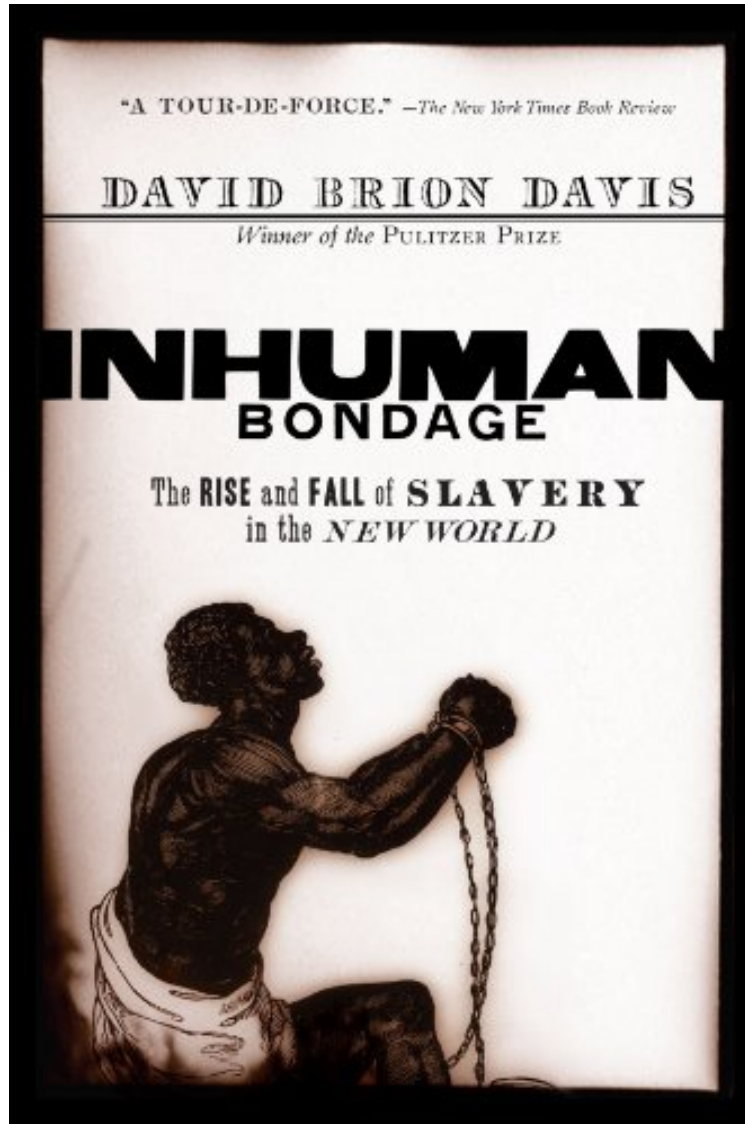


[Mobile book] Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World

# Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World

David Brion Davis

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#186167 in Books David Brion Davis 2008-04-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.10 x 1.20 x 9.00l, 1.49 #File Name: 0195339444464 pages Inhuman Bondage The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World | File size: 78.Mb

**David Brion Davis : Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly approach to slavery is very inclusive By Starbright A very scholarly book with many interesting citations which kept me constantly turning to the back of the book for more

