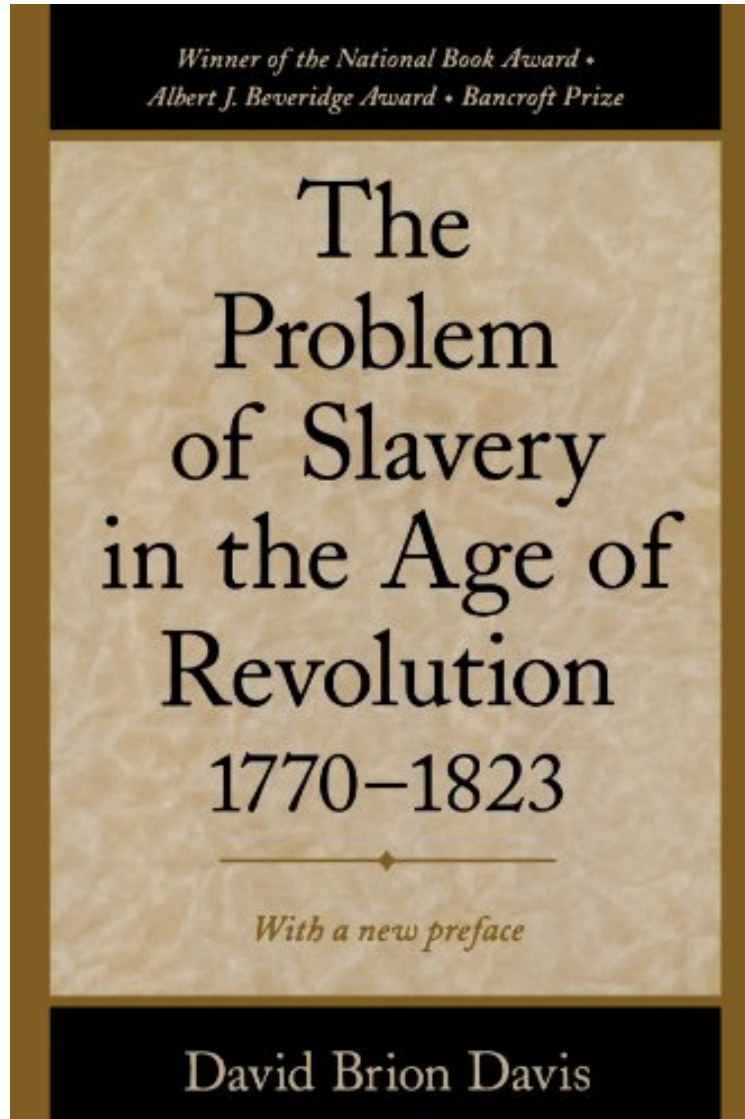


(Free) The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823

The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823

David Brion Davis

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7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I thought i knew some U. S. history By peor I am not a professional historian, but as an immigrant I am very interested in U. S. history. I thought I knew something about the pre-Civil War era and the slavery problem at the root of it. Professor Davis has opened my eyes to how much I didn't know, and

how much I didn't know I didn't know. In an exhaustively, painstakingly researched trilogy, he traces first, the idea of slavery in ancient history, including what Plato and Aristotle had to say about it, and how they justified it, to the biblical texts, both in Old (are the blacks cursed as descendants of Ham, who made fun of his drunk, naked father Noah) and New Testament that appear to justify it, the evolution of the institution through Middle Ages philosophers (are the blacks condemned by original sin, were they redeemed by Christ?). to the discovery of America (Indians shouldn't be enslaved but it is permissible to enslave blacks instead), to Hume's, Locke's, Hobbes' ideas, and the comparisons between English, French and American slavery, all the way to right before the American Revolution when Rousseau's ideas about the 'noble savage' were applied to Indians but apparently not to blacks. This carries Davis through the first volume of the trilogy "The Problem of Slavery in the Western World". The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution goes through the ages of Adam Smith and Utilitarianism, the abolition movement in Great Britain and the United States, the manumission of slaves who joined the English against the American in the Revolutionary War, the influence of the French Revolution on their policy toward their slaves in their Caribbean colonies, the revolution of the slaves and the creation of the republic of Haiti, and the abolitionist movement in the United States, which, rather than seek freedom for the slaves, sought their exile (or 'colonization') to Africa, Central America or Cuba, and the creation of Liberia by the United States following the model of England in creating Sierra Leone. The documentation is exhaustive, and it is not surprising that the work has taken Professor Davis from 1996, when the first volume appeared, to 2014 when he finished the final volume; he uses books, pamphlets, journals, letters and even contemporary newspaper editorials to back his conclusion that slavery, with its dehumanization and animalization of the slave, changes both the slave and the master in ways that we are still experiencing in our own lives. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History That Should Not Be Ignored By Robert C. Berring Meticulously researched, this third volume of Davis's trilogy on slavery is a compelling read. The deft use of sources and the power of the narrative carry the day. The stain of racism, even in those who opposed slavery, is hurtful. But we ignore these truths at our peril. It is chilling to read this book on a day when the Texas School Board enjoins history texts to state that slavery was not at the core of the Civil War. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enlightening and thoroughly sobering By Fred Moody If ever there were books that should be required reading, it's these three, which tear away the delusional veil we keep over our eyes, denying the continued impact of slavery.

