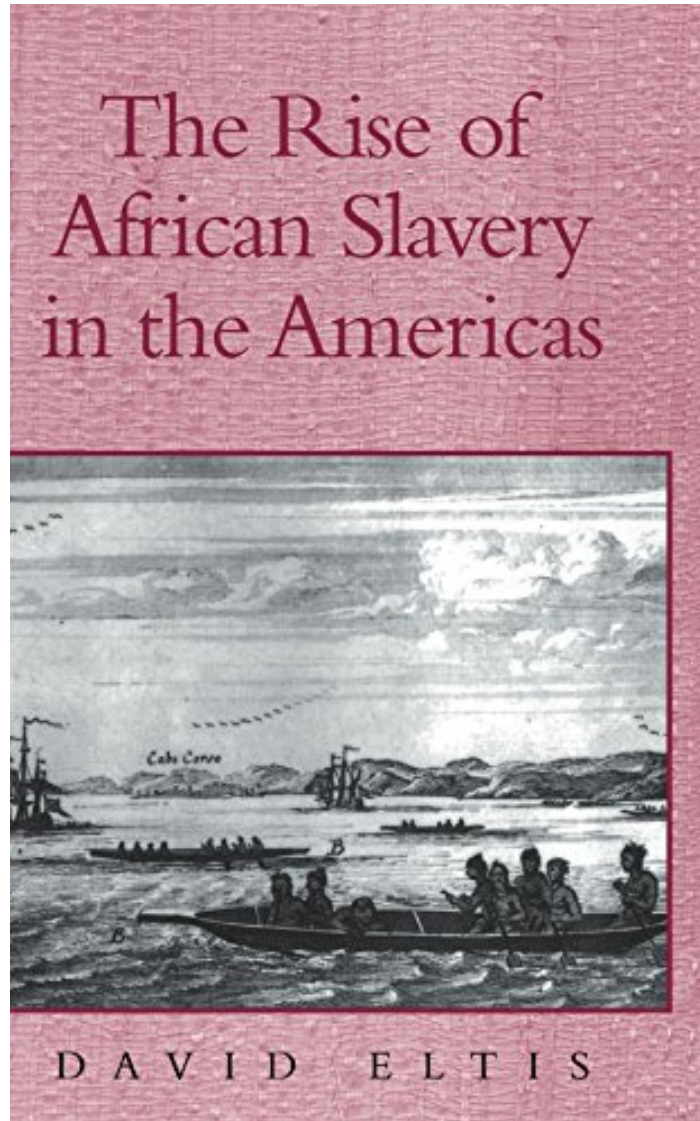


(Library ebook) The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas

## The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas

David Eltis

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**David Eltis : The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. peepzchampBy peepzchampWell rounded book that deserves the proper attention. If you are a history buff like myselfnthen this should be an addition to your library.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Important, but darn blandBy Thomas W. RobinsonThis book sets out to answer two major questions. First, why did Europeans revive the system of slavery in the New World after it was abolished in

Europe? Second, why were slaves in the New World exclusively non-European? Eltis argues that certain key cultural influences placed Europeans apart from non-Europeans and this helps explain the differing trajectories of the history of Europeans and non-Europeans. It was wealth and technology that led Europeans to expand overseas. As plantation agriculture grew, Europeans had to decide where the labor would come from. Eltis explains that transportation cost meant that Asia was not an option and because Europeans had developed an ideology that made enslaving fellow Europeans taboo, Africa became the logical choice. The pan-European ideology did not exist in Africa, according to Eltis, and this led to Africans selling their other Africans into bondage. Furthermore, Europeans held Africans without moral issues. For Eltis then, the answer to the first question is pure economics and the second answer had to do with both transportation realities and cultural ideology. Although this work has many positives (an attempt to link quantitative and qualitative at the top of the list), it is not without issues. Chief among them is that Eltis, although attempting to write an Atlantic history linking Europe, Africa, and the Americas, does not seem to fully grasp African culture. His methodological approach seems to be to put things in opposition or to use very broad categories, such as ethnicity. This seems to make the mistake of treating Africa as one homogenous society, not the diverse group of people it was and is. The insider-outsider dichotomy is problematic for the same reasons. Eltis spends many pages describing how Africans defined "insiders" but does not seem to have the evidence to back it up. As an economic history of the Atlantic slave trade, Eltis' work is a success. However, his larger goal seemed to incorporate cultural history as well and on that account, especially when it comes to Africa, his work is wanting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Eltis's work focuses on the social and economic reasons that the slave trade developed in the New World. By Gene Rhea Tucker Eltis's work focuses primarily on the social and, secondarily, the economic reasons that the slave trade developed in the New World. He focuses on the English, and to a lesser extent the Dutch, because of this paradox: why is it that the two states with the most respect for the individual and with the most political freedoms, England and the Netherlands, are complicit in the rise of African slavery? Eltis makes an attempt through economic and statistics, noting that social reasons kept Europeans from enslaving their peers, and showing that African states had some power and agency in determining who was enslaved and sold to the Europeans. He does a fine job. The footnotes are excellent, the tables annoying, and the maps useless. Recommended.

