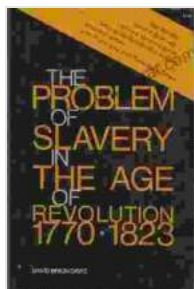


# The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823

In the tumultuous era of revolution, from 1770 to 1823, the institution of slavery cast a long shadow across the globe. As nations grappled with ideals of liberty, equality, and self-determination, the peculiar institution of human bondage presented a profound contradiction.

From the shores of the Caribbean to the nascent United States, from the heart of the British Empire to the revolutionary fervor of France, slavery intertwined with the aspirations of revolution in complex and often paradoxical ways.



## The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823 by David Brion Davis

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2228 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 576 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## The Atlantic Slave Trade



The transatlantic slave trade, a brutal system that forcibly uprooted millions of Africans from their homelands, served as the lifeblood of slavery in the Americas. Between 1770 and 1823, an estimated 5 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic Ocean, subjected to unimaginable suffering and degradation.

Ships crammed with human cargo, packed like sardines, became floating dungeons of disease, despair, and death. The horrors of the Middle Passage left an enduring scar on the conscience of the world.

## **Slavery and the Enlightenment**

As the Enlightenment spread its wings across Europe and its colonies, the ideals of liberty and equality clashed with the reality of slavery.

Philosophers such as Montesquieu and Voltaire denounced slavery as a violation of natural law and human rights.

In Britain, the abolitionist movement gained momentum, led by figures such as William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson. They argued that slavery was morally repugnant and economically unsustainable.

However, the powerful vested interests of planters and merchants in the slave trade and plantation economies resisted abolition with all their might.

## **The French Revolution and Slavery**



The French Revolution, a watershed moment in world history, ignited a spark of hope for enslaved people everywhere. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted in 1789, proclaimed that "all men are born free and equal in rights."

Inspired by these ideals, enslaved people in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti) rose up in a bloody revolt that would forever

change the course of history.

Led by charismatic figures such as Toussaint Louverture, the Haitian Revolution shattered the myth of white supremacy and demonstrated the indomitable spirit of those who fought for their freedom.

## **The United States and Slavery**

In the newly formed United States, slavery remained a divisive issue. While the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that "all men are created equal," the reality was far more complex.

Northern states gradually abolished slavery after the Revolution, but in the South, it became deeply entrenched in the economy and social fabric. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 fueled a massive expansion of slavery, creating a new wave of demand for enslaved labor.

The debate over slavery intensified in the decades leading up to the Civil War, dividing the nation and ultimately leading to its bloody dissolution.

## **Abolition and Emancipation**



# The Slavery Abolition Act 1833

(3 & 4 Will 4 c. 73)

10. *An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies*  
(28th August 1833)

Throughout the Age of Revolution, the abolitionist movement continued to gain momentum. In 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, making it illegal to trade in slaves within the British Empire.

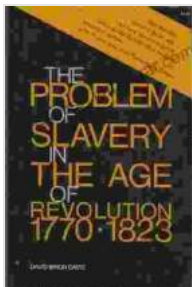
In 1833, the Abolition of Slavery Act followed, emancipating all slaves in British colonies. Other European powers gradually followed suit, abolishing slavery within their own empires.

In the United States, the long and bloody struggle for abolition reached its climax with the Civil War from 1861 to 1865. The war resulted in the

emancipation of over 4 million enslaved people and the abolition of slavery throughout the nation.

The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823, is a complex and multifaceted history of human struggle, resilience, and the enduring power of the human spirit. From the horrors of the Middle Passage to the triumph of the Haitian Revolution, from the debates in the United States to the ultimate triumph of abolition, the story of slavery in this tumultuous era is one that continues to resonate today.

By understanding the intricate connections between slavery, revolution, and Enlightenment ideals, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of our past and the ongoing fight for human rights and equality.



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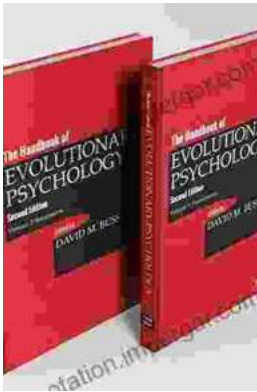
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