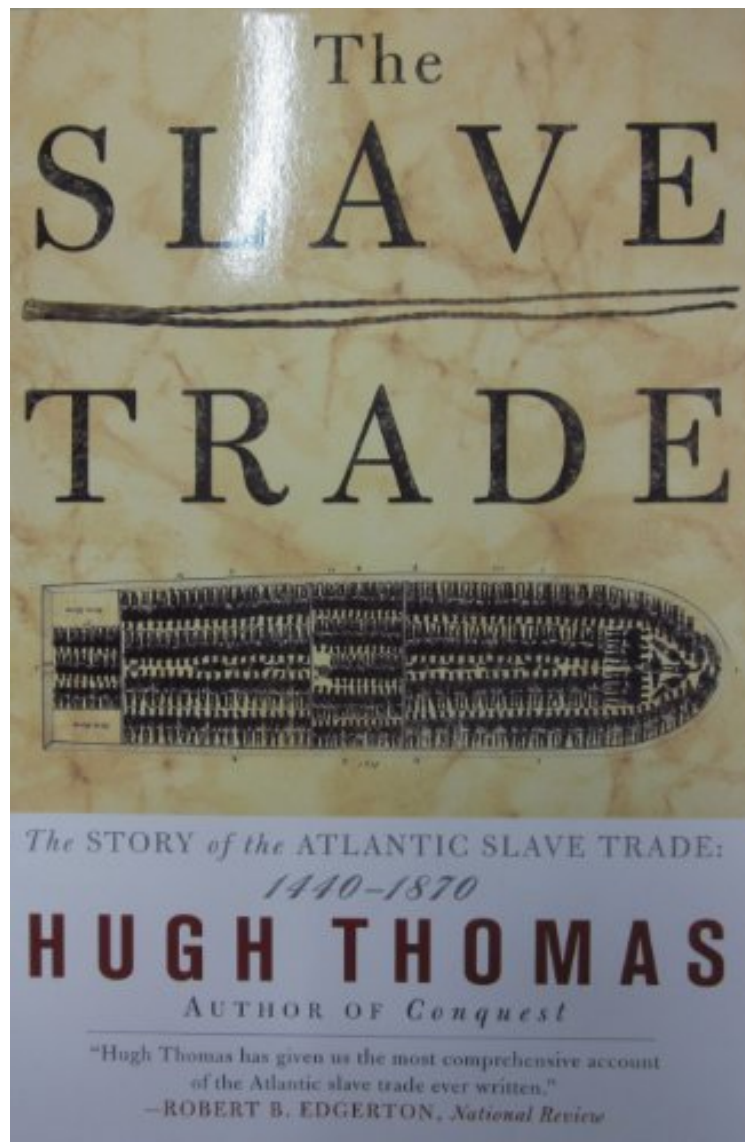


The SLAVE TRADE: THE STORY OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: 1440 - 1870

Hugh Thomas

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Hugh Thomas : The SLAVE TRADE: THE STORY OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: 1440 - 1870 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The SLAVE TRADE: THE STORY OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: 1440 - 1870:

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.

After many years of research, award-winning historian Hugh Thomas portrays, in a balanced account, the complete history of the slave trade. Beginning with the first Portuguese slaving expeditions, he describes and analyzes the rise of one of the largest and most elaborate maritime and commercial ventures in all of history. Between 1492 and 1870, approximately eleven million black slaves were carried from Africa to the Americas to work on plantations, in mines, or as servants in houses. The Slave Trade is alive with villains and heroes and illuminated by eyewitness accounts. Hugh Thomas's achievement is not only to present a compelling history of the time but to answer as well such controversial questions as who the traders were, the extent of the profits, and why so many African rulers and peoples willingly collaborated. Thomas also movingly describes such accounts as are available from the slaves themselves.

Robert B. Edgerton National Hugh Thomas has given us the most comprehensive account of the Atlantic Slave Trade ever written. Gregory Kane Baltimore Sun The Slave Trade is more than just a history of the transatlantic peddling of human flesh. It is the story, in microcosm, of four continents: Europe, Africa, North America, and South America. Thomas weaves a tale of merchants and slaves; of diplomats and clergymen; of philosophers, statesmen, abolitionists, and rulers that readers will find surprisingly engaging. John Thornton The New York Times Book Well researched...engaging...a fine narrative history. Hardy Green Business Week Masterly....With its uncompromising show of erudition drawn from a wealth of original and secondary sources, The Slave Trade is an indispensable account of a repugnant institution. Barbara Stanton Detroit Free Press Thomas has taken a sprawling subject and turned it into a disciplined, compelling narrative. From the Back Cover After many years of research, award-winning historian Hugh Thomas portrays, in a balanced account, the complete history of the slave trade. Beginning with the first Portuguese slaving expeditions, he describes and analyzes the rise of one of the largest and most elaborate maritime and commercial ventures in all of history. Between 1492 and 1870, approximately eleven million black slaves were carried from Africa to the Americas to work on plantations, in mines, or as servants in houses. The Slave Trade is alive with villains and heroes and illuminated by eyewitness accounts. Hugh Thomas's achievement is not only to present a compelling history of the time but to answer as well such controversial questions as who the traders were, the extent of the profits, and why so many African rulers and peoples willingly collaborated. Thomas also movingly describes such accounts as are available from the slaves themselves. About the Author Hugh Thomas is the author of The Spanish Civil War, Conquest, and many other books. A former Chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies (U.K.), he was made Lord Thomas of Swinnerton in 1981. He is currently a University Professor at Boston University. He lives in London.