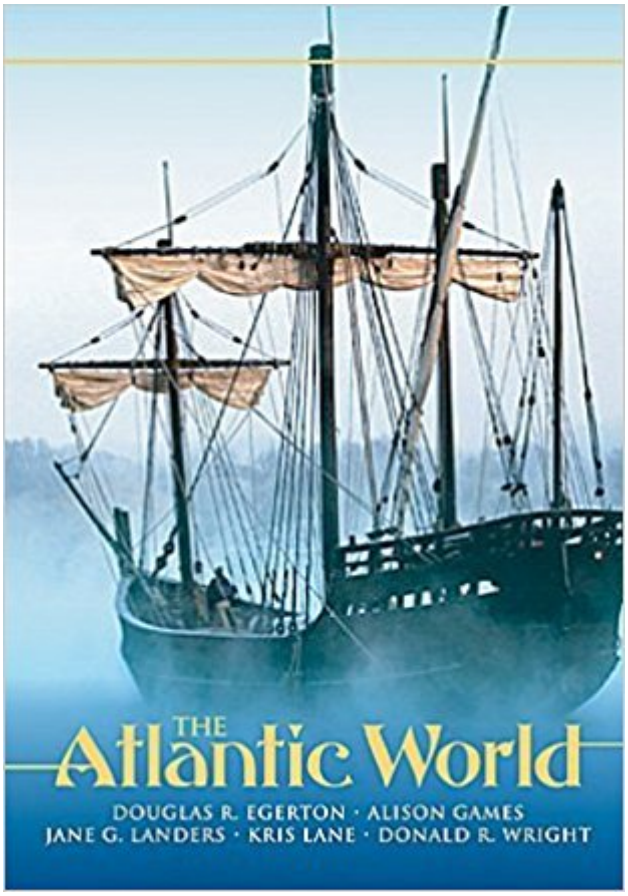
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The Atlantic World: A History, 1400 - 1888



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Synopsis

Before the voyage of Columbus in 1492, the Atlantic Ocean stood as a barrier to contact between the people (and their ideas and institutions), plants, animals, and microbes of Eurasia and Africa on the one hand and the Americas on the other. Following ColumbusÃ¢â ¬â„¢s voyage, the Atlantic turned into a conduit for transferring these things among the four continents bordering the ocean in ways that affected people living on each of them. The appearance of The Atlantic World marks an important achievement, for it stands out as the first successful attempt to combine the many strains of Atlantic history into a comprehensive, thoughtful narrative. At the core of this ground-breaking and eloquently written survey lies a consideration of the relationships among people living in Europe, Africa, and the Americas, with a focus on how these relationships played important rolesÃ¢â ¬â •often the most important rolesÃ¢â ¬â •in how the histories of the people involved unfolded. The ways of life of millions of people changed, sometimes for the better but often for the worse, because of their relationship to the larger Atlantic world. And unlike existing texts dealing with one or another aspect of Atlantic history, The Atlantic World does not subjugate the history of Africa and South America to those of the Ã¢â ¬Å“British AtlanticÃ¢â ¬Â• or Europe. With historians and other scholars beginning to reconceptualize the Atlantic World as a dynamic zone of exchange in which people, commodities, and ideas circulated from the mid-fifteenth century until the dawn of the twentieth century, the interconnections between people along the Atlantic rim create a coherent region, one in which events in one corner inevitably altered the course of history in another. As this book testifies, Atlantic history, properly understood, is history without bordersÃ¢â ¬â •in which national narratives take backstage to the larger examination of interdependence and cultural transmission. Conceived of and produced by a team of distinguished authors with countless hours of teaching experience at the college level, this thoughtfully organized, beautifully written, and lavishly illustrated book will set the standard for all future surveys intended as a core text for the new and rapidly growing courses in Atlantic History.

