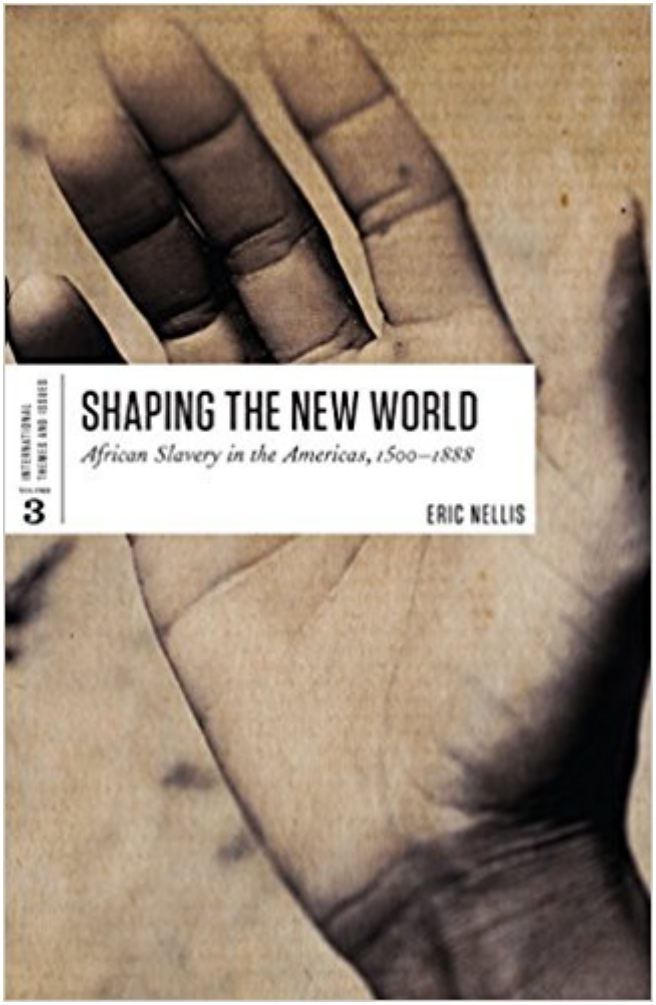
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Shaping The New World: African Slavery In The Americas, 1500-1888 (International Themes And Issues)



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Synopsis

Between 1500 and the middle of the nineteenth century, some 12.5 million slaves were sent as bonded labour from Africa to the European settlements in the Americas. Shaping the New World introduces students to the origins, growth, and consolidation of African slavery in the Americas and race-based slavery's impact on the economic, social, and cultural development of the New World.While the book explores the idea of the African slave as a tool in the formation of new American societies, it also acknowledges the culture, humanity, and importance of the slave as a person and highlights the role of women in slave societies.Serving as the third book in the UTP/CHA International Themes and Issues Series, Shaping the New World introduces readers to the topic of African slavery in the New World from a comparative perspective, specifically focusing on the English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch slave systems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This highly readable overview of slavery in the Americas has an admirably ambitious scope. It synthesizes a vast array of recent research on the subject while still incorporating important older works of scholarship. Nellis offers us a broad comparative framework that is sensitive to the varieties of slavery and slave experiences throughout the Americas. It may be the best overview available for an introduction to the subject. With its vast scope, its extensive and up-to-date bibliography, several important comparative statistical tables and some helpful maps, Nellis's book will be both an ideal text for undergraduates and a helpful reference tool for more advanced

scholars. (Justin Roberts, Dalhousie University)While the salient tendency in the expansive field of slavery is focusing on local and micro histories, it is crucial not to lose sight of the big picture and of the comparative perspective. Eric Nellis has produced a remarkable synthesis of the scholarship about African slavery in the Americas from 1500 to 1888. As its title indicates, the book has also the merit of placing the experience of slavery at the heart of the formation of emerging societies in the New World. This concise, elegant, and highly informative work is an excellent guide to the subject and to the scholarship. (Lotfi Ben Rejeb, University of Ottawa)Shaping the New World is excellentÃ¢â ¬â •accurate, clear, and concise. (Craig Koslofsky, University of Illinois)

Eric Nellis is an Emeritus Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of British Columbia.

The book well emphasizes the role of slavery in shaping culture and politics of all the Americas from its origins to the end of slavery in Brazil in 1888. In the long era 12.5 million slaves were shipped from Africa, with 10.7 million surviving transportation to be distributed within the Americas to shape the differing societies. It’s informative on origins of the slave trade on the African west coast. The book starts with the Portugese explorations on the W coast of Africa under the aegis of Henry the Navigator with Portuguese and Arab traders sending slaves to Europe and the Mid East. That changed with the discovery of America as the Atlantic trade became the primary vehicle facilitating African slaveryIt describes the very different histories of the Caribbean, Brazil, Spanish American Mexico Peru and Cuba and involvements of Portuguese, Dutch, British and French. It covers social status of slaves, servants and masters in each venue and the role of women. There was the primary role of the sugar trade along with coffee, N. American tobacco, indigo, rice and finally cotton in the southern states of N. America. Especially interesting is how different the roles and attitudes of different areas during colonial rule and how little changed after formation of the republics after independence from Britain and Spain. There’s interesting social research. I hadn’t known that poet William Cowper aided Newton in composed the Olney verses that include Amazing Grace. That’s one episode in the author’s description of the British fight against slavery. There’s a short chapter on the more familiar history of slavery in N. America, including Calhoun’s attack on the evils of paid labor. I found the varied pace of the anti-slavery movement in the different American venues very interesting.The book is excellent history and sociology. It does an excellent job of depicting the evils of slavery without devoting space to excessive moralizing. It’s super informative for it’s small size.

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