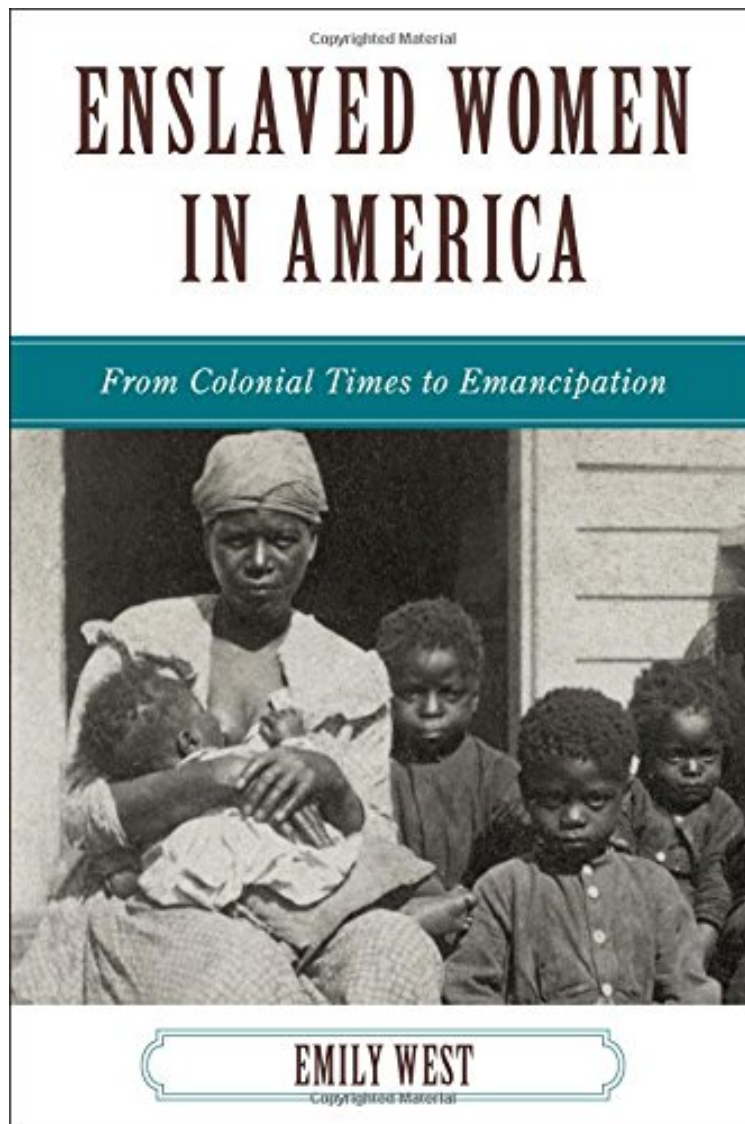


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Enslaved Women in America: From Colonial Times to Emancipation (The African American History Series)

Emily West

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Emily West : Enslaved Women in America: From Colonial Times to Emancipation (The African American History Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enslaved Women in America: From Colonial Times to Emancipation (The African American History Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lifespans of slave women By Gary T. Johnson What sets this study

apart is the command of research focusing specifically on women from their lives in Africa through the different chapters of their lives as slaves in North America.

More than a century after Emancipation, no comprehensive overview of the history of the female American slave exists. In this book, historian Emily West offers the first comprehensive overview of the lives of enslaved women in America by placing their stories within the broader context of slavery in this country from the colonial era through to the end of the Civil War. She compares the lives of enslaved women with the lives of enslaved men from the same period, and with the white men and women who unjustly held them in bondage. West's thorough research and eye for detail construct a narrative of the enslaved woman's life, giving voice to and revealing the significance of a singularly strong but largely overlooked member of early American society.

West examines the experiences of enslaved African American women from the 16th-century African slave trade to the 19th-century Reconstruction era. Part of the publisher's African American History Series, this text synthesizes numerous valuable details about slave women's experiences while still being concise enough not to overwhelm nonexperts. Significant to the book is the explication of women's social and cultural experiences, including their familial and labor expectations. West also carefully weaves in elements of the political and economic climate in order to illustrate how local as well as national forces played a role in the average bondswoman's life. In addition to the detailed narrative, also significant is the inclusion of select primary sources that demonstrate the true experiences of enslaved women by those who underwent and witnessed them. Ideal for collections in US history, women's history, and the history of American slavery, or for average readers who want to truly understand the experiences of enslaved African American women of the past. **Summing Up: Recommended.** General collections through graduate libraries. (CHOICE) This volume would be a suitable introduction to slavery for first- or second-year undergraduates. And not to be overlooked, the primary documents section includes a number of well-chosen WPA interviews: they are vivid material for lively class discussions. (Journal of Southern History) Emily West's comprehensive analysis of the lives of enslaved women in North America from the colonial period through Emancipation and the Reconstruction Amendments skilfully links these women's experiences over time through their shared experience of suffering, exploitation, and strategies of survival. Weaving a wealth of primary sources into a thoughtful and sensitive analysis, this book is a must read for students of American slavery. (Rebecca Fraser, University of East Anglia) This important and highly-readable synthesis traces the lives of African women from the point of enslavement through emancipation in the nineteenth century. With examples of primary sources and an informative bibliographic essay this book will be the starting point for all those interested in the female slave experience in North America. (Timothy Lockley, University of Warwick) This boldly-conceived and ambitious work demonstrates the crucial significance of gendered relationships as a central dynamic in the slave experience. Unmatched in its chronological breadth and insightful in its analysis, this compelling narrative will captivate students, academics, and all those who seek to understand American slavery and the lives of those whose labour was of seminal importance in the creation of America. (Laura Sandy, Keele University) West's engaging introduction to women's experience of slavery in the U.S. tells us why gender matters to the study of slavery's history, how women's experiences changed over time, and how enslaved women hastened the end of slavery during the Civil War. *Enslaved Women in America* offers an excellent guide to this complex and rich history, and includes a welcome selection of interviews and memoirs that allow us to see the past from the perspective of those who lived through it. I highly recommend this book. (Leslie Schwalm, University of Iowa) This timely examination covers enormous ground in tracing the historical experiences of female slaves from West Africa to the Deep South over the entirety of their captivity in North America. Emily West draws out the dual exploitation of enslaved women as workers and reproducers in succinct and authoritative prose suitable for all readers. (David Brown, University of Manchester) For generations female slaves have played prominent roles throughout American history, but more than a century after Emancipation, no comprehensive overview of the history of the female American slave exists. In this book, historian Emily West offers the first comprehensive overview of the lives of enslaved women in America by placing their stories within the broader context of slavery in this country from the colonial era through to the end of the Civil War. **About the Author** Emily West is associate professor in American history at the University of Reading and the author of *Chains of Love: Slave Couples in Antebellum South Carolina* and *Family or Freedom: People of Color in the Antebellum South*.