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Customer Reviews

"I congratulate the authors of [The Atlantic World], who have not simply put together a comprehensive monograph about the Atlantic, but have put specialists from all the regions. They have produced a highly readable book not as a collection of articles, but as a joint written effort we seldom see. ...they may have presaged the way we all have to work in future collaborative schemes." (Dennis R. Hidalgo, Adelphi University, for H-Net Reviews, November 4, 2007) "The authors' goal of writing a truly borderless and interconnected history of the Atlantic produces many new and provocative insights. ...Arguably the book's strongest accomplishment is the integration of West Africa into Atlantic history. ...a major contribution to the field of Atlantic history." (H-Net Reviews, November 5, 2007)

Douglas R. Egerton is Professor of History at Le Moyne College. He is the author of the forthcoming Death or Liberty: African Americans and American Revolution (2007), He Shall Go Out Free: The Lives of Denmark Vesey (1999), GabrielÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802 (1993), and Charles Fenton Mercer and the Trial of National Conservatism (1989). Alison Games teaches Atlantic history at Georgetown University, where she is the Dorothy M. Brown Distinguished Professor of History. She is the author of Migration and the Origins of the English Atlantic World (1999), winner of the Theodore Saloutos Prize in Immigration and Ethnic History. She has written extensively on different aspects of Atlantic history, and her articles have appeared in such journals as Slavery and Abolition, Itinerario, the American Historical Review, and the William and Mary Quarterly. Jane Landers is Associate Professor of History at Vanderbilt University and the author and editor of a number of books on Africans and the circum-Atlantic world, among them the prize-winning Black Society in Spanish Florida. Kris Lane is Associate Professor of History at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. His books include Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750 (1998) and Quito, 1599: City & Colony in Transition (2002). His other published works treat the topics piracy, Slavery, gold mining, headhunting, and witchcraft in colonial Ecuador and Colombia. He is currently completing a book on the early modern

emerald trade. Donald R. Wright is Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at the State University of New York-Cortland, where he teaches African, African American, and world history. He is the author of The World and a Very Small Place in African: A History of Globalization in Niumi, The Gambia (2nd ed., 2004), and two books in Harlan DavidsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s American History Series: African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins through the American Revolution (2nd ed., 2000), and African Americans in the Early Republic, 1789-1831 (1993).

Good book, a great textbook for my class.

Was labeled as "very good condition" and paid close to full price for it. When I received it the condition was slightly poor at best. Disappointing as I wasn't expecting that given the price I paid for the book.

I read this book in grad school but it's really a textbook. It's purpose is to include Africa in the study of colonial America.

Douglas Egerton, Alison Games, Jane Landers, Kris Lane, and Donald Wright's "The Atlantic World" manages to achieve the daunting task of cramming nearly five hundred years of the history of four continents into about five hundred pages. The purpose of Atlantic history, as outlined in the Introduction, is the study of the convergence and conflict of numerous African, Caribbean, European, North American, and South American cultures following Christopher Columbus' arrival in the "New World" and the subsequent collapse of many indigenous societies and their displacement by the Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English. Africans soon appeared as well, forcibly transported from their homeland to prop up the economies of Europe's American holdings. Perhaps the best illustration of this comes from John Gabriel Stedman's "Narrative of a Five Year Expedition" (1796), that depicts Africa and America personified as two women literally supporting a third, identified as Europe, between them.Now clearly, America (and, by extension, the Americas) has always been a diverse place, as Ronald Takaki has asserted in his book "A Different Mirror," which discusses the detrimental effects the exclusion of other cultures has had on the teaching of history: "What happens, to borrow the words of Adrienne Rich, 'when someone with the authority of a teacher' describes our society - and 'you are not in it'?" In its efforts to highlight all of Africa, Europe, and the Americas as equal contributors to the Atlantic world, I think a book like this is vital in today's educational environment. For one, it does a wonderful job covering West African history of this

period, especially given the criticism of Molefi Kete Asante's highly influential "The Afrocentric Idea in Education," which argues that American schools have traditionally presented Africans as merely passive victims of European aggression and exploitation rather than as active agents in their own right. Atlantic history is perhaps an effective answer to these issues of multiculturalism, as it emphasizes not only the history of myriad cultures in the present-day United States, but also necessarily incorporates the story of other nations and other parts of the world as well. In an era where the Atlantic is now only one aspect of a truly global society, Americans need to understand the rest of the world now more than ever, and "The Atlantic World" will certainly help them do that.

The Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888 is a scholarly educational and reference text covering historical events, commerce, wars, immigration patterns, and much more as pertaining to the Atlantic and its continental boundaries. A handful of black-and-white illustrations grace this detailed, in-depth reference, written by five experts and ideal for novice to advanced history students. From the pre-Columbus roots of an Atlantic system, to Columbus' fateful voyage of discovery, the proliferation of the slave trade, labor/migration/settlement patterns, the American revolution and its repercussions, and much more, The Atlantic World reveals how the Atlantic itself was a vital nexus to unfolding history. Highly recommended for public, college library, and world history shelves.

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