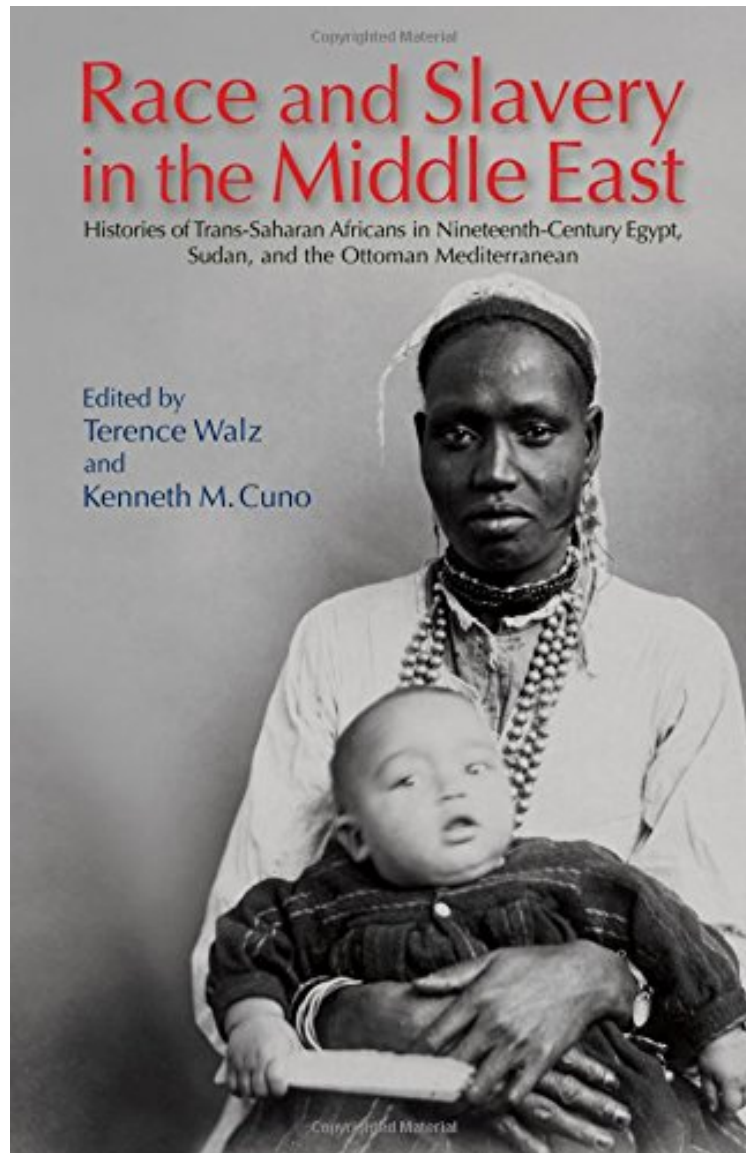


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Race and Slavery in the Middle East: Histories of Trans-Saharan Africans in 19th-Century Egypt, Sudan, and the Ottoman Mediterranean

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. dry academic papers forced into one book By David G This is a collection of writings by various researchers. It focuses almost entirely on Egypt and its Sudanese slaves. A couple writings touch on big picture with slight insights into slavery and how it impacted Egypt. But many are very dry summaries of statistical facts gleaned from various references such as censuses and court records. These are likely only of interest to the academic researcher. Others are anecdotal stories of a few slaves which, while more slightly interesting, have no basis to extrapolate to the general population. A few hit on the classic defense of Islamic slavery that it raised up savages and provided a better life than they would have enjoyed as free men and women. This would have been more credible if there was a lot of documentation of free men and women voluntarily re-entering slavery, instead of being abducted. Although there was some educational value it did not feel like an in-depth look at societal drivers, trends and only touched on customs. A big picture overview was lacking in almost all articles. Felt like a bunch of dry academic papers forced into one book

In the nineteenth century hundreds of thousands of Africans were forcibly migrated northward to Egypt and other eastern Mediterranean destinations, yet relatively little is known about them. Studies have focused mainly on the mamluk and harem slaves of elite households, who were mostly white, and on abolitionist efforts to end the slave trade, and most have relied heavily on western language sources. In the past forty years new sources have become available, ranging from Egyptian religious and civil court and police records to rediscovered archives and accounts in western archives and libraries. Along with new developments in the study of African slavery these sources provide a perspective on the lives of non-elite trans-Saharan Africans in nineteenth century Egypt and beyond. The nine essays in this volume examine the lives of slaves and freed men and women in Egypt and the region. Contributors: Kenneth M. Cuno, Y. Hakan Erdem, Michael Ferguson, Emad Ahmad Helal Shams al-Din, Liat Kozma, George Michael La Rue, Ahmad A. Sikainga, Eve M. Troutt Powell, and Terence Walz.

About the Author TERENCE WALZ is an independent scholar working in Washington, DC. He is the author of *Trade Between Egypt and Bilad as-Sudan, 1700-1820*. KENNETH M. CUNO is associate professor of history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He co-edited *Family, Gender and Law in a Globalizing Middle East and South Asia* and is the author of *The Pasha's Peasants: Land, Society and Economy in Lower Egypt, 1740-1858*.