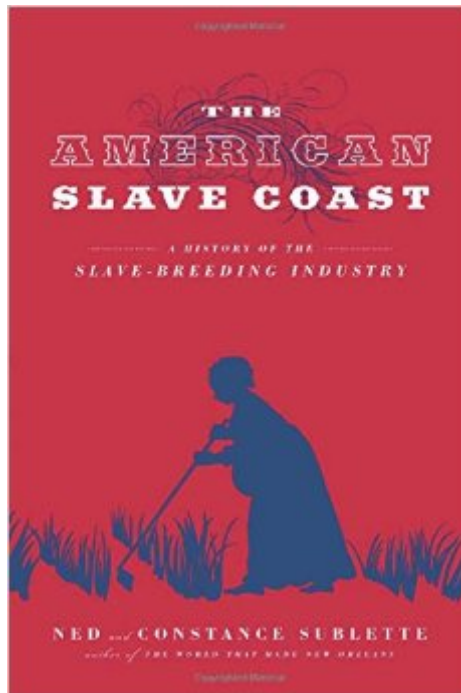


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The American Slave Coast: A History Of The Slave-Breeding Industry



Synopsis

The American Slave Coast offers a provocative vision of US history from earliest colonial times through emancipation that presents even the most familiar events and figures in a revealing new light. Authors Ned and Constance Sublette tell the brutal story of how the slavery industry made the reproductive labor of the people it referred to as "breeding women" essential to the young country's expansion. Captive African Americans in the slave nation were not only laborers, but merchandise and collateral all at once. In a land without silver, gold, or trustworthy paper money, their children and their children's children into perpetuity were used as human savings accounts that functioned as the basis of money and credit in a market premised on the continual expansion of slavery. Slaveowners collected interest in the form of newborns, who had a cash value at birth and whose mothers had no legal right to say no to forced mating. This gripping narrative is driven by the power struggle between the elites of Virginia, the slave-raising "mother of slavery," and South Carolina, the massive importer of Africans—a conflict that was central to American politics from the making of the Constitution through the debacle of the Confederacy. Virginia slaveowners won a major victory when Thomas Jefferson's 1808 prohibition of the African slave trade protected the domestic slave markets for slave-breeding. The interstate slave trade exploded in Mississippi during the presidency of Andrew Jackson, drove the US expansion into Texas, and powered attempts to take over Cuba and other parts of Latin America, until a disaffected South Carolina spearheaded the drive to secession and war, forcing the Virginians to secede or lose their slave-breeding industry. Filled with surprising facts, fascinating incidents, and startling portraits of the people who made, endured, and resisted the slave-breeding industry, The American Slave Coast culminates in the revolutionary Emancipation Proclamation, which at last decommissioned the capitalized womb and armed the African Americans to fight for their freedom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An extended quote from the coda of the book: "Antebellum slavery required a complex of social, legal, financial, and political institutions structured to maximize profits that flowed only to a small elite, while leaving the rest of the population poor. It wanted no legal oversight beyond the local, no public education, and no dissent. For laborers, it wanted no person-hood; no wages, education, privacy, clothing, human rights, civic identity, civil right, reproductive rights, or even the right to keep a stable family. It existed at the cost of everything else in the society, including the most basic notions of humanity." In his book, "The World That Made New Orleans", Ned Sublette introduced me to the practice of slave breeding. Children were conceived, brought to term, and raised to be sold as slaves. The mothers were forced to breed with male slaves, overseers, and slave owners, without their consent and against their will. The owners sold their own children as property. In this book, "The American Slave Coast", Ned and Constance Sublette present a detailed history of the United States as it pertains to the slave trade. The book demonstrates how America's cherished institutions were built to accommodate the slave trade. It demonstrates how the slave trade influenced so much of American history. The book gives a name to the practice from the previous book, the "capitalized womb." It describes how slaves formed the monetary system of the slave states, and how that money helped fund the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. The children of female slaves were "interest" to the slave owners and their creditors.

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