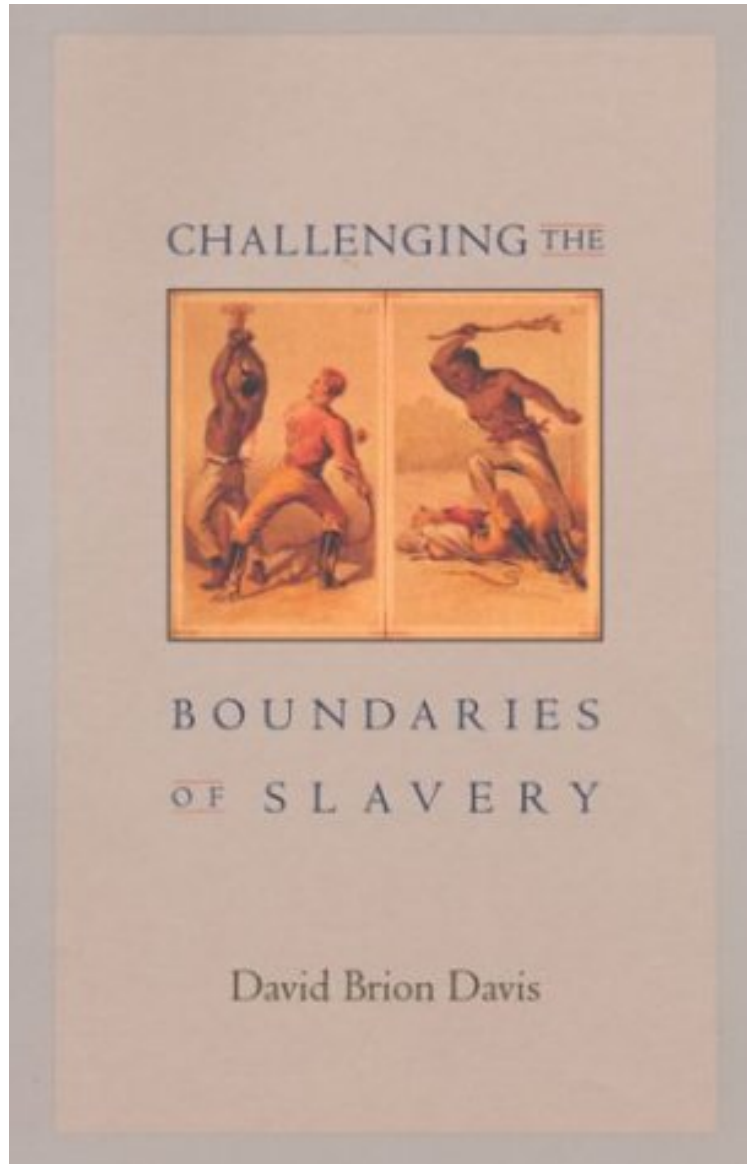


[Free] Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery (Nathan I. Huggins Lectures)

## Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery (Nathan I. Huggins Lectures)

*David Brion Davis*

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**David Brion Davis : Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery (Nathan I. Huggins Lectures)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery (Nathan I. Huggins Lectures):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very educational!!By Rachel WorleyVery educational!!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant summary of the forces at work in America's slavery crisisBy Alex F StopDavis is one of the leading experts on American slavery and I have found his books to be enlightening and

to articulate the deeper real issues involved in its abolition, especially the change in attitudes without which there would have been no abolition. This short book is no exception.<sup>4</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. Short but Illuminating By CLAUDE D'ESTREE Written by a scholar considered by many as the foremost expert on the trans-Atlantic slave trade. If your time is short, but you want a well-written, insightful history of world and American slavery this is the book for you. If you are deeply interested in the subject, then I suggest "Inhuman Bondage," "The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture" or any of the other books by the same author. Prof. Davis is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award and the Bancroft Prize for his written scholarship on slavery and the abolitionist movement. I teach a course on "Contemporary Slavery Human Rights (Human Trafficking)" and Chair the University of Denver Task Force on Modern Slavery Human Trafficking. Prof. Davis' book, "Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery" is required reading in my course

In this engaging book, David Brion Davis offers an illuminating perspective on American slavery. Starting with a long view across the temporal and spatial boundaries of world slavery, he traces continuities from the ancient world to the era of exploration, with its expanding markets and rise in consumption of such products as sugar, tobacco, spices, and chocolate, to the conditions of the New World settlement that gave rise to a dependence on the forced labor of millions of African slaves. With the American Revolution, slavery crossed another kind of boundary, in a psychological inversion that placed black slaves outside the dream of liberty and equality--and turned them into the Great American Problem. Davis then delves into a single year, 1819, to explain how an explosive conflict over the expansion and legitimacy of slavery, together with reinterpretations of the Bible and the Constitution, pointed toward revolutionary changes in American culture. Finally, he widens the angle again, in a regional perspective, to discuss the movement to colonize blacks outside the United States, the African-American impact on abolitionism, and the South's response to slave emancipation in the British Caribbean, which led to attempts to morally vindicate slavery and export it into future American states. Challenging the boundaries of slavery ultimately brought on the Civil War and the unexpected, immediate emancipation of slaves long before it could have been achieved in any other way. This imaginative and fascinating book puts slavery into a brilliant new light and underscores anew the desperate human tragedy lying at the very heart of the American story.

