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Rumor of Revolt: The "Great Negro Plot" in Colonial New York

Thomas J. Davis

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Thomas J. Davis : Rumor of Revolt: The "Great Negro Plot" in Colonial New York before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rumor of Revolt: The "Great Negro Plot" in Colonial New York:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, scholarly read. A must for all NY historians. By b.dwyer@mail.psync.memphis.edu Davis has done an excellent job of painting a word picture of 1740s New York City, and its white residents' fears and concerns about slavery. The story of the uncovering of the "plot" and the subsequent executions of 34 people (white and black) is at one once a scholarly piece of work and an adventure tale. My only complaint was that Dr. Davis did not speculate as to the motivations of some of the white "plot leaders." Were Hughson and his wife merely tavern owners who tried to use Blacks for their own personal gain, or were they sympathetic with the plight of the slave and abolitionists 125 years before it was popular? Being a descendant of John Hughson, I was particularly interested in this question. None of my calls to Prof. Davis were returned. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Narrative account gives too much credence to biased sources By A Customer Davis's book seeks to make the history of the events of 1741 more engaging by presenting them in a sort of narrative form. Unfortunately, this method does not allow for the necessary critical analysis. The major resource available to historians studying these events is a journal of the proceedings written by one of the judges in the case, and he wrote his journal for the explicit purpose of defending the proceedings against criticism. While Davis shows some skepticism in his handling of the sources, making the history into a narrative forced Davis to take his biased source a little too much at its word. Nonetheless, it is a fascinating subject and well worth exploring.

Analyzes the trials held in colonial New York concerning an alleged slave conspiracy, and looks at what this indicates about the city's racial and ethnic tensions, and legal system.