information. Progress was very slow, but the density of information did not disappoint. Many details of conversations, letters, lectures and other materials generated by the major players on both sides of the slavery issue provide much needed depth of understanding of the issues missing in many other books on the subject that just gloss over the issues with generalities. Personally, I would have preferred if many of the materials in the citations had been included in the main body of the book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My only regret is that I did not buy this in hard copy. The next time I read it, and I will read it again, it will be in hard copy so that I can make notes and take more time to analyze and study the information. Do not be afraid of the academic founding of this book. It is thought provoking, enlightening, challenging, and the passion of the author is evident. I have traveled a great deal around the world and the issue of poverty, especially extreme poverty, and slavery straddles a fine line. When a person, child or adult, is desperate for food, shelter, and a future it is very easy for them to be taken advantage of and placed in bondage and potentially in slavery. One of the key actions in this book is to define slavery and one definition stood out remarkably to me - "denial of a social identity". Removing a person's "social identity" denies that person human rights - such as the untouchables in India- denies them a voice in "democratic" countries - such as women who have no freedom without the presence of a male relative or the right to vote; denies them a place in society in order to obtain a job, build a home, have a family, and travel freely - as happened in the economically and politically motivated Apartheid of the United States and South Africa (that only came to a legal end in SA in 1994). Denial of Social Identity is only one aspect of the many nuances of slavery. The author also separates slavery from racism. It is possible to be racist without the presence of slavery, but slavery, or the history of a race can have an enormous impact on how they are perceived in a specific society or cultural group. The author explores these nuances and links the past with the present and on into the future. This is not just about slavery but how society can rationalize and justify its actions politically, economically, religiously, morally and ethically. It is how society can blind itself to it's own lack of humanity. I would recommend this book to high school students. It should be read, discussed, argued about.... because slavery and bondage is still part of our world; in many different forms. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great history, scholarly, and morally powerful because it is objective. By Jagdish Sagar This is really one of the best books that I have read recently. It is objective, brings out the good with the bad in human nature, as it chronicles what in sum was the worst atrocity of modern times before the holocaust. Slavery has to be studied as an institution, an evil one but a complex one, not explained merely by a diatribe against the white man's racism (though that was there and can't be excused) but involving powerful economic factors as well. I am not a scholar of the subject, but have enough history to judge that if there are errors in this book, they would have to be errors of detail to be nitpicked over by academics; it is very complete and wholly persuasive on the broad picture, including the argument that ultimately slavery was abolished in the face of the economic interests of the countries involved, on the momentum of a moral movement initiated by genuinely altruistic persons.

David Brion Davis has long been recognized as the leading authority on slavery in the Western World. His books have won every major history award--including the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award--and he has been universally praised for his prodigious research, his brilliant analytical skill, and his rich and powerful prose. Now, in *Inhuman Bondage*, Davis sums up a lifetime of insight in what Stanley L. Engerman calls "a monumental and magisterial book, the essential work on New World slavery for several decades to come." Davis begins with the dramatic Amistad case, which vividly highlights the international character of the Atlantic slave trade and the roles of the American judiciary, the presidency, the media, and of both black and white abolitionists. The heart of the book looks at slavery in the American South, describing black slaveholding planters, the rise of the Cotton Kingdom, the daily life of ordinary slaves, the highly destructive internal, long-distance slave trade, the sexual exploitation of slaves, the emergence of an African-American culture, and much more. But though centered on the United States, the book offers a global perspective spanning four continents. It is the only study of American slavery that reaches back to ancient foundations (discussing the classical and biblical justifications for chattel bondage) and also traces the long evolution of anti-black racism (as in the writings of David Hume and Immanuel Kant, among many others). Equally important, it combines the subjects of slavery and abolitionism as very few books do, and it illuminates the meaning of nineteenth-century slave conspiracies and revolts, with a detailed comparison with 3 major revolts in the British Caribbean. It connects the actual life of slaves with the crucial place of slavery in American politics and stresses that slavery was integral to America's success as a nation--not a marginal enterprise. A definitive history by a writer deeply immersed in the subject, *Inhuman Bondage* offers a compelling narrative that links together the profits of slavery, the pain of the enslaved, and the legacy of racism. It is the ultimate portrait of the dark side of the American dream. Yet it offers an inspiring example as well--the story of how abolitionists, barely a fringe group in the 1770s, successfully fought, in the space of a hundred years, to defeat one of human history's greatest evils.

From Publishers Weekly Pulitzer Prize-winner Davis follows *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery* with this impressive and sprawling history of "human attempts to dehumanize other people" that focuses extensively on slave rebellions. These counter-attempts, Davis argues, are what form the base of the identities and communities of the

