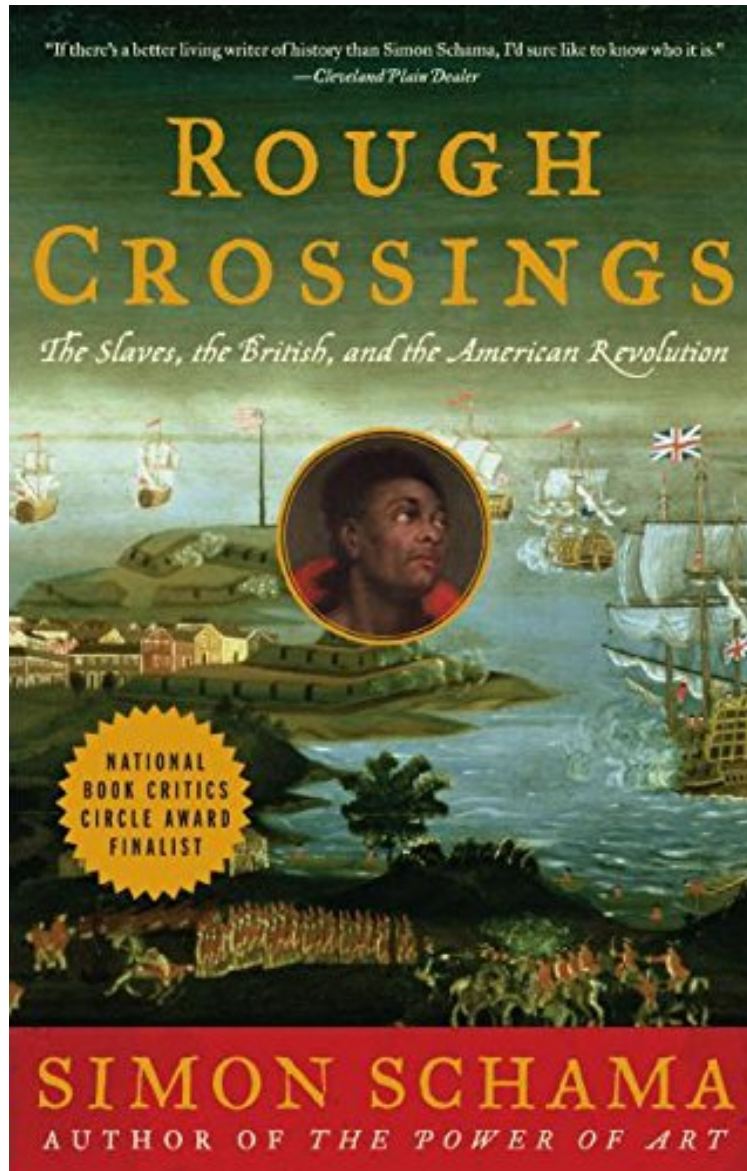


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Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution

Simon Schama

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#525558 in Books Simon Schama 2007-05-01 2007-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.28 x 6.00, 1.38 #File Name: 0060539178512 pages Rough Crossings The Slaves the British and the American Revolution | File size: 74.Mb

Simon Schama : Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rough Crossings: The Slaves, the British, and the American Revolution:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A must read. By DJ BOYCE Having studied aspects of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade at University it is a subject that has continued to interest me. Schama is a writer I enjoy reading across a range of subjects. He does not disappoint here. Well written, fastidiously researched, this book is one that deserves an in depth read. It covers areas that are generally only touched on in passing, or completely ignored by other histories of the era. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. I absolutely love this book. By Joan Vall absolutely love this book. It reads like a novel. Schama is a wonderful author. This is the third book of his that I have read, and I have bought 3 or 4 copies of it to give to friends and a couple of libraries. A very intense historical book. I could hardly put it down. I read the book in under a week, and it is over 500 pages long. Spell-binding. A must-read. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. British Freedom Lives. By Chimonsho He was a living person: a runaway who, at some point during the Revolutionary era, chose the name British Freedom to express his hard-won new status. Simon Schama tells his story, along with many other compelling ones, in this inspiring book. In the 18-19Cs, many more Blacks saw Great Britain as the true promoter of human liberty, not the USA. It was a long struggle to reach that status, because Britain profited greatly from the slave trade and slavery. But from the 1760s on enlightened Brits (as well as some hard-headed practical soldiers), for varied reasons, became crucial allies of Black freedom seekers. Blacks themselves and their families reached British lines and became laborers, orderlies, even soldiers and sailors, in far greater numbers than those who joined the Patriots. Much of this is familiar; in fact there's little new here, and Schama repeatedly clears debts to pioneers like Quarles, Davis, Frey, Fyfe, Pybus, Walker, Wilson, Wise, et al. Riveting prose distinguishes "Rough Crossings" from most others, making this fundamental aspect of the era of Atlantic Revolutions broadly accessible. The early sections on Granville Sharp not only set the scene; they draw needed attention to this oddly overlooked but great humanitarian, and his family too. Schama offers new insights on British generals long unpopular in US history, notably Henry Clinton and especially Guy Carleton. But the main protagonists are the self-liberated themselves, whose lengthy odyssey took them from bondage through many harrowing experiences to Nova Scotia and Britain, with hundreds finally settling as free founders of Sierra Leone. Readers will love liberty even more because of this book. Cf. G. Horne, "The Counter-Revolution of 1776" for a still more radical, and contested, interpretation of the 1770s.

If you were black in America at the start of the Revolutionary War, which side would you want to win? When the last British governor of Virginia declared that any rebel-owned slave who escaped and served the king would be emancipated, tens of thousands of slaves fled from farms, plantations, and cities to try to reach the British camp. A military strategy originally designed to break the plantations of the American South had unleashed one of the great exoduses in U.S. history. With powerfully vivid storytelling, Schama details the odyssey of the escaped blacks through the fires of war and the terror of potential recapture, shedding light on an extraordinary, little-known chapter in the dark saga of American slavery.

"A master storyteller." (Newsweek) "If there's a better living writer of history than Simon Schama, I'd sure like to know who it is." (Cleveland Plain Dealer) ". . . plenty of gorgeous writing from this most elegant of stylists." (Christian Science Monitor) "Schama tells this complex story through a series of richly drawn, idiosyncratic individuals, from musical bureaucrats to rebellious slaves." (San Diego Union-Tribune) Simon Schama's *Rough Crossings* . . . brilliantly re-creates the histories of runaway slaves in and after the American revolution. (Sunday Times (London)) "A lively and accessible book." (Newsday) "Schama is back at his best - and historians don't come much better than that." (Sunday Times (London)) About the Author Simon Schama is University Professor of Art History and History at Columbia University in New York. His award-winning books include *Scribble, Scribble, Scribble*; *The American Future: A History*; National Book Critics Circle Award winner *Rough Crossings*; *The Power of Art*; *The Embarrassment of Riches: An Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age*; *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*; *Dead Certainties (Unwarranted Speculations)*; *Landscape and Memory*; *Rembrandt's Eyes*; and the *History of Britain* trilogy. He has written and presented forty television documentary films for the BBC, PBS, and The History Channel, including the Emmy-winning *Power of Art*, on subjects that range from John Donne to Tolstoy.