


The rise and demise of slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic world is a dark chapter in the history of humanity. Spanning several centuries, this abhorrent trade involved the forced enslavement and transportation of millions of Africans

across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. The effects of this brutal practice continue to reverberate through societies to this day.

The Beginnings of the Atlantic Slave Trade

The origins of the Atlantic slave trade can be traced back to the 15th century when Portuguese explorers started venturing into Africa. Initially, they sought trade opportunities and alliances with African kingdoms. However, as they encountered African societies with established slave systems, the Portuguese quickly realized the economic potential of exploiting enslaved labor.



The Rise and Demise of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World (Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora Book 71)

by Willem Floor (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 9500 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 378 pages



A portrayal of enslaved Africans being transported in a slave ship during the Atlantic slave trade.

The Triangular Trade Route

As European powers expanded their involvement in the slave trade, a triangular trade route emerged. European ships would sail to Africa, where they exchanged

various goods, including firearms and other manufactures, for enslaved Africans. These Africans were then transported across the treacherous Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. In the Americas, they were sold as property, primarily to work on plantations cultivating cash crops such as sugar, tobacco, and cotton. The profits gained from the sale of these goods would then be used to purchase raw materials such as sugar, molasses, and tobacco, which would complete the triangle by being shipped back to Europe.

The Impact of Slavery

The impact of slavery on the Atlantic world cannot be overstated. It not only led to the brutal subjugation and exploitation of millions of Africans but also fueled the economic growth of European colonial powers. Plantation owners amassed vast fortunes, while the enslaved Africans endured inhumane treatment, living in dire conditions and suffering physical and psychological abuse.

An illustration depicting the harsh conditions enslaved Africans endured on plantations.

The Abolitionist Movement

The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed a growing abolitionist movement that sought to end the transatlantic slave trade and slavery itself. Influential figures such as Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and William Wilberforce vehemently fought for the rights of enslaved Africans and successfully contributed to the abolition of slavery in various countries.

The End of the Atlantic Slave Trade

The Atlantic slave trade began to decline in the early 19th century due to a combination of factors. The efforts of abolitionists played a significant role in raising awareness about the immorality of slavery. Additionally, economic

changes, such as the Industrial Revolution and the rise of wage labor, provided alternative sources of labor that were seen as more efficient and less controversial than slavery.

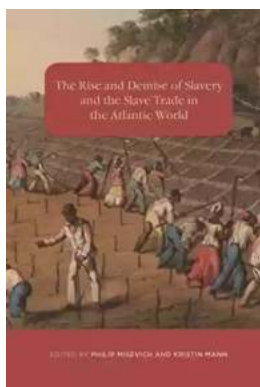
Finally, in 1807, the United Kingdom became the first major European power to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. Other countries followed suit, and by the late 19th century, the slave trade had been almost entirely eradicated.

The Legacy of Slavery

Although the Atlantic slave trade may have ended, its legacy remains deeply imprinted on society. The consequences of slavery, such as systemic racism and social inequality, have persisted for generations. The process of healing and reconciling our collective past is an ongoing endeavor, as societies continue to grapple with the effects of this dark period in history.

The rise and demise of slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic world is a chapter that should never be forgotten. It serves as a reminder of the atrocities humans are capable of committing against one another and the enduring impact of these actions. By studying and understanding this history, we can work towards a more just and equitable future for all.

A sculpture honoring those who suffered during the Atlantic slave trade.



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Drawing on new quantitative and qualitative evidence, this study reexamines the rise, transformation, and slow demise of slavery and the slave trade in the Atlantic world. The twelve essays here reveal the legacies and consequences of abolition and chronicle the first formative global human rights movement. They also cast new light on the origins and development of the African diaspora created by the transatlantic slave trade. Engagingly written and attuned to twenty-first century as well as historical problems and debates, this book will appeal to specialists interested in cultural, economic, and political analysis of the slave trade as well as to nonspecialists seeking to understand anew how transatlantic slavery forever changed Europe, the Americas, and Africa.

Philip Misevich is assistant professor of history at St. John's University, and Kristin Mann is professor of history at Emory University.



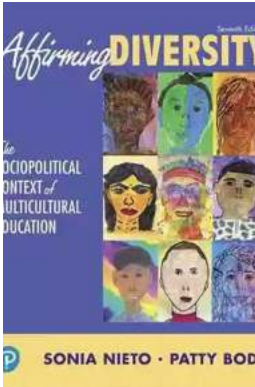
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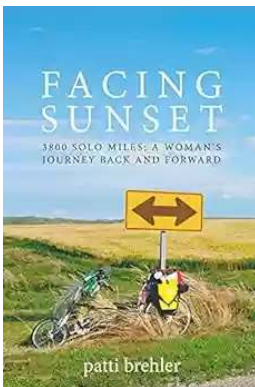
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