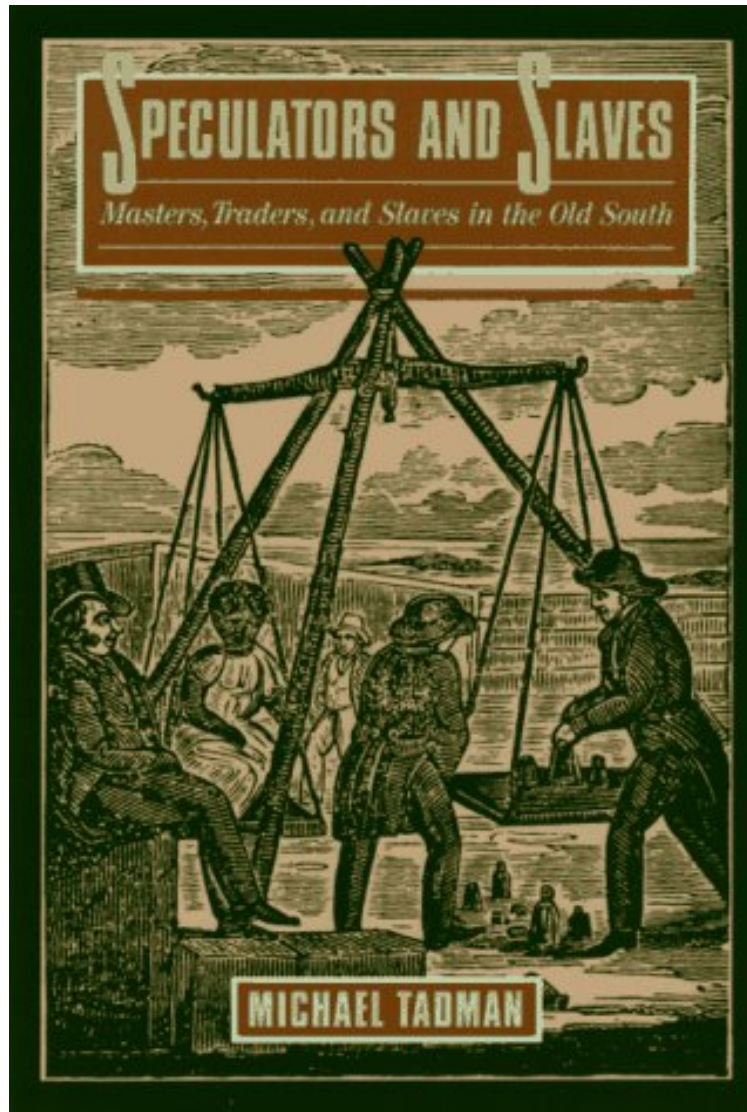


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Speculators And Slaves: Masters, Traders, And Slaves In The Old South

Michael Tadmán

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Michael Tadmán : Speculators And Slaves: Masters, Traders, And Slaves In The Old South before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Speculators And Slaves: Masters, Traders, And Slaves In The Old South:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! Very useful for students that wish to know ...By victor pateExcellent! Very useful for students that wish to know and understand the truth about the ugly behavior of

America's past and the fact that kidnapped people never went quietly into submission. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly and thorough. By Patricia Roberts-Miller. This book is not, unfortunately, an easy read. It's thorough, careful, and heavily reliant on close analysis of bills of sales. Tadman's conclusion is that slave "owners" were speculators, selling slaves when the price was high, and holding them when it was low. (An important defense of slavery was that slave "owners" only sold slaves when financially pressed--this book shows the opposite was true.) Tadman calculates that "at least" 69.3% of the 154,000 interregional exportations in the 1820s were sales (with the rest slaves taken along with immigrating planters; Tadman 246). Unless those 106,722 slaves were all unmarried orphans, slave "owners" broke up a lot of families. Tadman estimates that the interregional slave trade broke up families in 51% of cases (150); this trade would have led to the termination of one out of every five marriages in the Upper South; one out of three children under the age of fourteen would have been sold away from parents. Local sales, he says "would have raised this proportion to about one in two" (211-2). 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Dry but strong, well-written and well-illustrated. By A Customer. Calmly and with much use of statistics, Tadman utterly smashes any idea that the master-slave relationship might have been truly paternal or any good at all for the slaves. This book starts slowly but leads to a strong, harsh conclusion: slave owners had virtually no regard for their slaves' family lives or happiness. It includes many good tables and historic illustrations.

In this groundbreaking work, Michael Tadman establishes that all levels of white society in the antebellum South were deeply involved in a massive interregional trade in slaves. Using countless previously untapped manuscript sources, he documents black resilience in the face of the pervasive indifference of slaveholders toward slaves and their families. This new paperback edition of *Speculators and Slaves* offers a substantial new Introduction that advances a major thesis of master-slave relationships. By exploring the gulf between the slaveholders' self-image as benevolent paternalists and their actual behavior, Tadman critiques the theories of close accommodation and paternalistic hegemony that are currently influential.

"This detailed, meticulously researched and documented analysis of the internal slave trade represents historical scholarship at its best. This study is must reading for all those interested in African-American history."—Robert R. Davis, *The American Historical*