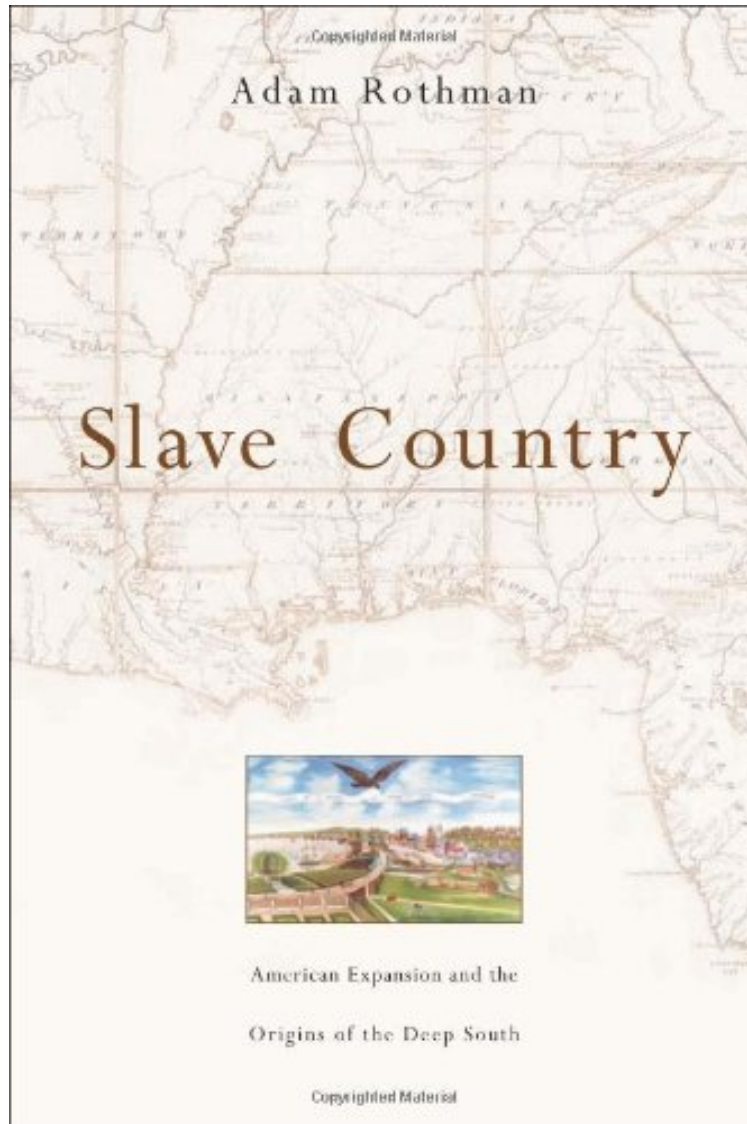


(Mobile pdf) Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South

# Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South

Adam Rothman

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**Adam Rothman : Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The story of how slavery expandedBy Valorie T.As Rothman states in his introduction, "During the republic, slavery's expansion in the Deep South emerged from contingent global

