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Philip J. Schwarz

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Philip J. Schwarz : Slave Laws in Virginia (Studies in the Legal History of the South) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slave Laws in Virginia (Studies in the Legal History of the South):

The five essays in this work explore the relationship between a slave community and the laws that guided it. The topics covered over two centuries of history, include the capital punishment of slaves, the African judicial background of African-American slaves and Virginia's own slave laws.

Raises provocative and complex questions. How conscientious were authorities in investigating and punishing black-on-black crime? Why have historians practically ignored antebellum free black southerners excepting those accused or convicted of crimes? . . . This book, a worthy addition to the southern history bookshelf, should stimulate similar slavery studies. (Journal of American History)Schwarz provides the reader with thought-provides the reader with thought-provoking ideas as complex and expansive as the title of his book is short and concise. . . . These essays flow together quite smoothly and range from firmly concrete to thoughtfully speculative, providing the reader with great stimulation and offering valuable suggestions for further research on the burgeoning topic of slave law. This is a fine book. (Eric H. Walther Virginia Magazine of History and Biography)A very interesting series of essays designed to explore how white Virginians set about the task of constructing a system of laws that would legitimize their

domination of enslaved blacks. . . . A considerable success. (Annette Gordon-Reed H-Net) This is a worthwhile and rewarding collection of essays that fills out the legal history of the Peculiar Institution in that state at the same time it reminds us how much work on the topic in Virginia and elsewhere remains to be done. (Judith Kelleher Schafer American Historical) In his nuanced and balanced account of Jefferson's ambivalent relationship with the law of slavery, Schwarz tries to answer the classic conundrum of Revolutionary slaveholding in terms of a republican reverence for the rule of law. (Colin Kidd London of Books) From the Back Cover The five essays in *Slave Laws in Virginia* explore the ever-changing relationship between a major slave society and the laws that guided it. The topics covered are diverse: One essay, on the African judicial background of African American slaves, helps us understand the perspectives on law, crime, and punishment that slaves may have brought with them from Africa. Another essay focuses on Thomas Jefferson's relationship with the laws of slavery to show how they constrained slaveowners as well as bondpeople. Other topics covered in the collection include the capital punishment of slaves, nineteenth-century penal transportation of slaves from Virginia as related to the interstate slave trade and the changing market for slaves, and Virginia's experience with its own fugitive slave laws. Through the history of one large extended family of ex-slaves, Philip J. Schwarz's conclusion examines how the law shaped the interaction between former slaves and masters after emancipation. These discussions of the contexts of legal choices concerning slavery, as well as of decisions made about slavery in light of the law, illuminate a wide range of developments in the law of bondage, all of which affected the lives of both slaves and slaveowners. Yet the most important aspect of these legal developments, says Schwarz, was the interaction among various people - more and less powerful slaveowners, more and less assertive slaves, outsiders such as Northern abolitionists, and even African lawmakers - that resulted in both unwritten customary law and statutes. About the Author Philip J. Schwarz is a professor of history emeritus at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the author of numerous books including "Migrants against Slavery: Virginians and the Nation" and "Twice Condemned: Slaves and the Criminal Laws of Virginia, 1705-1865." His next book is a documentary history of Gabriel's Conspiracy of 1800.