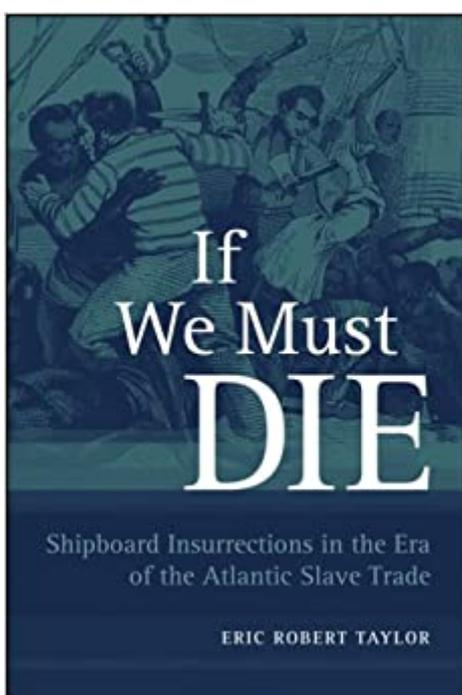


The book was found

If We Must Die: Shipboard Insurrections In The Era Of The Atlantic Slave Trade (Antislavery, Abolition, And The Atlantic World)



Synopsis

If We Must Die examines nearly five hundred shipboard rebellions that occurred over the course of the entire slave trade, directly challenging the prevailing thesis that such resistance was infrequent or insignificant. As Eric Robert Taylor shows, though most revolts were crushed quickly, others raged on for hours, days, or weeks, and, occasionally, the Africans captured the vessel and returned themselves to freedom. In recounting these rebellions, Taylor suggests that certain factors like geographic location, the involvement of women and children, and the timing of a shipboard revolt, determined the difference between success and failure. Taylor also explores issues like aid from other ships, punishment of slave rebels, and treatment of sailors captured by the Africans. If We Must Die expands the historical view of slave resistance, revealing a continuum of rebellions that spanned the Atlantic as well as the centuries. These uprisings, Taylor argues, ultimately helped limit and end the traffic in enslaved Africans and also served as crucial predecessors to the many revolts that occurred subsequently on plantations throughout the Americas.

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Customer Reviews

This book conveys the strength and nobility of the human spirit. It clearly defines the role that

shipboard rebellions during the Atlantic slave trade played in the evolution of our society. I found the book thought provoking, meticulously researched, and well worth the read!

Great detail & accurate accounts. All supported. Graphic at times but only grappling the subject matter. Great book & extremely educational & informative

I read this book for a book review for class and it was a very informative piece. I thought it was very interesting and really shed light on how terrifying and life altering African's experiences must have been when they were forced to embark on such a journey. I definitely recommend it for students or history buffs.

I want to extend a tremendous thank you to Eric Robert Taylor, his father, wife and all of those persons at the numerous research institutions that supported him in the production of this extraordinarily researched, invaluable, unique and much needed missing work on shipboard insurrections in the era of the Atlantic Slave Trade. This work has moved me light years forward in my knowledge of African resistance and it delivers a deadly blow to the disinformation and misinformation that the African American community is forced to psychologically digest daily; it goes a long way to free up the spiritual and intellectual powers in the African American community in its struggle for equality and to reach its potential. I had some knowledge of the slave revolts in the Americas from reading the works of Price on Maroon Societies, Katz on Black Indians and the Black West, Herbert Aptheker on American Negro Slave Revolts but my knowledge of African resistance on the continent was scanty. However, on visits to Elmina Castle with a group, I knew that there had to be resistance to the slave trade when we saw the cannon, now in ruins, situated on top of the roof of the castle targeting the town of Elmina. Moreover, almost any cursory study of African traditional values would show that having a large family was highly cherished. Thus, these same families would not voluntarily sell their kinfolk at a time when agricultural production was the chief means of survival and trade throughout Africa and the world during the period of the slave trade. But the specific acts of African resistance, the pains, sufferings, the successes and failures, the courage, intelligence and steadfast determination of Africans to gain their freedom against almost insurmountable odds, especially on slave ships, was a great illumination to me. And then to finally learn of common inclusions of losses above 5 to 10% for African rebellions aboard ships in the insurance contracts of slaving vessels was a factual piece of information that never occurred to me. I agree with the author, we will probably never know the true extent of the number of shipboard

rebellions but this common clause in the template of the insurance contract means that rebellion was the rule and not the exception. Thank you Dr. Taylor!

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