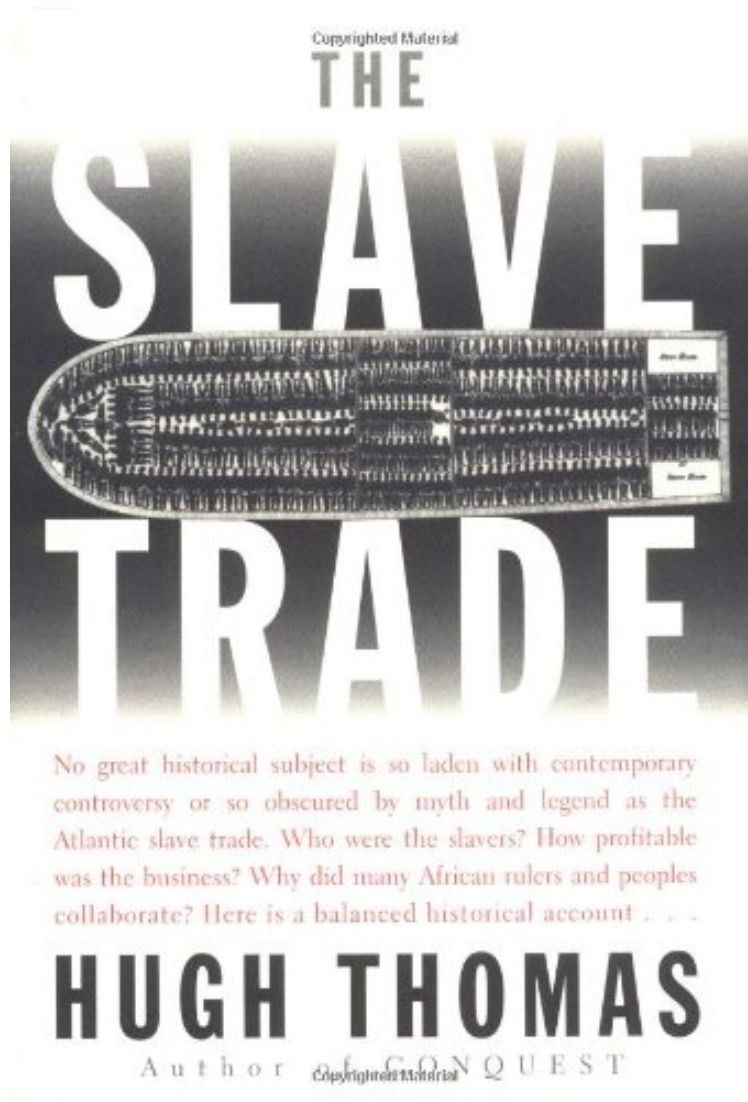


## The Slave Trade

*Hugh Thomas*

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**Hugh Thomas : The Slave Trade** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Slave Trade:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding and DefinitiveBy CanailleIt's taken a long time to get through it, but it is worth the journey.An epic, detailed examination of the African Slave Trade from its inception by the Portuguese in the 15th century to its demise in Brazil in the late 19th. There is so much missing from our popular understanding of the slave trade, the biggest - in my opinion - being the participation of coastal African peoples as kidnappers and traders themselves. You will learn in fine, granular detail about every aspect of the trade, from the

financing of voyages to the relative merits (as slaves) of the various groups that populated Africa. One thing I really like about Thomas' treatment of this subject is his avoidance of overtly shrill moralizing, instead letting the appalling facts reveal themselves in the details he provides. His chapter on the slaves' experience of crossing the Atlantic is horrifying. Overcrowded ships was merely one aspect of the crossing. All in all - a fantastic book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A heavy read, but worth the time. By Customer This is a very deep, comprehensive read -- rich with history and information, very educational and enlightening on an enormously important subject. But some sections are extremely thick with details and it can be a slow read through some parts, especially the first few chapters. But it's worth the time to get through. Not a light read. In fact, I took my time with this book, setting it aside for lighter reading from time to time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent work by the historian Hugh Thomas. By tmazzillo It is a bit too long, but it is a very deep analysis of the slave trade ! if you are interested in finding out about humanity, this is the right book. It discloses, fearlessly, the reality of the character of the human being. It is a deep voyage into the character, soul and cruelty of the human being. Worth reading. Excellent work by the historian Hugh Thomas.

No great historical subject is so laden with modern controversy or so obscured by myth and legend as the slave trade. Who were the slavers? How profitable was the business? Why did many African rulers and peoples collaborate? The strength of Hugh Thomas's book is that it begins with the first Portuguese slaving expeditions, before Columbus's voyage to the New World, and ends with the last gasp of the slave trade, long since made illegal elsewhere, in Cuba and Brazil twenty-five years after the American Emancipation Proclamation. His narrative is vividly alive with villains and heroes, and illuminated by eyewitness accounts, many of which are published here for the first time. Hugh Thomas gives the reader the facts about the slave trade - shows us how whole towns, like Bristol and Liverpool in England, Nantes in France, or Newport in Rhode Island, grew and prospered on slavery; how each new discovery and colonization spurred the demand for slave labor. He confronts the thorny subject of Jewish involvement in the slave trade, documents the fact that many of the New England whaling captains became successful slavers on the side, and tells the story of the rising tide of the antislavery movement, first against the trade and then against the institution of slavery itself. He describes the work of men such as Montesquieu in France, Wilberforce in England, and Anthony Benezet in the United States who finally succeeded in turning public opinion against slavery and making it illegal in Europe and the New World.