From Publishers Weekly Davis' brief but insightful analysis of the forces leading to the rise and fall of New World slavery is more than a precis of his past writing on the subject, as the author highlights movements and moments seldom linked to slavery or abolition. However, even an expert historian cannot thoroughly review world slavery in one chapter, and Davis's 30-page first section "The Origins and Nature of New World Slavery" contains some glaring omissions. His survey of human bondage features an important discussion of "white" and Muslim slavery, but Ira Berlin, Ronald Segal and others, including Davis himself, have performed much more thorough dissections of the institution's complex history. In his second chapter, "1819: A New Era," Davis parses two seeds of abolition: Justice Marshall's decision in *McCulloch vs. Maryland*, which limited state's rights, and William Ellery Channing's "Baltimore Sermon," which laid out a reformist, liberal vision of Christianity that encompassed human perfectibility. Finally, Davis traces American abolitionist thought from the American Colonization Society through Garrison to Lincoln, and outlines the fearful southern reaction-which set the stage for the Civil War-in defense of their sacred institution. However, these chapters ignore the contribution of late-18th century Quakerism, which is cited in many other works, including Davis's own, as the wellspring of American abolitionism. Many readers will also feel he overstates slavery as a *casus belli*. Still, Davis is an accessible writer who effortlessly blends oft-overlooked demographic trends with oblique micro-histories, and his short book certainly is a useful and enjoyable companion to his other, more comprehensive studies of the "Great American Problem." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The issue of slavery in American history has never been as clear-cut as some would prefer, and no one has done more to explain its ironies, contradictions and complexities than David Brion Davis. In this slender, beautifully written book, he explores the origin and eradication of the peculiar institution based on boundaries imposed by men and events, in the process giving us yet another classic. (Dallas Morning News 2004-01-18) In *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery* [Davis provides] brief but incisive reflections on slavery in American and world history. (George M. Fredrickson New York of Books 2004-03-08) A brief, but illuminating, account of the ways in which slavery crossed a kind of psychological barrier to place black slaves outside the dreams of liberty and equality, is David Brion Davis' *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery*. After a wideranging introduction, the author focuses on the year 1819 and the beginnings of abolitionism. (History Today 2004-05-01) A brief, but illuminating, account of the ways in which slavery crossed a kind of psychological barrier to place black slaves outside the dreams of liberty and equality. (History Today 2004-05-01) *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery* is an insightful and engaging piece of work. It intertwines macro and micro histories concerning the origins and abolition of the Atlantic slave system and presents a sophisticated and complex historical synthesis that broadens the current debate and suggests new ways of thinking about the factors shaping the course of slavery in American history... This book emphasizes the fact that questions regarding slavery were intimately connected to wider debates and discourses

in antebellum America concerning issues such as national character, economics and expansion. In incredibly lucid and articulate terms Davis weaves these strands together and impresses upon us the significance of slavery to the American past. (Rebecca J. Griffin *Journal of American Studies* 2005-06-01)The three chapters of this short book offer smart aperçus, insightful nuggets from the master historian of comparative slavery...Davis proves here that his mind is as subtle and vigorous as ever. This reader eagerly awaits more works from the greatest living historian of comparative slavery. (Philip D. Morgan *American Historical* 2005-06-01)Few scholars equal Davis's breadth and depth of knowledge mastered during his long career. Indeed, few would fault Davis if he merely took the opportunity to retrace old ground in his lectures, but it is a hallmark of this distinguished historian that he continues to recast his material, engage new sources, and think out loud in productive fashion about the meaning of slavery in the western world...By marking his retelling of the abolition of slavery with new signposts, by casting new actors in leading roles, and by proposing the existence of a much more elaborate historical context, Davis once again prompts his readers to think anew about not only the history of slavery but also the history of the United States. (Michael J. Guasco *Journal of Southern History* 2005-05-01)Perhaps the world's foremost authority on slavery...has made yet another contribution to our understanding of an ancient institution that was once ubiquitous but is now considered peculiar. With his usual clarity and concision, Davis summarizes the history of slavery from its prehistoric origins to its abolition in the United States in 1865...Davis's small volume is filled with fascinating facts...[This] masterful work... is an ideal introduction to the history of slavery for general readers and is illuminating even for scholars. The writing is clear, concise, informative and insightful. (Carl J. Richard *International Journal of the Classic Tradition*) No scholar has played a larger role in expanding contemporary understanding of how slavery shaped the history of the United States, the Americas, and the world than David Brion Davis. In *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery*, Davis does it again, demonstrating--with extraordinary insight--the centrality of slavery to the American past. (Ira Berlin, author of *Generations of Captivity*)