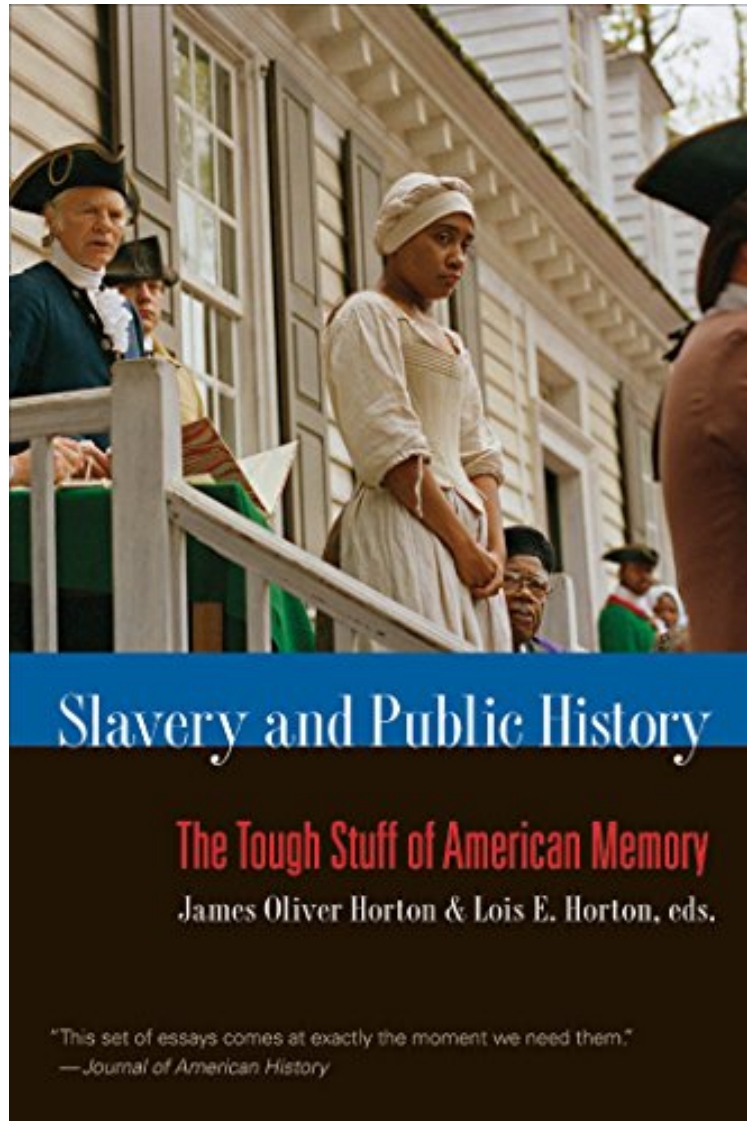


[E-BOOK] Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory

Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory

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From Brand: The University of North Carolina Press : Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Telling hard truths in public history settings By K. Nettles Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory is a collection of essays about the dilemmas of race, slavery, and the public memory of slavery. The first three essays are high-altitude assessments. Ira Berlin begins with

a history of slavery and explains the importance of this history, and memories of this history, to contemporary debates about race. David Blight examines the relationship between history and memory and warns that historians cannot afford to discount the power that collective memory hold in group and cultural identification. John Horton concludes with an examination of the limitations and challenges to discussion of slavery in educational and public history settings. The subsequent essays move in for a closer look at contemporary resistance to a more accurate history of slavery and individual case studies of attempts to incorporate the story of slavery into existing sites. David Blight's essay on the interplay between memory and history is one of the strongest in the collection, bringing in an interdisciplinary perspective to the question. His primary sources include St. Augustine, W.E.B. DuBois, and Frederick Douglass, seeking their perspective on memory. An important secondary source is sociologist Maurice Halbwachs' "The Collective Memory," which analyzes the relationship of individual and collective memory and explores how it is used to create and change cultural identity. Memory and Identity: The History of a Relationship, by John R. Gillis continues the discussion in terms of national identity. Cynthia Ozick, in Metaphor and Memory, warns that history can be weak in the face of myth and its oracles; historians cannot ignore the risks of avoiding engagement and thus abandoning the field to the inspirations of Delphi. The case studies were useful as starting points for discussion; it would be interesting to follow up to see how things stand a decade after publication of this book. Has progress been made; if so, how and why have these sites succeeded? In a similar vein, has the SCV's interpretation adapted to new information – and if not, why? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great, honest, and fair! A must read for anyone interested in race and slavery in America! By D. J. C. Wow! I got this book for research but instead of just researching bits out of the book I read it, and I couldn't put it down! Slavery is a dark spot on our nations history, but we have to learn to come together as a society to discuss it openly and fairly. Slavery defined race in America, and it created the racial divide we have today. We will never heal the discord in our country until we learn to come to grips with its root cause. This, this book, is a great starting point to beginning that discussion. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Tough Stuff, is right By Bob Johnson This is history that is difficult to interpret but I believe we have a responsibility to do just that. History cannot be just the great heroes and the nice stuff. Dr. Horton is a scholar and a teacher who helps bring to light the truth and history should always be about the truth. Whether people like it or not we must do our best to tell the real story.

