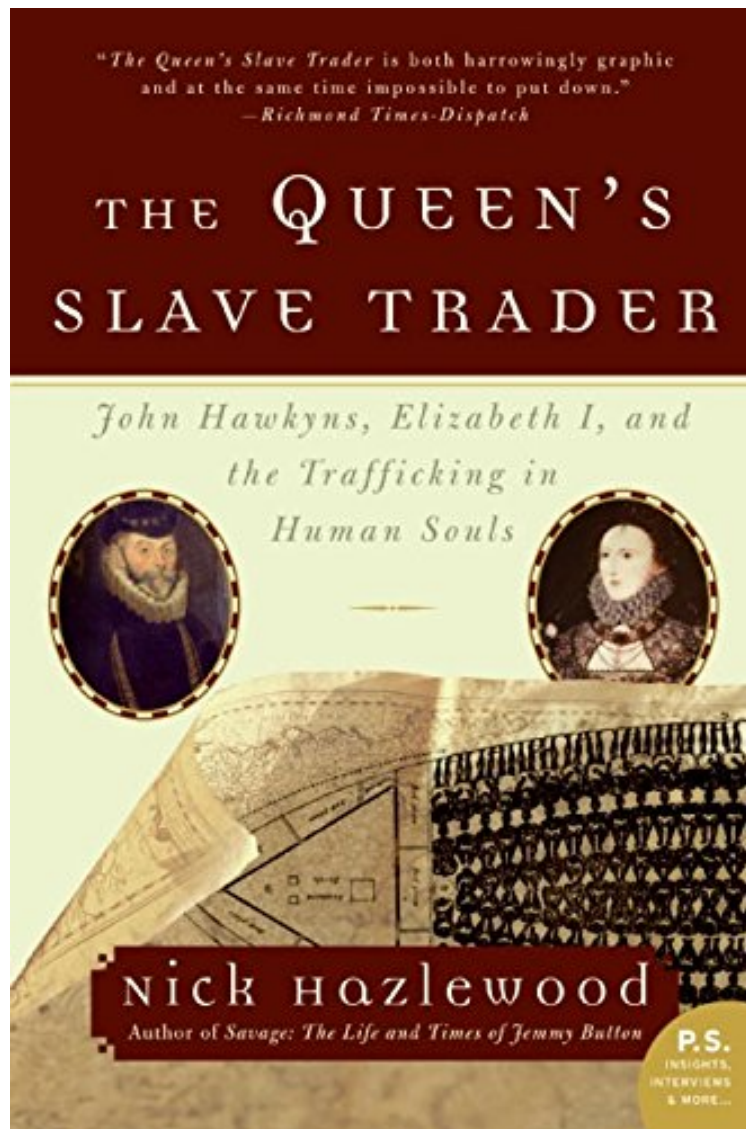


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## The Queen's Slave Trader: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls

Nick Hazlewood

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**Nick Hazlewood : The Queen's Slave Trader: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Queen's Slave Trader: John Hawkyns, Elizabeth I, and the Trafficking in Human Souls:

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Throughout history, blame for the introduction of slavery in America has been squarely placed upon the slave traders who ravaged African villages, the merchants who auctioned off human lives as if they were cattle, and the slave owners who ruthlessly beat their helpless victims. There is, however, above all these men, another person who has seemingly been able to avoid the blame due her. The origins of slavery -- often described as America's shame -- can actually be traced back to a woman, England's Queen Elizabeth I. During the 1560s, Elizabeth was encouraging a Renaissance in her kingdom but also knew her country's economy could not finance her dreams for it. On direct orders from Her Majesty, John Hawkyns set sail from England. His destination: West Africa. His mission: to capture human lives. After landing on the African coast, he used a series of brutal raids, violent beatings, and sheer terror to load his ships. As the first major slave trader, Hawkyns's actions and attitudes toward his cargo set the precedent for those who followed him for the next two hundred years. In *The Queen's Slave Trader*, historian Nick Hazlewood's haunting discoveries take you into the mind-set of the men who made their livelihoods trafficking human souls and at long last reveals the man who began it all -- and the woman behind him.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . This impressively researched and disturbing biography tells the story of John Hawkyns, an Elizabethan privateer who conducted profitable slave trading expeditions, capturing his victims on the west coast of Africa and selling them illegally in Spanish ports in the Americas. British journalist Hazlewood (*Savage: The Life and Times of Jenny Button*) traces Hawkyns's move from "roughneck" Plymouth to London, his formation of a trading syndicate and his successful and brutal slave trading voyages of 1562-1563, from which he returned to England with a show of riches. Having won the patronage of Elizabeth I, Hawkyns departed on another eventful voyage. Here Hazlewood is able to draw on a wide array of archival resources, both Spanish and English, as he recounts Hawkyns's exploits in Sierra Leone and South America. Hazlewood furnishes yet more scintillating detail in his account of Hawkyns's next, fateful 1567 voyage, focusing on various members of the crew, many pressed into service as young boys. After savagely capturing yet more African slaves, Hawkyns suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of a Spanish squadron in Veracruz. Lacking drinking water and supplies for the journey home, he abandoned a number of his men in Mexico; their pathetic fates at the hands of the Spanish enemy are painstakingly traced. Brilliantly evocative of 16th-century Anglo-Spanish rivalry and the brutality of Elizabethan maritime life, Hazlewood's book is a tour de force that condemns rather than romanticizes its thuggish adventurer. 16 pages of bw photos not seen by PW. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistThe age of the English sea dogs can still conjure up romantic images of brave, flamboyant mariners who challenged the mighty Spanish empire. Of course, the reality was more sordid. Hazlewood, a freelance journalist, has chosen a fairly representative figure of a brutal period: John Hawkyns, born into a prominent, prosperous middle-class family in the port of Plymouth. He was attracted to the sea as a youth, and he also displayed an early propensity for violence. Hazlewood acknowledges Hawkyns' bravery, leadership ability, and even his occasional acts of compassion. But, as his deep involvement in the blossoming Atlantic slave trade shows, he was ruthless, intolerant, and chillingly indifferent to human suffering. This story is not all shame and sin. Hazlewood knows how to spin a good yarn, and there is plenty of excitement as Hawkyns' adventures span four continents. This engrossing, well-researched account is likely to leave readers alternatively exhilarated and repelled, but it is a ride worth taking. Jay FreemanCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Hazlewoods book is a tour de force. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))A gripping tale and a sterling analysis of England's first foray into the nastiest of human enterprises. (Kirkus s)[An] engrossing, well-researched account. (Booklist)Hazlewood writes with precision, passion and the ease born of familiarity with his subject. (Cleveland Plain Dealer)