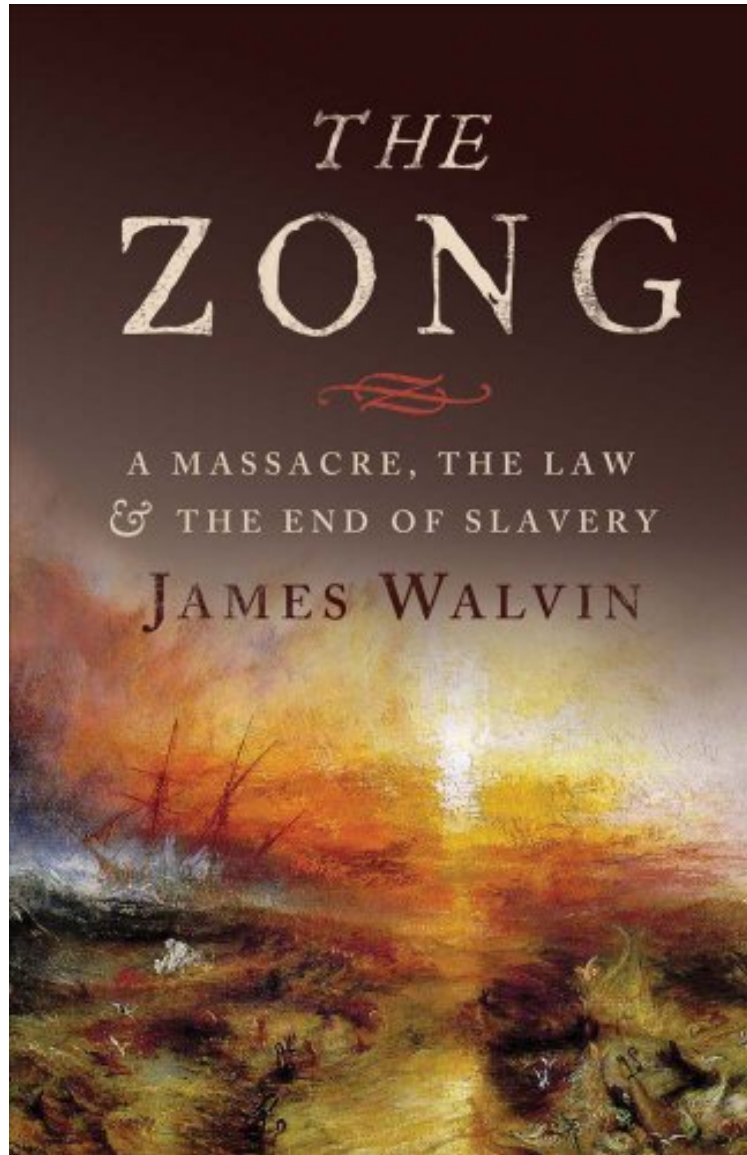


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The Zong: A Massacre, the Law and the End of Slavery

James Walvin

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James Walvin : The Zong: A Massacre, the Law and the End of Slavery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Zong: A Massacre, the Law and the End of Slavery:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not For the Weak at HeartBy Melanie J ReasorI was doing a research paper about the British Slave Trade. This work has a lot of references, leads, and is very in depth, and well written. I was glued to the book on a subject that I thought I already knew about. I had no idea. Not for the weak at heart. It is very clear and detailed. I was taken from Liverpool to Jamaica with "The Zong" and it was a gut wrenching

adventure. Truth is the key here. It does that very well. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant review of both the slave trade and abolition. By MARI found this book fascinating. Little did I know that Liverpool was built out of the slave trade. Powerful story of the movement to end a great inhumanity. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Diane L. Melvin. A must read for anyone interested in this period of history.

On November 29, 1781, Captain Collingwood of the British ship *Zong* commanded his crew to throw overboard one-third of his cargo: a shipment of Africans bound for slavery in America. The captain believed his ship was off course, and he feared there was not enough drinking water to last until landfall. This book is the first to examine in detail the deplorable killings on the *Zong*, the lawsuit that ensued, how the murder of 132 slaves affected debates about slavery, and the way we remember the infamous *Zong* today. Historian James Walvin explores all aspects of the *Zong*'s voyage and the subsequent trial—a case brought to court not for the murder of the slaves but as a suit against the insurers who denied the owners' claim that their "cargo" had been necessarily jettisoned. The scandalous case prompted wide debate and fueled Britain's awakening abolition movement. Without the episode of the *Zong*, Walvin contends, the process of ending the slave trade would have taken an entirely different moral and political trajectory. He concludes with a fascinating discussion of how the case of the *Zong*, though unique in the history of slave ships, has come to be understood as typical of life on all such ships.

About the Author James Walvin is professor emeritus, University of York, and a world authority on transatlantic slavery. Among his many previous books are *Black Ivory: Slavery in the British Empire* and *The Trader, The Owner, The Slave: Parallel Lives in the Age of Slavery*. He lives in York, UK.