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## Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora

*Ronald Segal*

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**Ronald Segal : Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This was conceptually interesting, but the writing was dull By Leib Gershon Mitchell It's a history book, and I guess that it can't be concerned with trying to cobble an argument about

\*why\* things happened as much as providing actual names and dates to make the history. And by that definition, this is definitely a history book. It's also understandable that since this is a book that is written in a field where very little has been published, the author cannot take arguments that are already familiar and go into in-depth analysis (that could be something like the done-to-death discussion of the Catholic Church's role in the Dark Ages or something of that sort). There is some interesting discussion of the morons in the Nation of Islam and how they came to be (it's quite fitting considering that their idiocy has been their greatest cohesive strength). That makes the whole book worth it. It's worth a secondhand purchase. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nicely done. By Baron B Thank you for that. Nicely done. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A very good historical account of a subject all too neglected. By mjchael falsia A very good historical account of a subject all too neglected! In an age where the West is made out to be the worst culprit in the insidious African slave trade the focus finally comes upon Islam's evil role in this heinous and insidious practice? This is a very needed supplement to get a full and balanced account of one of the great evils in human history! Well written and documented. No serious historian should be without a copy.

A comprehensive study of the Eastern slave trade by an eminent British scholar. A companion volume to *The Black Diaspora*, this groundbreaking work tells the fascinating and horrifying story of the Islamic slave trade. *Islam's Black Slaves* documents a centuries-old institution that still survives, and traces the business of slavery and its repercussions from Islam's inception in the seventh century, through its history in China, India, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Libya, and Spain, and on to Sudan and Mauritania, where, even today, slaves continue to be sold. Ronald Segal reveals for the first time the numbers involved in this trade--as many millions as were transported to the Americas--and explores the differences between the traffic in the East and the West. *Islam's Black Slaves* also examines the continued denial of the very existence of this sector of the black diaspora, although it survives today in significant numbers; and in an illuminating conclusion, Segal addresses the appeal of Islam to African-American communities, and the perplexing refusal of Black Muslim leaders to acknowledge black slavery and oppression in present-day Mauritania and Sudan. A fitting companion to Segal's previous work, *Islam's Black Slaves* is a fascinating account of an often unacknowledged tradition, and a riveting cross-cultural commentary.

From Publishers Weekly. Designed as a companion volume to Segal's *The Black Diaspora*, which traced the movements of blacks in the Western Hemisphere from the Atlantic slave trade to the present, this book undertakes the formidable task of recounting the dispersion of black Africans in Asia and the Middle East, most of which was forced by the Islamic slave trade. "In Islam, slavery was never the moral, political, and economic issue that it was in the West, so there are fewer sources about its history," notes Segal, the founding editor of the Penguin African Library and the author of 14 other books. Still, he pieces together a compelling drama of conquests and conversions, beginning with an illuminating chapter about the differences between the Atlantic and Islamic trades: the Islamic trade began some eight centuries before the Atlantic one, and preferred women slaves over men. His account then moves from early Islam, when laws did not subject slaves to any special racial discrimination, into the 19th century, when the process of enslaving blacks came to involve violence and brutality on a gigantic scale. Segal also discusses the extension of the Islamic trade into China, India and Spain, the role of the Ottoman Empire, slavery in Iran and Libya, and the effect of European colonization, which he argues "preserved the force if not the face of old subjugations." A preliminary dig in a little-explored area, this book has a rough-hewn quality about it; scholars may find it too general, even if it provides seeds for further study. General readers, however, will find much that is new, particularly in the early chapters, where Segal trains his eye on the part slaves played in the development of the high civilization attained by imperial Islam. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal. Segal (The Black Diaspora: Five Centuries of the Black Experience Outside Africa), founding editor of the Penguin African Library, has written an overview of black slavery in the Islamic world from its beginnings to modern Sudan and Morocco. Relying primarily on secondary sources, the author explores Islamic slavery in China, India, the Middle East, and Africa and focuses on the differences between Islamic and Western slavery. He notes that while most slaves in the Americas were male and worked as agricultural laborers, in Islam female black slaves outnumbered males, and most slaves worked as servants. Segal concludes his study with an interesting epilog on the Black Muslim faith in the United States. Though it breaks little new ground, this book is an essential survey that serves as a helpful introduction to the topic. Recommended for public and academic libraries. D.A.O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, IN Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist. Segal, founding editor of the Penguin African Library, has written a companion volume to his acclaimed history, *The Black Diaspora* (1995). Here he tells the less familiar story of the Islamic slave trade in Africa, which involved an estimated 12 million captives over more than 1,000 years. Drawing on eyewitness accounts and scholarly sources, he shows that there were marked differences between the Atlantic slave trade and that of Islam. In general, the Islamic one was less racist and brutal; the trade was more in women and boys than in men; some slaves could buy their freedom and even hold powerful positions. The horror is more in the accounts of capture and the journeys across the Sahara and to the coast: in some cases, the estimate is that for every slave sold at auction, 10 died on the way. And slavery continues today in the Sudan and Mauritania. The strength of this account is the meticulous

documentation of what is fact and what is surmise. The dramatic narrative is sure to spark discussion and further research. Hazel Rochman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved