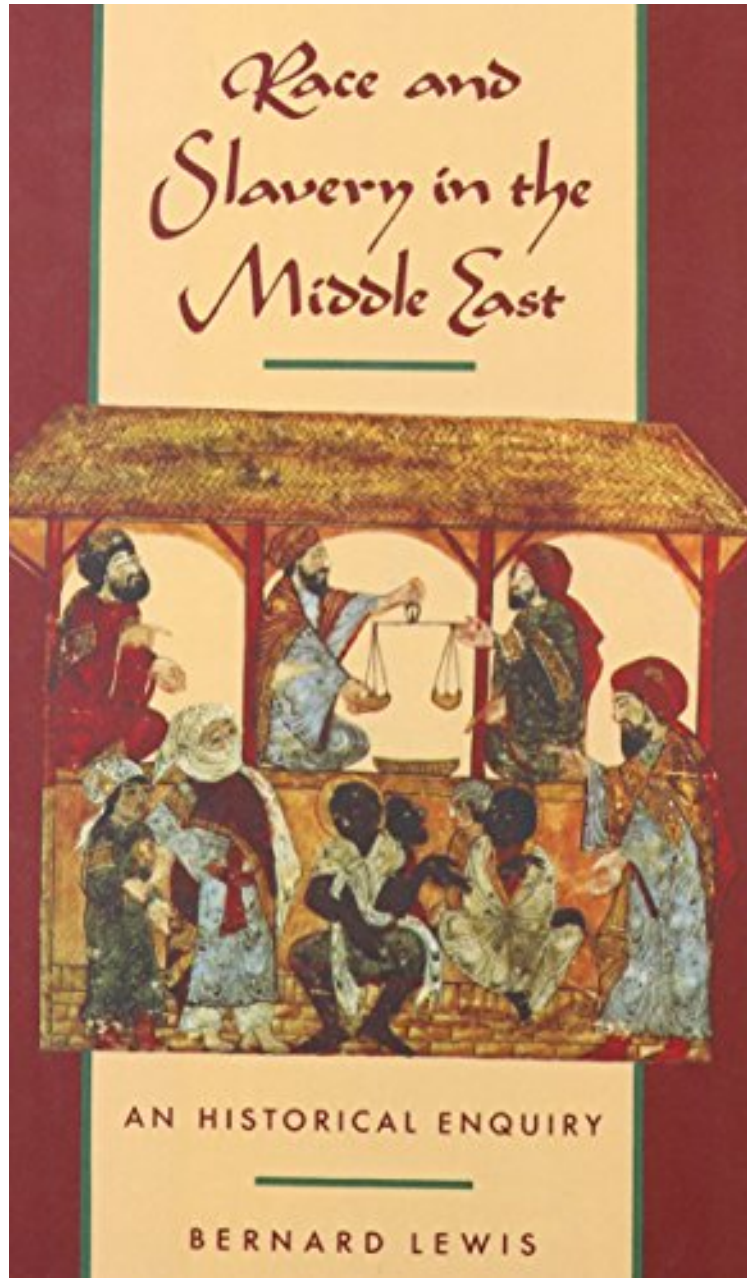


(Read free ebook) Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry

Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry

Bernard Lewis

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#627669 in Books 1990-08-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.56 x .92 x 6.38l, #File Name: 0195062833224 pages | File size: 79.Mb

Bernard Lewis : Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race and Slavery in the Middle East: An Historical Enquiry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BillAn excellent tour of historical race relations and subjugation in medieval times.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly Informative Guide to the Ancient Society of the Middle EastBy Kindle CustomerHighly detailed, well-sourced and nuanced book on how the ancient peoples of the Middle East regarded issues considered highly sensitive today, such as race and how they helped shape and defined relations between various ethnic groups at the time, as well as how mutual perceptions of each other came to impact their world for generations to come.In essence, Lewis shows us that while many religions and belief systems may in theory call for and advocate racial equality and justice, the reality can at times be far more complex and ultimately present a much more multi-faceted picture.1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy szgood

From before the days of Moses up through the 1960s, slavery was a fact of life in the Middle East. Pagans, Jews, Christians, and Muslims bought and sold at the slave markets for millennia, trading the human plunder of wars and slave raids that reached from the Russian steppes to the African jungles. But if the Middle East was one of the last regions to renounce slavery, how do we account for its--and especially Islam's--image of racial harmony? How did these long years of slavery affect racial relations? In *Race and Slavery in the Middle East*, Bernard Lewis explores these questions and others, examining the history of slavery in law, social thought, and practice over the last two millennia. With 24 rare and intriguing full-color illustrations, this fascinating study describes the Middle East's culture of slavery and the evolution of racial prejudice. Lewis demonstrates how nineteenth century Europeans mythologized the region as a racial utopia in debating American slavery. Islam, in fact, clearly teaches non-discrimination, but Lewis shows that prejudice often won out over pious sentiments, as he examines how Africans were treated, depicted, and thought of from antiquity to the twentieth century. "If my color were pink, women would love me/But the Lord has marred me with blackness," lamented a black slave poet in Arabia over a millennium ago--and Lewis deftly draws from these lines and others the nuances of racial relations over time. Islam, he finds, restricted enslavement and greatly improved the lot of slaves--who included, until the early twentieth century, some whites--while blacks occasionally rose to power and renown. But abuses ring throughout the written and visual record, from the horrors of capture to the castration and high mortality which, along with other causes, have left few blacks in many Middle Eastern lands, despite centuries of importing African slaves. *Race and Slavery in the Middle East* illuminates the legacy of slavery in the region where it lasted longest, from the days of warrior slaves and palace eunuchs and concubines to the final drive for abolition. Illustrated with outstanding reproductions of striking artwork, it casts a new light on this critical part of the world, and on the nature and interrelation of slavery and racial prejudice.

"A realistic, well-documented study. Important illustrations and primary evidence now made accessible."--Irving R. Mix, Elmira College
"An important book which explains the issue of slavery in the Middle East."--Robert A. Hess, Messiah College
"An excellent and timely work on an important and rather neglected issue."--Ehsan Yarshater, Columbia University
"Splendid--should supplant all previous discussions."--Paul A. Rahe, University of Tulsa
"A splendid discussion of a difficult subject."--Paul A. Rahe, University of Tulsa
"Deceptively brief, delightfully easy to read, and beautifully illustrated."--*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*
"Bernard Lewis an exceptionally distinguished historian of the Middle Eastern world....[A]uthoritative addresses to reality like his will serve excellently instead, and they make him a matchless guide to the background of Middle East conflict today."--David Pryce-Jones, *Commentary*
"[A] pioneering work."--David Warren Bowen, *Magill's Literary Annual*
"Highly readable."--*The New York of Books*
"This book will foster Bernard Lewis's reputation as the doyen of Middle Eastern studies."--*The New York Times Book*
"Mr. Lewis's knowledge of Islamic history, literature, and jurisprudence is so detailed, expansive, and profoundly integrated that it is enough for him to merely refer to a period or an instance to be able to envision the entire context."--*The Washington Times*
"His scholarship must be respected...He skillfully sets up and explicates the primary paradoxes of the Islamic view of slavery and of race...[A book] that surely should be read."--*Journal of Social History*
From the Back Cover
Race and Slavery in the Middle East illuminates the legacy of slavery in the region where it lasted longest, from the days of warrior slaves and palace eunuchs and concubines to the final drive for abolition. Illustrated with outstanding reproductions of striking artwork, it casts a new light on this critical part of the world, and on the nature and interrelation of slavery and racial prejudice.
About the Author
Bernard Lewis is Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies Emeritus at Princeton University. He is the author of several books, including *The Muslim Discovery of Europe*, *The Assassins*, and *The Political Language of Islam*.