Exploring the paradox of the concurrent development of slavery and freedom in the European domains, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas* provides a fresh interpretation of the development of the English Atlantic slave system. The book outlines a major African role in the evolution of the Atlantic societies before the nineteenth century and argues that the transatlantic slave trade was a result of African strength rather than African weakness. It also addresses changing patterns of group identity to account for the racial basis of slavery in the early modern Atlantic World.

"Eltis's impressive book does good work in two different arenas. Specialists in research on the Atlantic slave trade in Africa and the Americas will see better than before the integration among markets and regions that characterized this trade. Economists and historians who are not specialists will see this as well, but they will also find the book a proficient and well-sourced overview of a massive subject." *EH.NET* "The Rise of African Slavery bears all the hallmarks of the historical craftsmanship we have come to expect from Eltis; a grasp of theoretical and statistical complexity, a mastery of archival materials and a rare ability to impose a tight and disciplined argument on material which, in less talented hands, might overwhelm the author. Here, as elsewhere, Eltis reveals himself to be the finest historian in the field." *International Journal of Maritime History* "Eltis has produced a volume of remarkable empirical depth and insightful interpretation that deserves a wide audience. His enormously important book will no doubt quickly come to be regarded as one of the best examples of what the growing field of Atlantic history has to offer...The author's probing, often provocative conclusions will surely stimulate debate among specialists in a range of subfields concerned with the early modern histories of Europe, Africa, and the Americas." *William and Mary Quarterly* "Commented the Gilder Lehrman Center's director, David Brion Davis, professor of history at Yale: 'This work fundamentally reshapes our understanding of the origins and development of African slavery in the New World...Professor Eltis' painstakingly researched and convincingly argued book stands as a major contribution to the field.'" *Houston, TX NEWSPAGES* "As an economic history of the Atlantic slave trade and the plantation complex in the Americas, Dr. Eltis's work contains an impressive amount of factual and quantitative detail." *The Americas* "The book shows that African agency was crucially important in determining who entered the slave trade and how it was conducted...Eltis writes clearly and provocatively and never loses sight of the larger framework he is discussing." *The International History* "This is a well-crafted, imaginatively constructed, complex account of why slavery in the Americas became exclusively African...This elegantly written account is tantalizing, provocative..." *American Historical Dec 2001* "...a sophisticated, highly recommended, and unusually stimulating book with an outstanding bibliography...readers will admire the strong appeal to consider the cultural dimensions of economic and political decision-making." *The Historian* About the Author David Eltis is Robert W. Woodruff Professor of History at Emory University and has held visiting appointments at Harvard and Yale universities. He is author of *The Rise of African*

Slavery in the Americas, co-compiler of *The Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM* and its successor on [www.slavevoyages.org](http://www.slavevoyages.org) co-editor of *Extending the Frontiers: Essays on the New Transatlantic Slave Trade Database* (with David Richardson), co-editor of *Slavery in the Development of the Americas* (with Frank Lewis and Kenneth Sokoloff), and editor of *Coerced and Free Migrations: Global Perspectives*. He is also author and co-author of numerous articles on slavery, migration, and abolition, most recently in the *American Historical* and the *William and Mary Quarterly*.