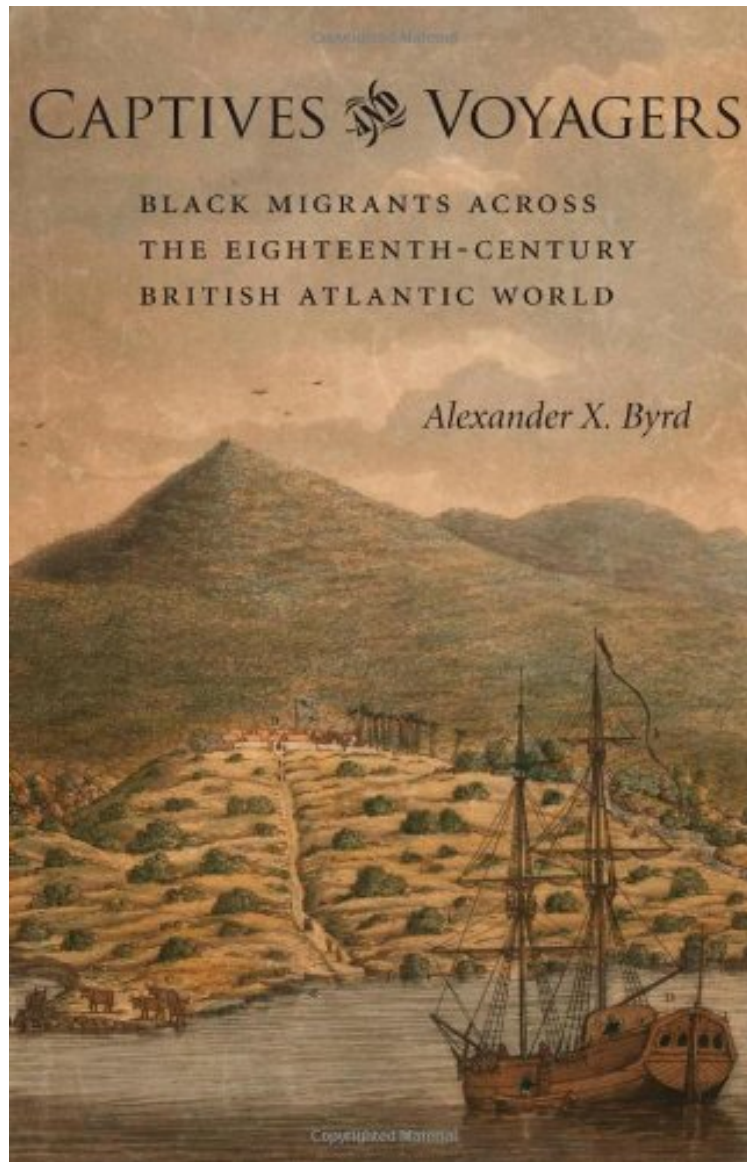


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Alexander X. Byrd

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Captives and Voyagers traces the departures, voyages, and landings of enslaved and free blacks who left their homelands in the eighteenth century for British colonies and examines how displacement and resettlement shaped migrant society and, in turn, Britain's Atlantic empire. Alexander X. Byrd focuses on the two largest and most significant streams of black dislocation: the forced migration of Africans from the Biafran interior of present-day southeastern Nigeria to Jamaica as part of the British slave trade and the journeys of free blacks from Great Britain and British North America to Sierra Leone in West Africa. By paying particular attention to the social and cultural effects of transatlantic migration on the groups themselves and focusing as well on their place in the British Empire, Byrd illuminates the meaning and experience of slavery and liberty for people whose movements were similarly beset by extreme violence and catastrophe.

from the citation for the Wesley-Logan Prize Committee, given jointly by the American Historical Association (AHA) and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Sent by Byrd via email 2/2/10
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About the Author
Alexander X. Byrd is an assistant professor of history at Rice University, where he teaches African American history and the history of the African Diaspora.