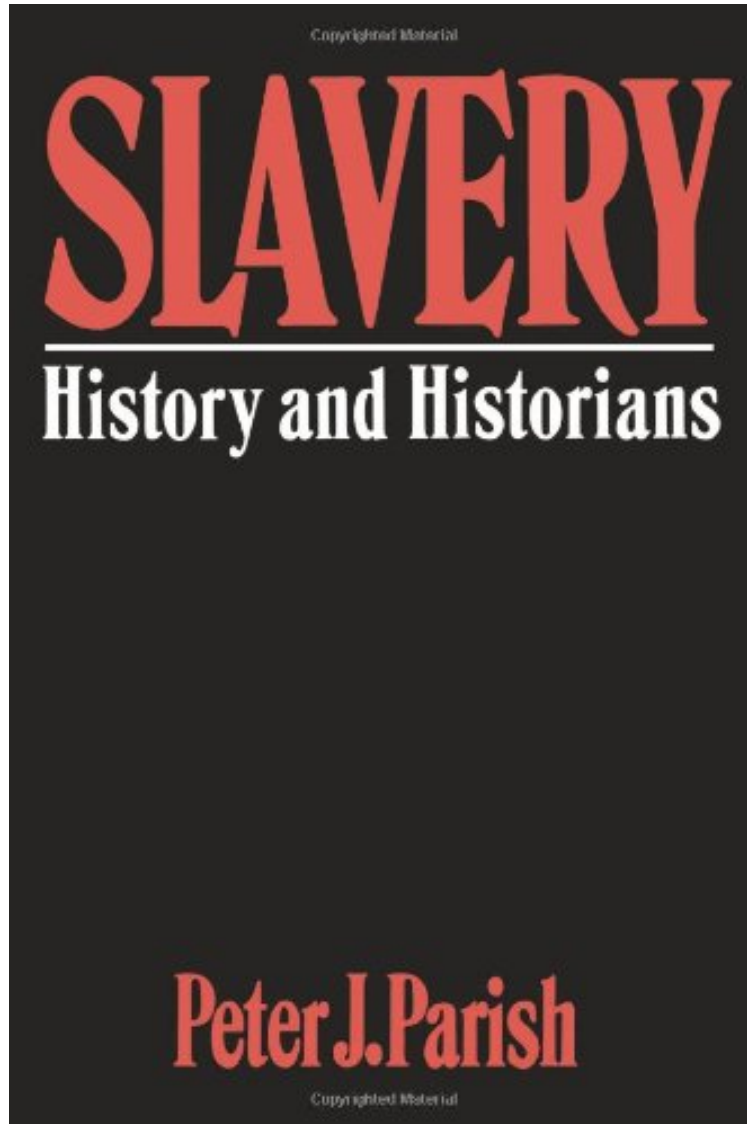


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Slavery: History And Historians

Peter J. Parish

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#1523522 in Books Peter J Parish 1990-10-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .47 x 5.50l, .61 #File Name: 0064301826208 pagesSlavery History and Historians | File size: 34.Mb

Peter J. Parish : Slavery: History And Historians before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slavery: History And Historians:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great overview of slavery and its historiansBy E. PayneOriginally published in 1989, this compact volume remains an excellent overview of American slavery. As indicated by its subtitle, the book provides both a basic history of American slavery and a synopsis of the works by key historians in the field. One of the problems facing lay readers, as Parish points out, is that the subject tends to excite an intense level of thesis / antithesis arguments. Thus to read any of the major historians of the peculiar institution who emerged in the

second half of the 20th century (Stanley Elkins, Kenneth Stampp, Engerman Fogel, Eugene Genovese, James Oakes, Ira Berlin) is to view slavery from just one of many perspectives. Of course, one has the option of making one's way through these various accounts--a formidable task. Or one can read Parish's succinct 188 page book, which includes a marvelous bibliographic essay, and have an enlightened vantage point from which to decide what further avenues to pursuit.

This study of slavery focuses initially on the drastic revisions in the historical debate on slavery and the present understanding of the peculiar institution. It gives a concise explanation of the nature of American slavery and its impact on the slaves themselves and on Southern society and culture. And it broadens our understanding of the debates among historians about slavery; compares Southern slavery with slavery elsewhere in the New World; and shows how slavery evolved and changed over time and how it ended. Peter Parish examines some of the important recent works on slavery to identify crucial questions and basic themes and define the main areas of controversy.

From Library Journal
In this expanded version of his pamphlet *Slavery* (1981), British historian Parish essays the recent dramatic shifts in the historiography of slavery. He eschews comprehensiveness for selective treatment of the major works of the 1960s-80s, noting the shift from the 1970s synoptic histories to the intensively localistic studies of the 1980s. New sources, new methodologies, and new sensitivity to the slaves as persons rather than passive objects--all inform the "new history" of slavery that emphasizes a dynamic, syncretic Afro-American culture and the masters' sometimes tenuous hold on the slaves and the South. Parish covers such topics as the business of slavery, labor, the slaves' lives, slavery in comparative New World contexts, and more, and concludes that the "peculiar institution" was riddled with contradictions. This book is an essential primer. Recommended for college libraries.- Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia
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From the Back Cover
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