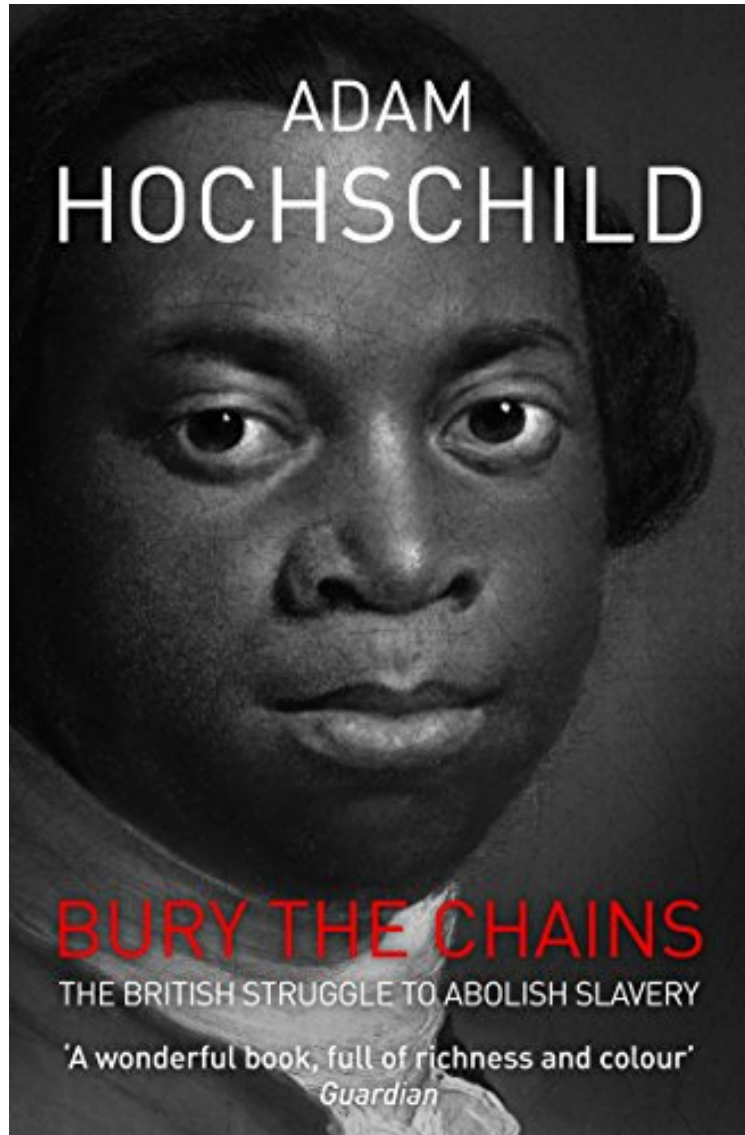


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Bury the Chains

Adam Hochschild

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Adam Hochschild : Bury the Chains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bury the Chains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good bit of history from a different perspective.By JungleGreat quality as advertised. A great read. An eye opener. I recommend this seller and this book!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Why did abolitionism take off in Britain before America?By T. WashingtonThe question any reader of "Bury The Chains" by Adam Hochschild should ask him or herself is: why did abolitionism become an

issue in Britain before it ultimately did in its erstwhile colonial possession, America? Firstly I think, it is easy to forget just how SLOW communications were in the 18th and 19th centuries (even with the telegraph), the fastest mode of transport being the clipper ship and of course there was NO TV, radio or Internet. Secondly, after the debacle that was the War of Independence, Britons were ready for a new moral crusade- and abolitionism was waiting at hand. Thirdly, due to the Somerset ruling by the British High Court (1772) there were NO enslaved Africans in Britain per se- although it only freed James Somerset, it was widely thought that the ruling declared that any enslaved person was automatically free once he or she arrived upon British soil- much to the dismay of not just plantation owners in the Caribbean but their fellows in America's Deep South such as future signatories to the Declaration Of Independence such as Patrick Henry and future US Presidents such as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and of course my namesake George Washington (who at least freed his own slaves after his death unlike Jefferson). What I am surprised by is the up to date nature of the tactics used by British abolitionists (product placement, lobbying). My only complaint is that when slavery was ultimately abolished through the British Empire in 1834, only the plantation owners and not their erstwhile slaves (which included my own ancestors BTW) received compensation but at least it didn't require secession and a messy Civil War as it did in America nearly a quarter a century later! Terry3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A gripping story of an early citizen's campaign By Peggy HSThis is a true story of the long and determined struggle in Britain to bring an end to the cruel and inhumane slave trade, at least in that country. It would be at least another 50 years before the ugly trade ended in the U.S. I was particularly interested in it because it is also a story about an early activist campaign and the tactics used. Did you know that the first campaign buttons were made of beautiful pottery by the famous Wedgewood Potters and were proudly worn by supporters? The movement had a strong leadership by Quakers, of which I am a member in Canada, so I had a strong interest in learning more about their role in the struggle. Another historical outcome was that it brought along subsequent struggles by other oppressed groups also to attain 'rights'. As an environmental and peace activist for much of my life, I felt encouraged that these early activists has been successful, as in the rights of working people to safe work places and fair wages and humane treatment, and it certainly encouraged women to struggle for their rights to equality and recognition as women. The first campaign button showed a black man kneeling and saying "Am I not a man like you?" and soon white middle and upper class women were demanding one showing a black woman kneeling, and asking "Am I not a woman like you?" The story is absorbing, dramatic, and a great read and a great bit of history. The fight for equality is ongoing everywhere in the world. I bought my copy from as a gift to a perceptive young 18 year old friend for his next Birthday. I'm sure he'll like it.

Eighteenth-century Britain was the world's leading centre for the slave trade. Profits soared and fortunes were made, but in 1788 things began to change. *Bury The Chains* tells the remarkable story of the men who sought to end slavery and brought the issue to the heart of British political life. 'Hochschild's marvellous book is a timely reminder of what a small group of determined people, with right on their side, can achieve. Carefully researched and elegantly written, with a pacy narrative that ranges from the coffee houses of London to the back-breaking sugar plantations of the West Indies, it charts the unlikely success of the first international human rights movement' Saul David, *Literary Review* 'Hochschild is such a gifted researcher and story-teller that he never fails to hold the reader's attention... For all its terrible theme, Hochschild's book is not in the least depressing, because it is suffused with admiration for the courage and enlightenment of the men and women who crusaded against this evil, and finally prevailed' Max Hastings, *Sunday Telegraph* 'Thought-provoking, absorbing and well-written' Brendan Simms, *Sunday Times* 'Stirring and unforgettable' *Economist*

"Hochschild has a knack for vivid portraits, and an eye for arresting detail." --Richard Brookhiser About the Author Adam Hochschild is the author of *King Leopold's Ghost*, which was awarded the prestigious Duff Cooper Prize. He teaches writing at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley.