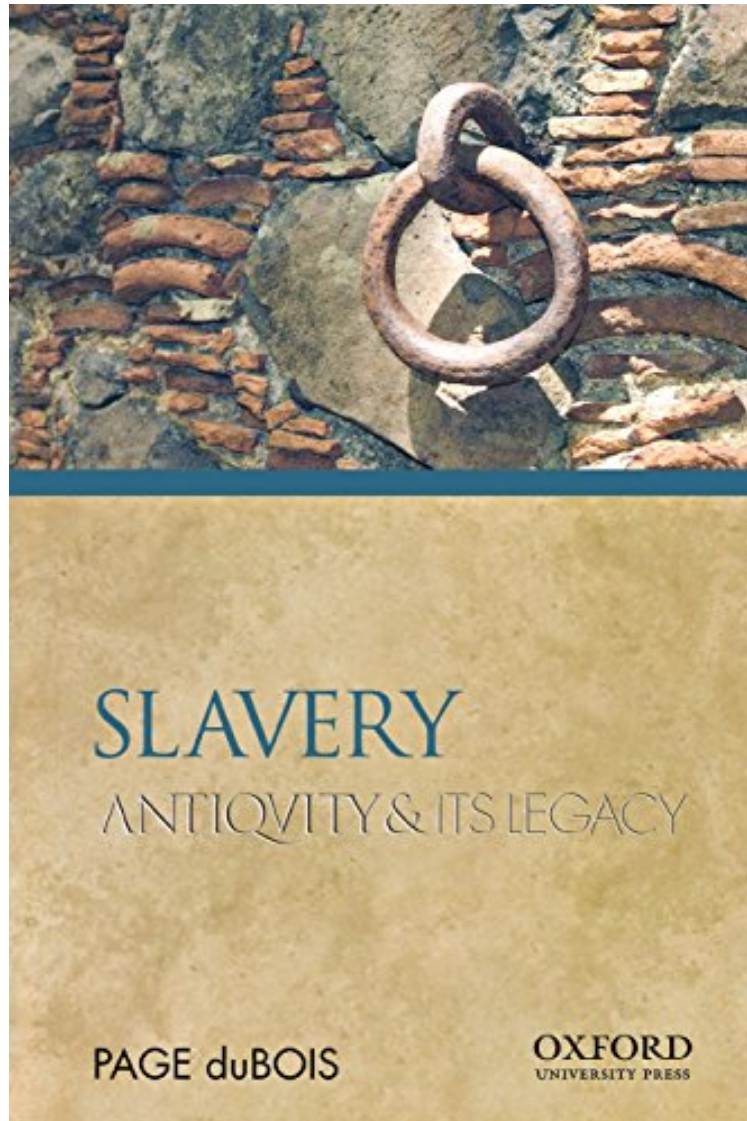


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## Slavery: Antiquity and Its Legacy (Ancients Moderns)

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**Page duBois : Slavery: Antiquity and Its Legacy (Ancients Moderns)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slavery: Antiquity and Its Legacy (Ancients Moderns):

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is perhaps the most famous phrase of all in the American Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson's momentous words are closely related to the French concept of "libert, galit, fraternit"; and both ideas incarnate a notion of freedom as inalienable human right that in the modern world we

expect to take for granted. In the ancient world, by contrast, the concepts of freedom and equality had little purchase. Athenians, Spartans and Romans all possessed slaves or helots (unfree bondsmen), and society was unequal at every stratum. Why, then, if modern society abominates slavery, does what antiquity thought about serfdom matter today? Page duBois shows that slavery, far from being extinct, is alive and well in the contemporary era. Slaves are associated not just with the Colosseum of ancient Rome, and films depicting ancient slaves, but also with Californian labor factories and south Asian sweatshops, while young women and children appear increasingly vulnerable to sexual trafficking. Juxtaposing such modern experiences of bondage (economic or sexual) with slavery in antiquity, the author explores the writings on the subject of Aristotle, Plautus, Terence and Aristophanes. She also examines the case of Spartacus, famous leader of a Roman slave rebellion, and relates ancient notions of liberation to the all-too-common immigrant experience of enslavement to a globalized world of rampant corporatism and exploitative capitalism.

"This volume ushers in a fascinating new series from Oxford, "Ancients and Moderns" designed to introduce undergraduates and general readers to the reception and influence of antiquity in modern institutions and concepts. The topics planned for the series, including, religion, sex, and war, are bound to pique interest and debate among students of both contemporary and ancient society, and this first volume on slavery certainly establishes the precedent. Recommended." --CHOICE About the Author Page duBois is Distinguished Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at University of California, San Diego.