forces, concrete policies pursued by governments, and countless small choices made by thousands of individuals in diverse stations of life." The question of why and how slavery expanded after the revolution has yet to be answered. Most Americans consider slavery an embarrassment and many feel it unrealistic to question why slavery was not abolished in a post-revolutionary time of independence and achievement. Rothman approaches those issues to explain why slavery was not abolished and why it expanded in the republic. Rothman uses a variety of good primary source documents for his research and evidence: American State Papers; census and population data and statistics; newspapers; memorials; estate inventories; personal letters and papers; journals and memoirs; public documents and declarations; and legal documents such as petitions, laws, and affidavits. For secondary sources, Rothman consulted a number of journal articles, books, and dissertations that explore topics such as, but not limited to, the rationale of expansion, slaves and slavery, biography on politicians and plantation owners, and international relations. They all contribute appropriately to the book, and all seem to be sound documents and sources. What I liked best about this book is that it is very complete in the information that it gives. Rothman approaches a complex topic, with many various factors, influences, and causes/effects, and gives readers an in depth view into the expansion of slavery. Rather than be very broad and general, Rothman is full of detail and history to explain its rooting. He gives details and connects it all together in an intricate weave that is still easy to grasp and understand, and makes you understand the true complexity of slavery's expansion. What I feel hurt the book, though, is that there is a lot of date jumping back and forth. As a result, I found it difficult to keep up with at times and had some difficulty keeping things within a proper mental timeline. Another is that he frequently inserts things happening with Native Americans and places them within the context of slavery, a few times finding rationales that are very loose. While it makes sense to evaluate the impact of Native American slave holders, the book loses focus a few times when there is no direct or important correlation. If you have ever wanted to take a deeper look into slavery, to ask and then answer the question of how American culture, economy, and politics evolved in such a way as to encourage the institution of slavery, this will be a great book to read. So often we take slavery for granted in the sense that "it was here and it existed," but its origins are far more complex and layered, full of back and forth, supporters and dissenters, and part of a shifting nation that encouraged freedom while at the same time strengthening the bondage of others. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Intriguing look at the formation of "Slave Country" By Eric Hobart Adam Rothman portends that the Louisiana Purchase and Pinckney's treaty paved the way for the expansion of slavery in the Antebellum United States, since these two events led to the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama being admitted to the Union as slave states. Unfortunately, the book is slanted largely towards the expansion of slavery into Louisiana, though Rothman's work in this area is superb. The concepts he presents of why and how slavery became such a critical component of Louisiana life prior to the Civil War are all well documented, largely through manuscripts and business records left by participants in the events. His use of secondary sources is judicious and always appropriate. Rothman does not use the term 'manifest destiny', though his argument is indicative of the concept; he explains Jefferson's concept of expansion and slavery, which sets the tone for the whole book. His expansion on how slavery became a significant factor in life in these states is well thought out and very thorough. Given the subtitle of the book ("American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South"), I had anticipated more treatment of the other two states - Mississippi and Alabama, although I realize that this would have significantly expanded the size of the work. Despite this fact, this book is well worth reading and an excellent treatment of the subject. I would recommend it to anyone seeking an understanding of why slavery expanded with such full force into Louisiana, but not for Alabama or Mississippi. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. How slavery expanded in a highly readable format By Thomas W. Robinson Rothman has put together and highly readable and highly informative work that centers largely on the current states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, which Rothman terms the Deep South. What Rothman is attempting to uncover is how and why slavery expanded and he focuses on these areas from after the Revolution until about 1820. The book features excellent information on the political, social, and economic reasons behind slavery expanding to these areas of the Louisiana Purchase. While Rothman focuses a good chunk of his effort on Louisiana, we still acquire a good understanding of how and why people from all over the country, and even world, poured into this area. For the most part, one walks away from this book thinking that slavery expanded to this area for economic gain and because white people believed the land could not be properly cultivated (especially the sugar plantations in Louisiana) without the labor of Africans. For some reason, I have a hard time adequately describing the merits of this book, but I think anyone interested in 19th century history, the antebellum South, or westward expansion would find this work worth the read.

Slave Country tells the tragic story of the expansion of slavery in the new United States. In the wake of the American Revolution, slavery gradually disappeared from the northern states and the importation of captive Africans was prohibited. Yet, at the same time, the country's slave population grew, new plantation crops appeared, and several new slave states joined the Union. Adam Rothman explores how slavery flourished in a new nation dedicated to the principle of equality among free men, and reveals the enormous consequences of U.S. expansion into the region that became the Deep South. Rothman maps the combination of transatlantic capitalism and American nationalism that

provoked a massive forced migration of slaves into Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. He tells the fascinating story of collaboration and conflict among the diverse European, African, and indigenous peoples who inhabited the Deep South during the Jeffersonian era, and who turned the region into the most dynamic slave system of the Atlantic world. Paying close attention to dramatic episodes of resistance, rebellion, and war, Rothman exposes the terrible violence that haunted the Jeffersonian vision of republican expansion across the American continent. Slave Country combines political, economic, military, and social history in an elegant narrative that illuminates the perilous relation between freedom and slavery in the early United States. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in an honest look at America's troubled past.

