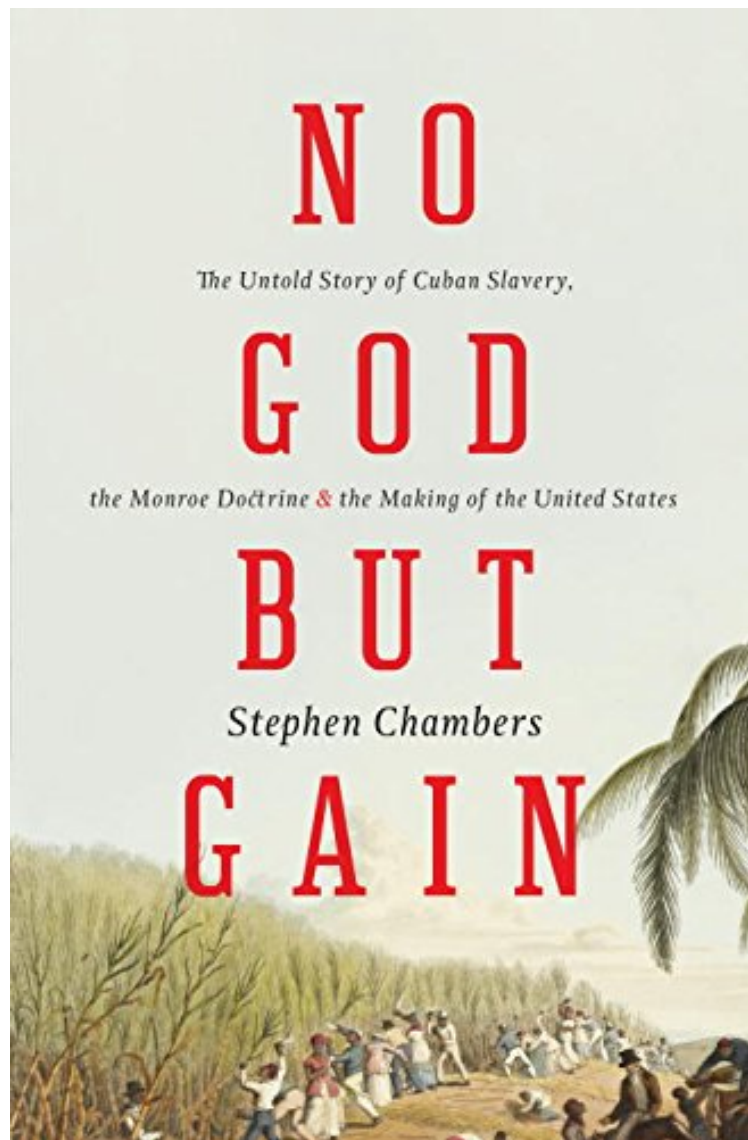


[Ebook pdf] No God But Gain: The Untold Story of Cuban Slavery, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Making of the United States

No God But Gain: The Untold Story of Cuban Slavery, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Making of the United States

Stephen Chambers

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Stephen Chambers : No God But Gain: The Untold Story of Cuban Slavery, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Making of the United States before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No God But Gain: The Untold Story of Cuban Slavery, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Making of the United States:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy crabbyA revealing account with lots of new information.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Customerinteresting EXPLANATION OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE SLAVE TRADE5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Provides good analysis of the early American tendency to flaunt laws for profitBy Connie (She who hikes with dogs)This narrative is much more than just the illegal slave trade with Cuba early in the 19th century, but also the story of our earlier unscrupulous merchants, politicians and lawyers who allowed it all to happen. It's not just about the slave trade, either, but how US merchants circumnavigated the embargo by opening up trade with Russia and letting rationed items like coffee and sugar enter the European market in violation of the French request. Sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo and dyewoods were all coveted items, in both the Americas and Europe. The English-French rivalries during the Napoleonic eras made it more difficult for American merchants to do business legally. Stephen Chambers completed extensive research to show that many of our famed Founding Fathers like John Quincy Adams and Thomas Jefferson used their political influence, their Harvard connections and their wealth to earn their part in this country's early foundations as a country quick to deal with smuggling, corruption and bribery to help their businesses thrive. What Chambers also meticulously analyzes is how, due to the US merchant's canniness to stop in neutral ports to smuggle goods across the ocean, the French invaded Russia due to Russia's ignoring any trade embargoes, how the illegal slave trade from Cuba to the US helped bring along the Civil War decades later and how close the ties were between the US and Spanish merchants. Cuba could easily have become an economic powerhouse under American influence. It got American flour while we got their sugar. Both sides were willing to close an eye at any of the smuggling as that meant the merchants were getting wealthy. With the war of 1812 and England heating up, having an ally with Spain was crucial. This is an interesting read because of the new perspective, and should delight American history buffs.