America's slave past is being analyzed as never before, yet it remains one of the most contentious issues in U.S. memory. In recent years, the culture wars over the way that slavery is remembered and taught have reached a new crescendo. From the argument about the display of the Confederate flag over the state house in Columbia, South Carolina, to the dispute over Thomas Jefferson's relationship with his slave Sally Hemings and the ongoing debates about reparations, the questions grow ever more urgent and more difficult. Edited by noted historians James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, this collection explores current controversies and offers a bracing analysis of how people remember their past and how the lessons they draw influence American politics and culture today. Bringing together some of the nation's most respected historians, including Ira Berlin, David W. Blight, and Gary B. Nash, this is a major contribution to the unsettling but crucial debate about the significance of slavery and its meaning for racial reconciliation. Contributors: Ira Berlin, University of Maryland; David W. Blight, Yale University; James Oliver Horton, George Washington University; Lois E. Horton, George Mason University; Bruce Levine, University of Illinois; Edward T. Linenthal, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; Joanne Melish, University of Kentucky; Gary B. Nash, University of California, Los Angeles; Dwight T. Pitcaithley, New Mexico State University; Marie Tyler-McGraw, Washington, D.C.; John Michael Vlach, George Washington University

From Booklist The Hortons, history professors and authors of several books on slavery, offer a fascinating collection of essays on the difficulties historians have faced in examining, recording, and reconciling American slavery in the context of a nation founded on principles of liberty and individual rights. Contributors examine the moral paradox of slaveholding Founding Fathers and more recent controversies concerning issues from reparations to DNA testing to confirm Thomas Jefferson's relationship with his slave Sally Hemings. Other historians analyze how the South and the National Park Service address slavery in public museums and historical sites that retell the history of the Civil War. Among the contributors are David W. Blight, Gary B. Nash, and Ira Berlin, who refers to slavery as "ground zero of race relations" and examines the need to justify slavery in a free nation, forming the basis for unequal race relations to this day. An enlightening look at how slavery is documented and presented in the nation's collective memory. Vanessa Bush Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved A chastening reminder that many are still missing the point [of black history in America], and even that the point may be more elusive than we thought. . . . Scattered throughout the book are many fascinating stories.--Times Literary Supplement This set of essays comes at exactly the moment we need them.--Journal of American History What is important about these essays is not what they tell about the past, but what they say about the efforts of public historians to break down the barriers that have made slavery and its legacy invisible at public venues. An outstanding collection.--Choice "A fascinating collection of essays on the difficulties historians have faced in examining, recording, and reconciling American slavery in the context of a nation

founded on principles of liberty and individual rights. . . . An enlightening look at how slavery is documented and presented in the nation's collective memory.--BooklistThe history and the continuing resonance of slavery is one of the last great unmentionables in public discourse. This grand and groundbreaking volume does much to illuminate the challenges, ambiguities, and risks faced by those who dare to interpret the 'peculiar institution' outside of the academy. As this work clearly demonstrates, public history is not for the faint of heart.--Lonnie G. Bunch, founding director, National Museum of African American History and CultureAmericans seem perpetually surprised by slavery--its extent (North as well as South), its span (over half of our four centuries of Anglo settlement), and its continuing influence. Slavery and Public History will help us all to remember and understand, so we can remove the vestiges of slavery that still affect us.--James W. Loewen, author of Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong and Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American RacismAn invigorating book, written by historians who have emerged from the archives to grapple with misleading and hurtful tales that have been part of our national tradition. In these vibrant accounts boring history becomes lively practice, and the American public shows that it can embrace new research, more complex understandings, and more honest interpretation. I'll never take the words on a historic marker for granted again.--Linda K. Kerber, author of No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of CitizenshipDestined to become a popular text in museum studies and public history courses, Slavery and Public History also merits attention from anyone interested in the history of slavery, memory, and contemporary American culture.--H-Net s