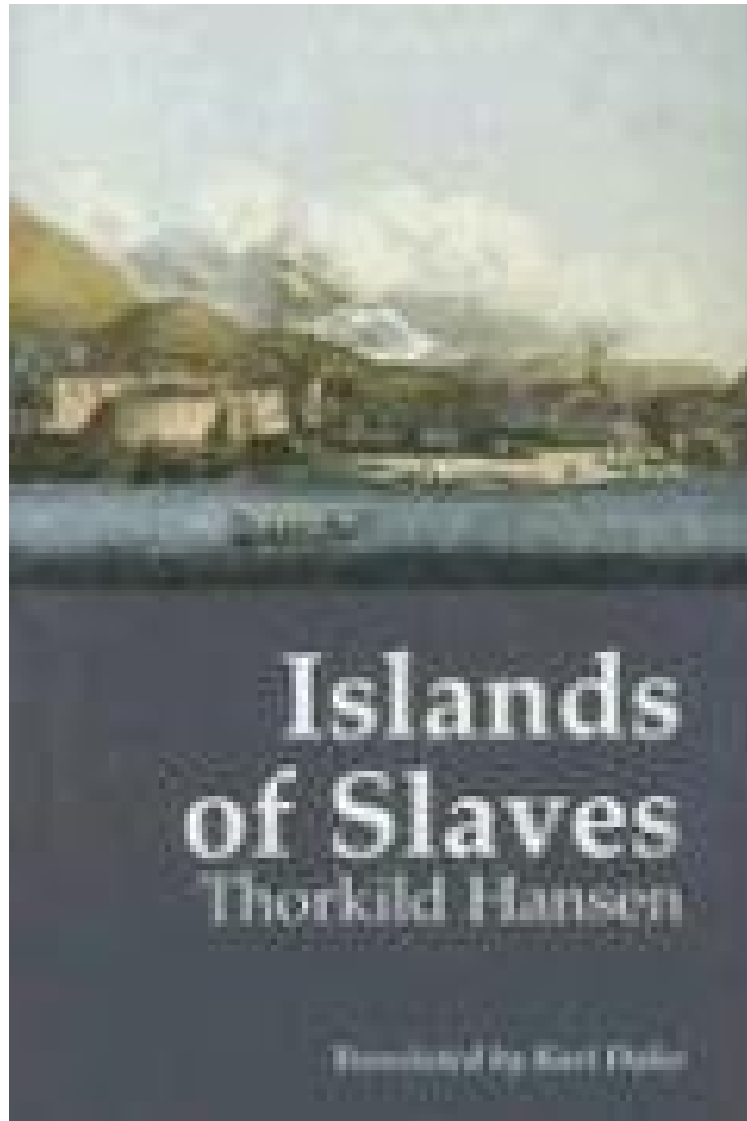


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Islands of Slaves (Thorkild Hansen)

Thorkild Hansen

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Thorkild Hansen : Islands of Slaves (Thorkild Hansen) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islands of Slaves (Thorkild Hansen):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Danish perspective on Thorkild Hansens Slave Trilogy By Bente Strand This is th third volume of the Trilogy (not the first as said above) about the Danish rule of The Virgin Islands for ab 200 years. Many Danes visit the Islands being interested in the colonial history and culture and the books are almost obligatory reading before going. Many more will visit in 2017 due to the commemoration of the selling of the islands to the US in 1917 during World War1. The trilogy was written in the 1960es and still stands high as a literary

achievement mixing fiction and fact. I reread it when visiting Ghana where the white slave fortresses - now on the UNESCO world heritage list - are situated on the coast with the old cannons, slave cellars and one can almost hear the cries of despair whilst watching the busy local fishing boats where the slave ships used to disembark. A gripping experience. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Danish-Norwegian Slave Trade, great storyteller Thorkild H. By Vidal This is part of Thorkild Hansen's trilogy on the slave trade from western Africa to the colonies in Caribbean. The Kingdom of Denmark/Norway at the time where a small player but none the less Hansen's book's are painstakingly researched and the story told with a subtleness sense of dark humor. Strongly recommended, especially to Scandinavians who believe that the liberal social order of today was the norm in historical perspective.

This is third title in Thorkild Hansen's classic trilogy on the Atlantic slave trade, originally published in Danish in 1967; and the first major translation and publication of the work in English. In Europe and North America, few are aware that the beautiful and now wealthy Virgin Islands of St Thomas, St Croix and St Jan were once Danish settlements and outposts of the slave trade. Moreover that the question of the independence of the islands was never seriously considered by the Danes, who instead sold them to the US in 1917 for 25 million dollars, several decades after the official end of slavery. This was against the will of the majority of the islanders, who were opposed to rule by the Americans, wary of their iniquitous treatment of blacks. In Denmark meanwhile, the popular view of national history presides that Denmark was the first of the imperial powers to abolish the slave trade. Thorkild Hansen's work breaks with these mis- representations of Denmark's role in the Atlantic slave trade. The third and biggest volume in the trilogy covers the period from the introduction of African slaves to the Danish islands, their official emancipation in 1848, subsequent sale to the Americans in the twentieth century, and reactions and resistance to these processes. Scrutinizing Denmark's moral obligation towards the islanders, the author draws extensively on primary sources, dramatizing and depicting real life characters into a moving and descriptive narrative. The introduction is provided by the historian A.V. Adams who states that 'Hansen's trilogy and Dako's scholarly initiative and competence in translating it contributes not only to Danes' re-reading of their own history, but also to West Indians' understanding of theirs... Hansen and Darko's contribution reaches beyond the Caribbean into the larger history of African-diaspora slave resistance... And inasmuch as the islands under consideration of the United States of America, this book through its translation becomes a text of US historiography...'

About the Author Thorkild Hansen was a Danish foreign correspondent, novelist, travel writer and book reviewer, who wrote extensively on archaeological expeditions, travelogues, and on the Norwegian writer Knut Hamsun. He is known for his Slave Trilogy, for which he received the Nordic Council Prize. Kari Dako is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Ghana. She has written extensively on socio-linguistics and Ghanaian English. She has also translated Thorkild Hansen's classic trilogy on the Atlantic slave trade from Danish.