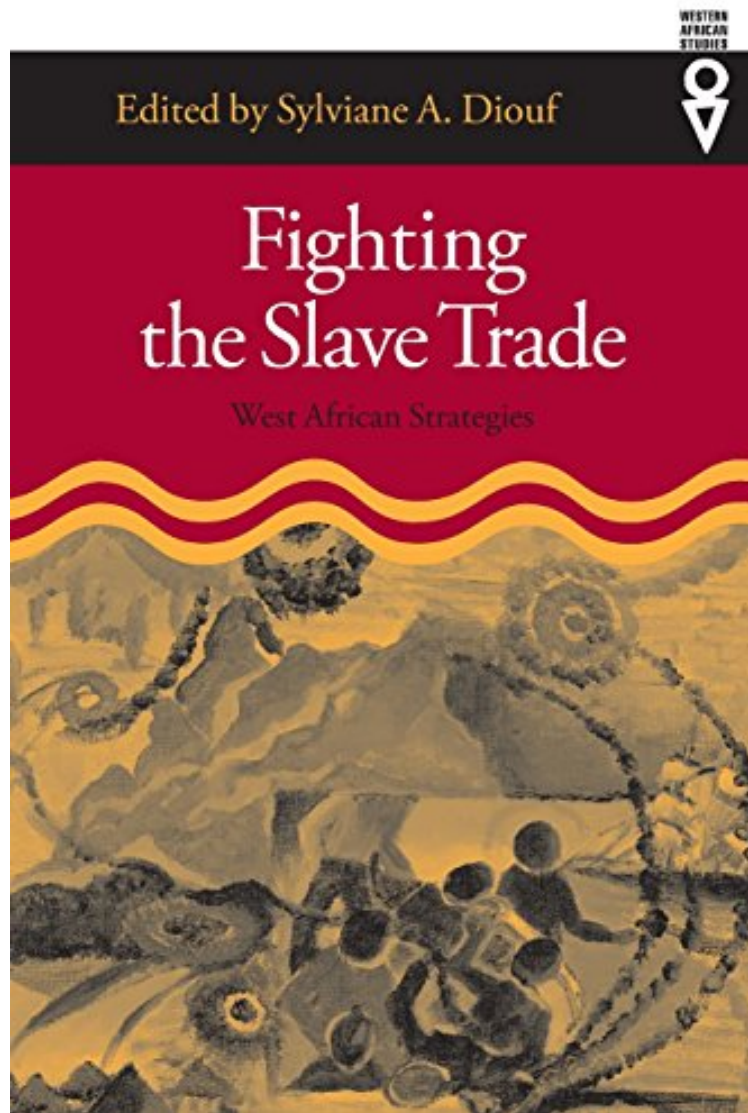


(Free and download) Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies (Western African Studies)

Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies (Western African Studies)

Sylviane A. Diouf

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Sylviane A. Diouf : Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies (Western African Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies (Western African Studies):

32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Final Grade: C+By The SeshThis book is in fact not written by Diouf but is a collection of over a dozen different essays that discuss how slavery affected West Africa. The book

automatically wins points for simply addressing this topic, especially because most books about African enslavement are about its existence in the Western Hemisphere. This book helps bring to light the fact that West Africans did not go quietly into slavery and revolt only upon reaching the Americas. This book focuses on ways in which some ethnic groups resisted enslavement and capture by other ethnic groups in West Africa. That being said I was disappointed that the book does not discuss West African resistance to Europeans. For example, the famed Senegalese King of Almammy in 1787 not only banned slavery but banned any slave being carried through his kingdom. As a result the French (with the recruitment of Arabophone Moors) destroyed his kingdom; nevertheless he is a magnificent example of West African enlightenment. Furthermore, the book does explain the political fragmentation of the coast as a major factor for the development of the Atlantic Slave Trade, but it does not discuss the Guns for Slaves policy that Europeans enacted to ensure a supply of captives. The policy states that the only way the West African traders would get guns (which was the primary trading item for slaves and not "trinkets" as so many people think) was by giving captives, not even gold would suffice. This put the West African merchants and rulers in a predicament: if they chose not to go along with this policy yet their neighbors do, where do you think the gun holding neighbors would get their captives from? This along the fact that West Africans did not have factories to produce the guns at the rate of Europeans made it nearly impossible for the slave trade to not flourish. The fact that this book does not mention the dynamics of this is quite disappointing. It is surely the case that the reason the book does not address these issues is because, despite as progressive as Western society is claiming to be, the Eurocentric academy demands that responsibility for the Atlantic Slave Trade must remain primarily in the hands of Africans. They assert that any attempt to pay homage to those Africans who opposed it or to highlight the instigation of the trade by Europeans is not scholarly work, but African "romanticism". Black scholars working for Eurocentric institutions dread this label--romantic--because it discredits their professionalism and academic integrity. Thus they validate their credibility as a scholar by saying "I am not afraid to take full responsibility for the slave trade." Many scholars, such as Gates and Appiah, fall victim to this. The problem with this is that we are still not having a balance discussion. We are still forced in Eurocentric circles to promote a history of an African villain culture and any African who has integrity and challenges Europeans cannot be real, but a romantic character made to give African people undeserved dignity. We will never have all or even most of the stories of those valiant Africans, both commoners and royalty, who opposed the Atlantic slave trade, but we do have some, and no matter how "romantic" we are accused of being for acknowledging them, they remain some of our race's most heroic figures and must be celebrated.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great overall book! By Khepri The book gives a lot of detailed accounts of the slave trade that you will not find in your public school classroom. One account or person I wish the book could have discussed was, Madam Tinibu. The book will give you excellent intro into the slave trade!!

While most studies of the slave trade focus on the volume of captives and on their ethnic origins, the question of how the Africans organized their familial and communal lives to resist and assail it has not received adequate attention. But our picture of the slave trade is incomplete without an examination of the ways in which men and women responded to the threat and reality of enslavement and deportation. *Fighting the Slave Trade* is the first book to explore in a systematic manner the strategies Africans used to protect and defend themselves and their communities from the onslaught of the Atlantic slave trade and how they assaulted it. It challenges widely held myths of African passivity and general complicity in the trade and shows that resistance to enslavement and to involvement in the slave trade was much more pervasive than has been acknowledged by the orthodox interpretation of historical literature. Focused on West Africa, the essays collected here examine in detail the defensive, protective, and offensive strategies of individuals, families, communities, and states. In chapters discussing the manipulation of the environment, resettlement, the redemption of captives, the transformation of social relations, political centralization, marronage, violent assaults on ships and entrepts, shipboard revolts, and controlled participation in the slave trade as a way to procure the means to attack it, *Fighting the Slave Trade* presents a much more complete picture of the West African slave trade than has previously been available.

This book should be required reading for anyone interested in the West Africans fight against enslavement. Rachel Dowty, *Journal of World History*