From Publishers Weekly Rarely is an author's first book so mature in its balance and authority. Rothman sets out to explain "why slavery expanded" under the leadership of members of the revolutionary generation and their successors, and why it expanded especially into the Deep South of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, lands that were part of the Louisiana Purchase. The settlement of the lands southwest of the original coastal Southern states by slave-owning planters set the stage for the Civil War. The speed and form of settlement of those territories as their economy became based on cotton and, to a lesser extent, sugar cultivation were inconceivable without the use of slaves. If Rothman's broadly researched work doesn't offer any fresh interpretations of the peculiar institution, he chooses his illustrative stories with great skill and has mastered the existing literature. The realities of slavery appear in all their vividness, as does the distinctiveness of the white cultures of the region, especially Louisiana's. One comes away from this readable, energetic work by Rothman, an assistant professor of history at Georgetown, appreciating how much the nation's vaunted past—its military successes, its democratic growth, its economic might—owes to the enslavement of people out of Africa. 2 bw photos, 2 maps. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Adam Rothman's *Slave Country* addresses the critical matter of how the slave plantation regime that had been created along the Atlantic seaboard in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was transported to the interior in the half century prior to the Civil War. Important and provocative, it will become essential to any understanding of the antebellum South. (Ira Berlin, author of *Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slavery*) Adam Rothman's *Slave Country* gives dramatic conceptual and narrative life to the often forgotten years of the early republic. Most important, he offers us a powerful perspective on the making of a new slave society in the nineteenth century. (Steven Hahn, author of *A Nation under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*) Adam Rothman's marvelous *Slave Country* breaks the mold. Rothman is able to trace connections between imperial violence, global capitalism, and the history of slavery in the United States which have escaped the attention of legions of his forebears. The future of scholarship on American slavery starts right here. (Walter Johnson, author of *Soul by Soul: Life inside the Antebellum Slave Market*) In this deeply-researched study, Adam Rothman provides a compelling narrative survey of the expansion of American power--and slavery--into Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It is an important story that will attract widespread interest. (Peter Kolchin, author of *American Slavery, 1619-1877*) Adam Rothman significantly revises and enhances our understanding of how the slave society of the older seaboard South spread westward to reshape what had been the territories of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, creating what we know as the Old South. The result will be essential reading for scholars of the Early National Period and southern historians. (John B. Boles, author of *The South through Time: A History of an American Region*) For too long, scholars have taken the expansion of slavery in the Old South as a given. Adam Rothman challenges us to consider how and why slavery expanded into newly acquired territory in the Old Southwest. Thoughtful, provocative, and innovative, *Slave Country* illuminates the rise of the Cotton Kingdom with all its tragic consequences. (Randy Sparks, author of *The Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Odyssey*) Rarely is an author's first book so mature in its balance and authority. Rothman sets out to explain 'why slavery expanded' under the leadership of members of the revolutionary generation and their successors, and why it expanded especially into the Deep South of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, lands that were part of the Louisiana Purchase... The realities of slavery appear in all their vividness, as does the distinctiveness of the white cultures of the region, especially Louisiana's. One comes away from this readable, energetic work by Rothman appreciating how much the nation's vaunted past--its military successes, its democratic growth, its economic might--owes to the enslavement of people out of Africa. (Publishers Weekly 2005-01-10) Adam Rothman's *Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South* is the fullest account we have of how slaveholding in the southern states became not only acceptable but also a source of pride and celebration. (George M. Fredrickson New York of Books 2005-07-14) Adam Rothman's ambitious first book, *Slave Country*, provides an analytical narrative of how the three states associated with the Deep South--Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi--developed into plantation societies. Rothman weaves together political, economic, social, and military history to construct a much-needed study of this often-overlooked region's beginnings... Rothman has a first-rate writing style, a sure command of the sources, especially primary source materials, and this book fills a real need in the historical literature for a modern analysis of the growth of slavery in the Deep South. (James C. Foley H-Net) Adam Rothman explains persuasively and succinctly how slavery expanded into Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama from the 1780s to the 1820s--how a slave country, the United States, nurtured a

slave country, the territory of the Deep South. The dual meaning in the title evidences Rothman's breadth of vision; his compelling narrative interweaves great causes and small stories...His interpretative structure sets a new standard of elegance and sophistication. It is difficult to do justice to the nuances and pleasures of *Slave Country* in a short review. You need to read it for yourself, and buy copies for friends. (Anthony Gene Carey Alabama )Adam Rothman's *Slave Country* is destined to be included on the must-read list of any serious student of antebellum slavery in the United States. The work is both significant and formative in that it recognizes the establishment of the new states of Louisiana (1812), Mississippi (1817), and Alabama (1819) as portending the formation of a Deep South ethos that defended slavery at all costs...*Slave Country* documents how the worst fears of those who imagined a slave power conspiracy came to be understood. (Junius P. Rodriguez *Journal of American History* 2006-03-01)An important book that sets a new agenda for studying the histories of the early U.S. republic, of the South, and of enslavement in nineteenth-century North America. (Edward E. Baptist *American Historical* 2006-02-01)The story that moves and grows through [Rothman's] text is one vitally important to any understanding of the nineteenth century, but one that historians are all too eager to move past in their effort to get to the "real" "Old" South. Rothman's subject is the expansion of both American national power and the enslavement of Africans in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana from 1790 to 1820...Rothman's impressively detailed and documented account shows that federal surveying and land selling, as well as other forms of executive and legislative policy making, ensured that slavery and the domestic slave trade would sustain cotton and sugar dreams in the lower Mississippi Valley. (Edward E. Baptist *American Historical* )Adam Rothman's *Slave Country* is destined to be included on the must-read list of any serious student of antebellum slavery in the United States. The work is both significant and formative in that it recognizes the establishment of the new states of Louisiana (1812), Mississippi (1817), and Alabama (1819) as portending the formation of a Deep South ethos that defended slavery at all costs...In a sweeping narrative that finds prescient links between territorial expansion, war, free-market capitalism, and Indian removal, the work traces how the special needs of the Deep South brought about an entrenchment of slavery in a nation that was morally ambivalent to the institution. (Junius P. Rodriguez *Journal of American History*)[A] studiously hard-hitting book. (Jack Markowitz *Pittsburgh Tribune-* 2006-10-08)About the AuthorAdam Rothman is Associate Professor of History, Georgetown University.