descendants of New World slaves. In charting the evolution of slavery and societies' responses to it from 71 BCE to 1948, Davis author shows how ancient slavery practices mirrored the process of animal domestication, explores the moral conflicts the United States faced during the American Revolution and how the Haitian revolutions disrupted the class system. A lengthy and especially informative study of British and American abolitionist movements paves the way for a concise breakdown of American slavery politics during the Civil War and reconstruction. Davis's account is rich in detail, and his voice is clear enough to coax even casual readers through this dense history. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist History professor Davis places American slavery in the broader global context as part of the world's first system of multinational production from which mass markets were served. American slaves from West Africa produced commodities that fueled European expansion and the settlement of America. At its peak, American slave labor helped to maximize production for international markets. Davis emphasizes the dehumanizing nature of American slavery and the reliance on racial differences, i.e., between blacks and Native Americans, to solidify social and economic differences. Exploring the origins of antiblack racism, Davis examines nineteenth-century slave revolts, the Civil War, and emancipation. The Amistad case, involving African slaves who commandeered their slave ship and eventually sued for their freedom, provides the basis of an analysis of multinational charters of the Atlantic slave trade. The broader perspective on American slavery--its social and economic impact on the growth of the U.S.--forces readers to face the contradictions between our democratic ideals and economic impulses. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Davis is always judicious and thought-provoking while providing a well-written summation of 20th century scholarship for general readers. Essential."--R.T. Brown, CHOICE "Inhuman Bondage is, in essence, a retrospective: a brilliant and nuanced summing up of nearly fifty years' scholarship on slavery and abolition, much of it pioneered by Davis himself.... It is a masterful study: broad in conception, bang up to date, consistently challenging, accessible and beautifully written."--John Oldfield, Patterns of Prejudice "Inhuman Bondage lives up to what readers expect from Davis: it is engagingly written and impressively broad in its scope and analysis."--Laurent Dubois, American Historical Review "A tour de force.... Could not be more welcome.... Davis follows the large story of slavery into all corners of the Atlantic world, demonstrating that hardly anyone or anything was untouched by it. He is particularly interested in the way ideas shaped slavery's development. But 'Inhuman Bondage' is not a history without people. Princes, merchants and reformers of all sorts play their role, though Davis gives pride of place to the men and women who suffered bondage. Drawing on some of the best recent studies, he not only adjudicates between the arguments, but also provides dozens of new insights, large and small, into events as familiar as the revolt on Saint-Domingue (now Haiti) and the American Civil War.... An invaluable guide to explaining what has made slavery's consequences so much a part of contemporary American culture and politics."--Ira Berlin, The New York Times Book "Davis masterfully navigates the long history of slavery from ancient times to its abolition in the 19th century.... Succeeds heroically in wrestling a vast amount of material from diverse cultures. The result is a sinewy book that combines erudition and everyday detail into a gripping, often surprising, narrative."--Fergus M. Bordewich, Wall Street Journal "David Brion Davis has been the preeminent historian of ideas about slavery in the Western world since the early modern period.... Davis, a leading practitioner of intellectual and cultural history, has now gone far beyond the history of ideas and attempted to study New World slavery in all its ramifications, social, economic, and political, as well as intellectual and cultural.... He convincingly demonstrates that slavery was central to the history of the New World."--George M. Fredrickson, The New York of Books "David Brion Davis, our greatest historian of slavery and abolition, weaves together here one of the central stories of modern world history--and does so with a power, authority, and grace that is his alone."--Edward L. Ayers, author of In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863 "Ranging from ancient Babylonia to the modern Western Hemisphere, David Brion Davis offers a concise history of slavery and its abolition that once again reminds us why he is the foremost scholar of international slavery. There is no more up-to-date account of this pivotal aspect of the world's history." --Eric Foner, author of Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877 "Impressive and sprawling.... Davis's account is rich in detail, and his voice is clear enough to coax even casual readers through this dense history."--Publishers Weekly "In this gracefully fashioned masterpiece, David Brion Davis draws on a lifetime of scrupulous scholarship in order to trace the sources and highlight the distinctiveness of America's central paradox by situating it in both its New World and Western contexts. His powerful narrative is enhanced and deepened by persuasively rendered details. For students of slavery, and of American history more generally, it is simply indispensable. With all the makings of a classic, Inhuman Bondage is the glorious culmination of the definitive series of studies on slavery by one of America's greatest living historians." --Orlando Patterson, author of Rituals of Blood: Consequences of Slavery in Two American Centuries "No scholar has played a larger role in expanding contemporary understanding of how slavery shaped the history of the United States, the Americas and the world than David Brion Davis." --Ira Berlin, author of Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America "Inhuman Bondage is a magisterial achievement, a model of comparative and interdisciplinary scholarship, and the best study we have of American slavery within the broader context of the New World. It is also a powerful and moving story, told by one of America's greatest historians." --John Stauffer, author of The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation

of Race" This brilliant and gripping history of slavery in the New World summarizes and integrates the scholarship of the past half-century. It sparkles with insights that only an innovator of David Brion Davis's caliber could command." --Robert William Fogel, author of *The Slavery Debates, 1952-1990: A Retrospective*