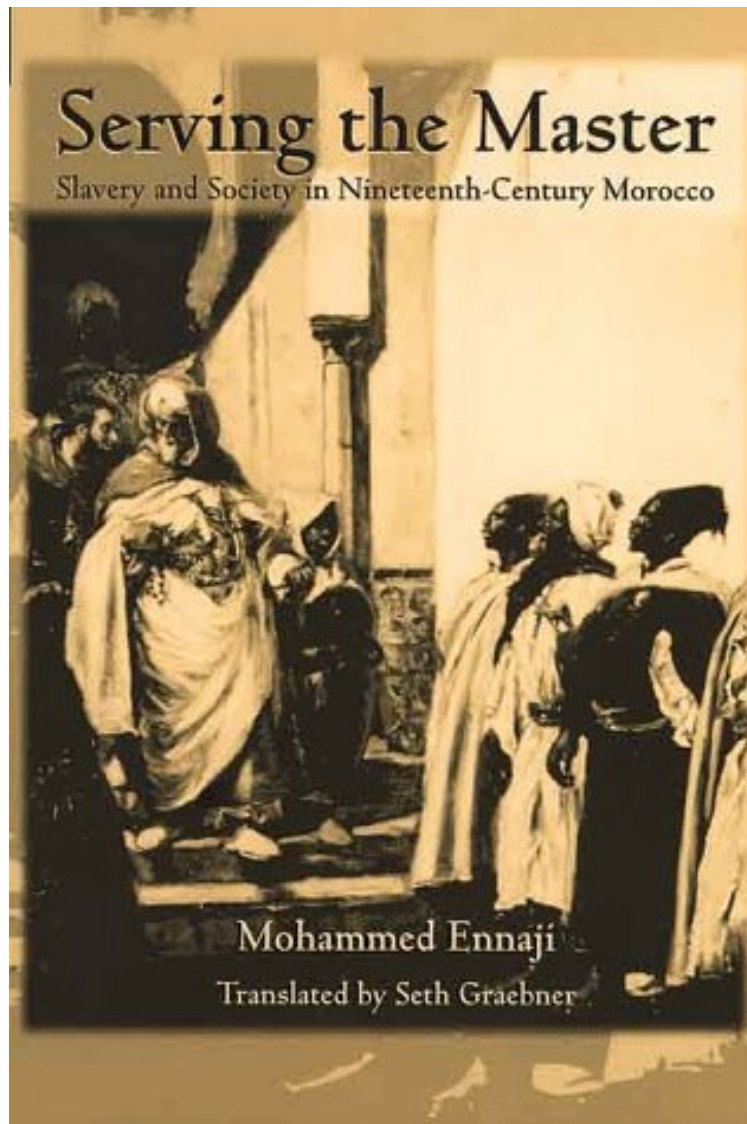


(Free) Serving the Master: Slavery and Society in 19th Century Morocco

## Serving the Master: Slavery and Society in 19th Century Morocco

*Mohammed Ennaji*

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**Mohammed Ennaji : Serving the Master: Slavery and Society in 19th Century Morocco** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Serving the Master: Slavery and Society in 19th Century Morocco*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A most interesting work By Seth J. Frantzman This wonderful short work delves deep inside the use of Slaves in Morocco during the 19th century. using many texts and personal insights the author weaves a convincing web of the many facets of slavery. From chapters on family life to sexuality, including

chapters on the enslavement and kidnapping of the slaves and explaining the differences between practices in rural areas and urban this is a fascinating work. The author is encumbered by a concern not to offend so he slices through the subject with zeal, revealing how pregnant female slaves were beaten, explaining that abortion was more common than thought and startling the reader with his descriptions of the African women with 'bodies seemingly designed for pleasure'. Making use of a variety of sources from palace records to individual letters, common accounts and colonial writings, this scholarship far surpasses most work on the subject. By far the most illuminating account of slavery in Muslim societies, although a narrow work it serves a mirror not only for other scholarship on the subject but also for the apologists who regard slavery in Muslim societies as a noble ideal. A must read. Seth J. Frantzman

Muslim Slavery uses a unique wealth of hitherto unstudied sources to paint a practical, compelling picture of the experiences of slaves in nineteenth-century Morocco. Mohammed Ennaji brings to life a rich panoply of figures, with court cases, travel accounts, and archival documents, demonstrating the cruelty of an institution whose benign features some writers have overemphasized. In contrast to slavery in the Americas, he argues that only a fine line separated the fluid categories of slave and free, and he reveals how slaves dependence on their masters paralleled free Moroccans dependence on patrons for survival and social mobility. No other book on slavery in the Islamic world has treated the Muslim west, and no other book has examined the variety and extent of sources that Ennaji does in such a context here. Muslim Slavery offers a clear, readable history that tells the devastating story of slavery in this region, and uses slavery's gradual disappearance in this century as a metaphor for Morocco's move into modernity.

"The book is a solid study of a whole people forced into abject living and eventual oblivion, and is written with passion, understanding, and relentless respect for the truth. The result is compelling reading." --Choice