From 1501 to 1867 more than 12.5 million Africans were brought to the Americas in chains, and many millions died as a result of the slave trade. The US constitution set a 20-year time limit on US participation in the trade, and on January 1, 1808, it was abolished. And yet, despite the spread of abolitionism on both sides of the Atlantic, despite numerous laws and treaties passed to curb the slave trade, and despite the dispatch of naval squadrons to patrol the coasts of Africa and the Americas, the slave trade did not end in 1808. Fully 25 percent of all the enslaved Africans to arrive in the Americas were brought after the US ban – 3.2 million people. This breakthrough history, based on years of research into private correspondence; shipping manifests; bills of lading; port, diplomatic, and court records; and periodical literature, makes undeniably clear how decisive illegal slavery was to the making of the United States. US economic development and westward expansion, as well as the growth and wealth of the North, not just the South, was a direct result and driver of illegal slavery. The Monroe Doctrine was created to protect the illegal slave trade. In an engrossing, elegant, enjoyably readable narrative, Stephen M. Chambers not only shows how illegal slavery has been wholly overlooked in histories of the early Republic, he reveals the crucial role the slave trade played in the lives and fortunes of figures like John Quincy Adams and the “generation of 1815,” the post-revolution cohort that shaped US foreign policy. This is a landmark history that will forever revise the way the early Republic and American economic development is seen.

“Stephen Chambers brings a bright searchlight to a dark corner of history: the illegal slave trade that was so central to the rise of American capitalism. The book is especially valuable in a historical moment when the legacy of race and slavery haunts American politics.”—Marcus Rediker, author of *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom* “With deep research and narrative style, Stephen Chambers challenges a significant misunderstanding about the so-called Era of Good Feelings. As he shows, the apparent ‘end’ of the slave trade in 1808 did little to stem the growth of slavery in the United States. Through huge investment in Cuba, American interests, including northern interests, deepened their dependence upon slavery and the slave trade, at exactly the moment it was supposed to be in decline. *No God But Gain* is an important corrective to the historical record.”—Ted Widmer, author of *Brown: The History of an Idea* “Stephen Chambers’ engagingly written new book will grab readers with its narratives from the lives of New Englanders who traveled to Cuba to participate more directly in the exploitation of the half million enslaved Africans brought to the island after the US supposedly banned participation in the Atlantic slave trade and played a crucial role in an era of explosive American economic growth.”—Edward E. Baptist, author of *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* “Attentive to intrigue, irony, and violence, this is a bold account that moves from Boston counting houses to Havana consular offices to the halls of Congress, tracing the global circulation of capital, commodities, and slaves that fueled the development of American empire in the early Republic. *No God But Gain* is full of provocative arguments—not least that liberal trade policy went hand-in-hand with human bondage, and that the Monroe Doctrine was designed to protect the illegal slave trade.”—Amy Stanley, author of *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation* “Stephen Chambers’ vivid reconstruction of the active involvement of northern investors, merchants, financiers, speculators, and politicians in the expansion of the Cuban slave economy and the international slave trade recasts the history of the early American Republic. It opens new perspectives for interpreting United States

history within broader currents of Atlantic history.”—Dale Tomich, author of *Through the Prism of Slavery: Labor, Capital, and World Economy* “Chambers helpfully places the familiar story of American slavery in a wider geographic context, illuminating how slavery underpinned all aspects of early American social, political, and economic development.”—*Publishers Weekly* “Those wishing to understand the roots of modern US foreign policy or the relatively recent bipartisan consensus around an essentially racialized policy of mass incarceration will find Chambers’ study very informative and useful.”—Mark Lause, *Socialism and Democracy* “Chambers’ book is a compelling look at American history prior to the Civil War.”—*Louisville Courier-Journal* About the Author Stephen Chambers is the author several novels, including *Jane and the Raven King*. He is a Senior Consultant and the Deputy Manager of the History Division at The Winthrop Group and has a Ph.D. in history from Brown University.