

# The Atlantic slave trade, sixteenth to eighteenth century

## *Further reading list*

Works mentioned in the additional [‘Scale of the Atlantic Slave Trade’ Debate feature](#) (in order of publication):



Created by Laymik  
from Noun Project

- R. D. Owen, *The Wrong of Slavery: The Right of Emancipation and the Future of the African Race in the United States* (Philadelphia, 1864)
- N. Deerr, *The History of Sugar*, 2 Vols (Chapman and Hall, London, 1949-50)
- P. D. Curtin, *The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census* (University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1969)
- J. E. Inikori (ed), *Forced Migration: the impact of the Export Slave Trade on African Societies* (Hutchinson, London 1981)
- P. E. Lovejoy, ‘The Volume of the Atlantic Slave Trade: a synthesis’ *Journal of African History*, Vol 23 (1982), pp. 473-501
- D. Eltis, *Economic Growth and the Ending of the Atlantic Slave Trade* (OUP, Oxford, 1987)
- J. E. Inikori and S. L. Engerman (eds), *The Atlantic Slave Trade: Effects on Economies, Societies and Peoples in Africa, the Americas and Europe* (Duke UP, Durham NC, 1992)
- B. Barry, *Senegambia and the Atlantic Slave Trade: Senegambia before the Colonial Conquest* (CUP, Cambridge, 1998)

- W. Hawthorne, *Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves: Transformations along the Guinea-Bissau Coast, 1400-1900* (Markus Weiner, Princeton, 1997)

Other works worth consulting on the slave trade:

- F. J. Ryder, *Benin and the Europeans, 1485-1897* (Longman, London, 1969)
- W. Rodney, *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545-1800* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1970)
- W. Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, London and Tanzania Publishing House, Dar-es-Salaam, 1972; Howard UP, Washington DC, 1974; revised edn, 1981)
- R. Anstey, *The Atlantic Slave Trade and British Abolition, 1760-1810* (Macmillan, London, 1975)
- J. Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (CUP, Cambridge, 1987)
- R. Law, *The Slave Coast of West Africa, 1550-1750: the Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on an African Society* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1991)
- D. Eltis and D. Richardson *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade* (Yale UP, 2015)
- The database of sources for the atlas is to be found at [www.slavevoyages.org](http://www.slavevoyages.org)
- J. Black, *The Atlantic Slave Trade in World History* (Routledge, London and New York, 2015)

An up-to-date introduction to the topic, placing it in its world context.

- H. Thomas, *The Slave Trade: the story of the Atlantic slave trade, 1440-1870* (Simon & Schuster, London, 1997)

A very readable epic story, from the beginning of Portuguese contact with west Africans through to the final abolition in the 1870s.

And for a broader range of contexts:

- Paul Lovejoy's seminal work is always worth consulting: *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa* (CUP, Cambridge, 2000)
- H. S. Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade. New edition* (CUP, New York, 2010)

A challenging look at the American end of the trade, with an attempt to explain why Africans became enslaved and transported to the New World. Klein examines the American labour market, from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, and poses (and answers) the questions: why slave labour? And why only Africans?

- W. A. Pettigrew, *Freedom's Debt. The Royal African Company and the Politics of the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1672-1752* (University of N. Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2013)

A focus on the politics of the RAC and the notorious trade. The lifting of the RAC's monopoly in 1712 allowed Britain to become the dominant slave trading nation of the eighteenth century.

- S. Stilwell, *Slavery and Slaving in African History* (Cambridge University Press, New York and Cambridge, 2014)

A clear introduction and synthesis of recent research on slavery throughout the development of African economies and societies which provides an invaluable context for the trade in slaves – Saharan, Indian Ocean and Atlantic.

- S. Strickrodt, *Afro-European Trade in the Atlantic World: The Western Slave Coast, c. 1550-c. 1885* (James Currey, Rochester NY, 2015)

A work that looks beyond the major West African states that consolidated their power through engaging in the traffic in human captives and considers the effect of the trade

on the smaller states, communities and multi-ethnic towns that developed to the west of modern Ghana.

# West African states and societies, to the eighteenth century

## *Further reading list*

For a **general survey** of west Africa in this period:

- J. F. Ade Ajayi & M. Crowder (eds), *History of West Africa, Volume 1* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Longman, London 1985)

This text remains the best: 16 chapters by renowned scholars, each one with a detailed map.

- G. Hopkins, *An Economic History of West Africa* (Longman, London, 1973)

Provides the **economic context** for any more detailed study.

For the **role of Islam**, see:

- P. B. Clarke, *West Africa and Islam: A study of religious development from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century* (Edward Arnold, London, 1982)

Especially Chapter 4: 'c.1600-1800: widening horizons', pp.77-110

For the **impact of the slave trade** on specific societies, see:

- F. J. Ryder, *Benin and the Europeans, 1485-1897* (Longman, London, 1969)
- W. Rodney, *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545-1800* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1970)
- R. Law, *The Slave Coast of West Africa, 1550-1750: the Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on an African Society* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1991)

- W. Hawthorne, *Planting Rice and Harvesting Slaves: Transformations along the Guinea-Bissau Coast, 1400-1900* (Markus Weiner, Princeton, 1997)
- B. Barry, *Senegambia and the Atlantic Slave Trade: Senegambia before the Colonial Conquest* (CUP, Cambridge, 1998)

Two important works that discuss the role of internal **slavery in African society**:

- S. Miers and I. Kopytoff (eds), *Slavery in Africa* (UWP, Madison, 1977)
- C. C. Robertson and M. A. Klein (eds), *Women and slavery in Africa* (UWP, Madison, 1983)

For the peoples of the **inner Niger region**, see:

- R. Roberts, *Warriors, Merchants and Slaves: The State and the Economy in the Middle Niger Valley, 1700-1914* (Stanford UP, Stanford, 1987)
- Djata, *The Bamana Empire by the Niger: Kingdom, Jihad and Colonization, 1712-1920* (Markus, Wiener, Princeton, 1997)

For the peoples of modern **southern Nigeria**, see:

- M. Adamu, *The Hausa Factor in West African History* (Amadu Bello UP, Zaria, 1978)
- R. Law, *The Oyo Empire, c.1600-c.1836* (Clarendon, Press, Oxford, 1978)
- R. S. Smith, *Kingdoms of the Yoruba* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, UWP, Madison, 1988)
- E. Isichei, *A History of the Igbo People* (Macmillan, Basingstoke, 1976)

For **Dahomey**, see:

- E. G. Bay, *Wives of the Leopard: Gender, Politics and Culture in the Kingdom of Dahomey* (University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, 1998)

For the **Akan** and **Asante** of modern Ghana, see:

- T. McCaskey, *State and Society in Pre-Colonial Asante* (CUP, Cambridge, 1995)
- Wilkes, *Forest of Gold. Essays on the Akan and the Kingdom of Asante* (Ohio UP, Athens GA, 1998)

For the role of **warfare**, especially in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, see:

- R. S. Smith, *Warfare and Diplomacy in Pre-colonial West Africa* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, UWP, Madison, 1989)
- R. Law, *The Horse in West African History* (OUP, Oxford, 1980)

And finally, for a very interesting work on **urban history** by a renowned **French historian**, now available in English, see:

- C. Coquery-Vidrovitch (transl. M. Baker), *The History of African Cities South of the Sahara* (Markus Weiner, Princeton, 2005: translated from the French edition, *Histoire des villes d'Afrique noir: Des origins à la colonisation*, Éditions Albin Michel S.A., 1993)