

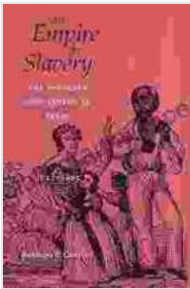
An Empire For Slavery: The British Empire and the Roots of American Racism



In *An Empire For Slavery*, historian James Oakes argues that the British Empire was not simply a passive backdrop to the development of American slavery, but rather played an active role in its creation and perpetuation. Drawing on a wealth of new research, Oakes shows how the British Empire's policies and practices in the Caribbean and North America helped to create a system of racial hierarchy that would eventually be exported to the United States.

Oakes begins by examining the British Empire's role in the transatlantic slave trade. He shows how the British were the leading slave traders in the world, and how their ships transported millions of Africans to the Americas. He also shows how the British government provided financial and logistical

support to the slave trade, and how its laws and policies helped to protect the institution of slavery.



An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821–1865 by Randolph B. Campbell

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6076 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 306 pages



Oakes then turns his attention to the British Empire's colonies in the Caribbean and North America. He shows how the British used slavery to create a system of racial hierarchy in these colonies, and how this system was eventually exported to the United States. In Barbados, for example, the British established a system of racial stratification that divided the population into three groups: whites, blacks, and mulattoes. This system was based on the idea that whites were superior to blacks, and that mulattoes were somewhere in between. The British also used slavery to create a system of economic inequality in the Caribbean and North America. They gave whites the best land and jobs, and they forced blacks to work as slaves on plantations. This system of economic inequality helped to create a sense of racial resentment among blacks, and it eventually led to a number of slave revolts.

Oakes concludes by arguing that the British Empire's role in the development of American slavery is a reminder of the deep connections between colonialism and racism. He shows how the British Empire's policies and practices helped to create a system of racial hierarchy that would eventually be exported to the United States. This system of racial hierarchy is still with us today, and it continues to shape our society in profound ways.

An Empire For Slavery is a groundbreaking work of history that sheds new light on the origins of American racism. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the deep roots of racial inequality in the United States.

Reviews

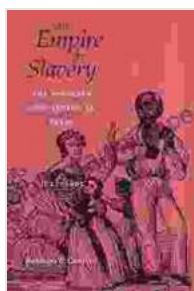
"*An Empire For Slavery* is a tour de force. James Oakes has written a brilliant and devastating account of the British Empire's role in the creation of American slavery. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the deep roots of racial inequality in the United States." - Eric Foner, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution 1863-1877*

"*An Empire For Slavery* is a major work of scholarship that will change the way we think about the history of slavery and race in the United States. James Oakes has produced a powerful and persuasive argument that the British Empire played a central role in the development of American slavery. This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the deep roots of racial inequality in our society." - Ira Berlin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*

"An Empire For Slavery is a groundbreaking work that sheds new light on the origins of American racism. James Oakes has written a powerful and persuasive account of the British Empire's role in the creation of American slavery. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the deep roots of racial inequality in the United States." - David Brion Davis, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation*

About the Author

James Oakes is a professor of history at the City University of New York. He is the author of several books, including *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders and Slavery* and *Freedom: The American Paradox*.



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