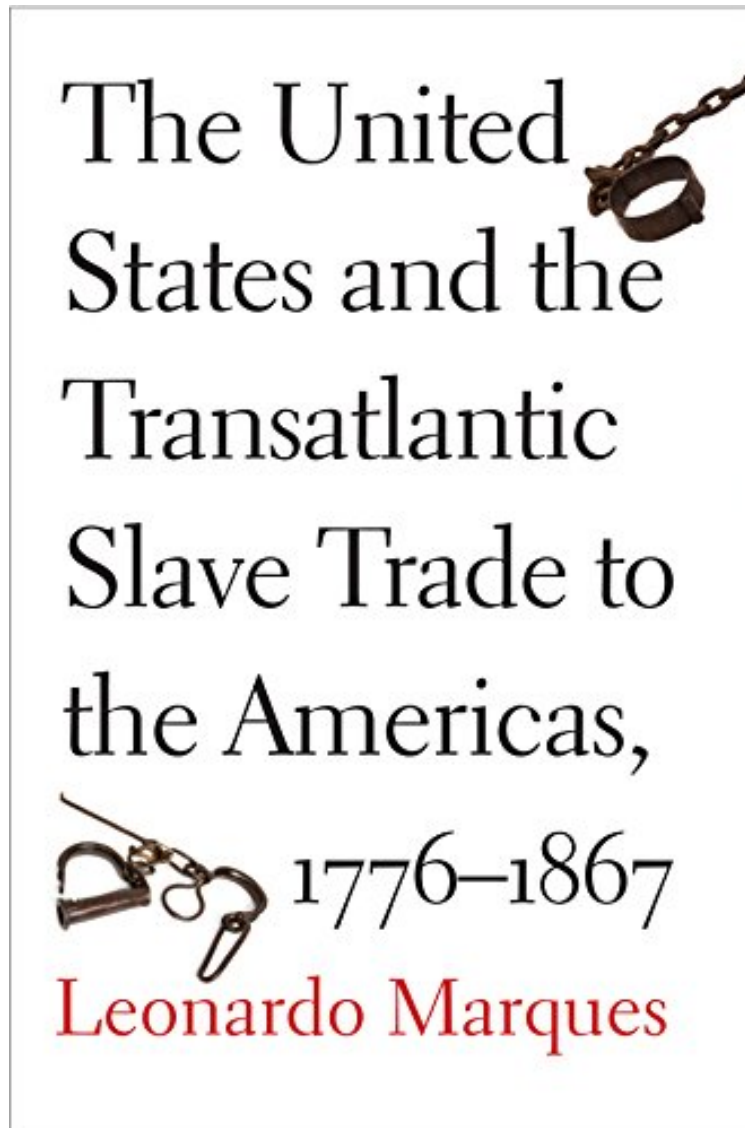


The United States and the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the Americas, 1776-1867

Leonardo Marques

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Leonardo Marques : The United States and the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the Americas, 1776-1867 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The United States and the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the Americas, 1776-1867:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Specialized but Useful; 3.5 StarsBy R. AlbinA solid, carefully researched and very detailed analysis of the US role in the transatlantic slave trade from the end of the 18th century through the Civil War. This book falls into clear periods. Americans participated vigorously in the slave trade prior to

the banning of slave importation into the US at the end of the first decade of the 19th century. This produced a significant drop in direct American participation and an even greater drop after Congress declared slave trade participation an act of piracy in 1820. Quite a few Americans, however, continued to participate in the clandestine trade to Brazil and Cuba. Plantation slavery in Brazil and Cuba was hugely incited by American thirst for coffee and sugar. A large fraction of slaving voyages used American-made ships. In the 1850s, New York City was a significant center for outfitting slaving voyages between Africa and Cuba. With the coming of the Civil War, and the strong commitment of the Lincoln administration, American participation ended. Marques has a lot of useful discussion of the complex politics of the slave trade. Quite a few southern American politicians were vociferous opponents of the trade, partly to defend the moral status of American slavery and partly to safeguard the prices of the domestic slave trade. Combating the slave trade was complicated by US-British rivalry, even when British and American administrations were both willing to pursue active naval suppression of the trade. The presence of slavery in the US acted as a major indirect safeguard for Cuban slavery.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-researched but a bit confusing. Statements could be cited that seem to contradict each other, although if you are familiar with the background already perhaps you understand that they are not actually contradictory. The author is said to teach at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, but we are not told where this is! (I'm guessing it is not the USA). The title is a tautology. Where else could the transatlantic slave trade go but to the Americas and trade from Africa to the Americas is of course transatlantic. As another reviewer pointed out, there is no bibliography and it would have been helpful. The book is worth reading, but don't choose it for your first book on the subject.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not indispensable. There are so many monographs on the slave trade that you nearly have to take a vow to keep up. Some--virtually anything by David Eltis--are indispensable. That said, his students appear to be mostly quite competent, but that's about it. This book is a good example, as it examines the involvement of the United States in the trade. Almost nothing strikes me as a major discovery, other, perhaps, than the role of New York in the mid nineteenth century Brazilian trade. Most of the material is reasonably well known, and some of the findings, particularly about the extent of contraband Caribbean slave trade after 1820 (to destinations like Texas), strike me as misleading or wrong. Everybody knows that US ships capital, seamen, captains, factors and the rest were deeply involved in the trade, and if the penalty after 1820 for getting caught was the death sentence, I'd be curious to see how many times it was actually carried out, and Marques finds only one, Nathaniel Gordon. I suspect this book is a case of diminishing returns: at some point, you wonder whether anyone has anything novel to say. I'd also point out there is no bibliography, a terrible index, and only a cursory list of archival sources. That may not be the author's fault--Lord knows what university presses are up to--but if you can't find Charleston or South Carolina in the index, I can't imagine that scholars will be rushing out to consult the book. And, pray tell, who else would read it? Better put the apparatus online, or they'll be no point in purchasing scholarly books at all.

An investigation of US participation in the transatlantic slave trade to the Americas, from the American Revolution to the Civil War. While much of modern scholarship has focused on the American slave trader's impact within the United States, considerably less has addressed its effects in other parts of the Americas. A rich analysis of a complex subject, this study draws on Portuguese, Brazilian, and Spanish primary documents; as well as English-language material; to shed new light on the changing behavior of slave traders and their networks, particularly in Brazil and Cuba. Slavery in these nations, as Marques shows, contributed to the mounting tensions that would ultimately lead to the U.S. Civil War. Taking a truly Atlantic perspective, Marques outlines the multiple forms of U.S. involvement in this traffic amid various legislation and shifting international relations, exploring the global processes that shaped the history of this participation.

Rooted in research in primary materials, the book offers a wealth of new evidence and insight. David Richardson, coauthor of *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*