David Brion Davis's books on the history of slavery reflect some of the most distinguished and influential thinking on the subject to appear in the past generation. The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, the sequel to Davis's Pulitzer Prize-winning The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture and the second volume of a proposed trilogy, is a truly monumental work of historical scholarship that first appeared in 1975 to critical acclaim both academic and literary. This reprint of that important work includes a new preface by the author, in which he situates the book's argument within the historiographic debates of the last two decades.

"The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution by David Brion Davis is a work of majestic scale, written with great skill. It explores the growing consciousness, during a half century of revolutionary change, of the oldest and most extreme form of human exploitation. Concentrating on the Anglo-American experience, the historian also pursues his theme wherever it leads in western culture. His book is a distinguished example of historical scholarship and art."--From the citation for the 1975 National Book Award "In...The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture, David Brion Davis displayed his mastery not only of a vast source of material, but also of the highly complex, frequently contradictory factors that influenced opinion on slavery. He has now followed this up with a study of equal quality....No one has written a book about the abolition of slavery that carries the conviction of Professor Davis's book. And this rich and powerful book will, I am sure, stand the test of time--scholarly, brilliant in analysis, beautifully written."--J. H. Plumb, The New York Times Book "As Davis's work demonstrates, good intellectual history is absolutely essential for an adequate understanding of the past; its proper subject is the way flesh-and-blood human beings make sense out of their world and try to gain some kind of mastery over it....It is obvious that Davis's interpretation was not imposed on his sources but resulted from a struggle to give them whatever structure and coherence seemed most consistent with the data itself and with the best recent historical work in the field. Nor does he attempt to explain all responses to the problem of slavery as ideological....Indeed the greatest strength of the book arises from its ability to provide a convincing general interpretation while doing full justice to a variety of historical experiences and perspectives....It is hard to imagine anyone going over the same ground for a long time."--George M. Fredrickson, The New York Times Book "A worthy successor to Davis's magnificent The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture. Together, these volumes represent the high point of scholarship in this field. They will undoubtedly remain at the center of discussion for many decades and perhaps beyond."--Edward Genovese "One of the many remarkable things about this book is that it equals and even exceeds the level of scholarship and history established by the author's preceding volume."--C. Vann Woodward "A superb continuation of Davis's work on the problem of slavery in western culture. It is a fascinating and profound study of the rise of the antislavery movement in England and America, as well as of the social, political, and economic milieu in which it operated."--Stanley L. Engerman "A penetrating work of

mature scholarship and extraordinary erudition....It deals with a historical problem of vast and enduring moral importance."--Michael Kammen"One of the most stunning books I have ever read....What is overpowering is the magnitude of the questions Davis asks and the seriousness with which he probes their complexities."--Sanford Levinson

About the Author David Brion Davis is Sterling Professor of History at Yale University. A former President of the Organization of American Historians, he has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bancroft Prize, and the American Historical Association's Beveridge Award. His most recent book is *The Boisterous Sea of Liberty: A Documentary History of America from Discovery through the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 1998, with Steven Mintz).