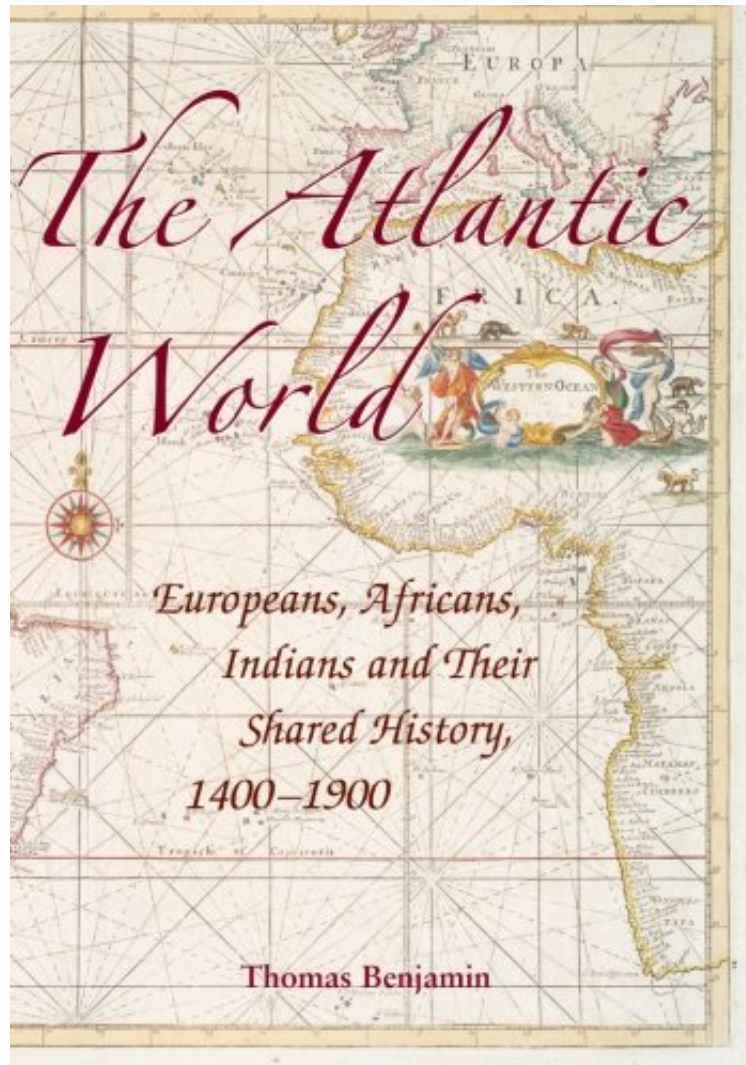


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# The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and their Shared History, 1400-1900

Thomas Benjamin

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**Thomas Benjamin : The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and their Shared History, 1400-1900**

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and their Shared History, 1400-1900:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Brandon Clemons Great book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Eric Pohl As described, shipped quickly. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The importance of an editor By Toby Blyth This is a great book - the background reading evident in the

text is itself quite awe-inspiring. The author somehow manages to combine "old-fashioned" narrative history with "new-fashioned" thematic history (eg women, slaves etc). A very good companion to Elliott's Empires of the Atlantic. However, the paperback edition cries out for an editor. The typographical and grammar/syntax errors are so many as to become very annoying to the reader. For example, the author means "East Anglian" not "East Anglican". "Cloth" as a noun does not have an e on the end (and if it was meant to be an unmarked quotation, use "sic" so we know). Ships were sunk not "sank". Most ships fire cannon not "canon". A "Field Marshall" is a tractor, not a military rank. Europeans and natives "pair" (in the context of a discussion on miscegenation), they don't "pare". Amherst's smallpox-laden blankets were not "the first known effort at biological warfare" (that would be news to the ancient Chinese and Greeks: see A Mayor, "Greek Fire, Poison Arrows Scorpion Bombs: Biological and Chemical Warfare in the Ancient World"). Guerre is feminine so it is "la petite guerre" not "la petit guerre". The Breton port is St Malo, not "St Milo". It is a levee en masse not "mass". The Arabic "koran/kuran" is written with qaf and therefore is never transliterated as "khoran" (and if this was meant to be a quote, unmarked of course, "sic" should have been used). It is dissension not "dissentation". Being pulled apart by four horses was not "drawing and quartering". Full stops appear in the middle of sentences and the next word is capitalised. Subordinate clauses do not agree with the dominant clause. Entire sentences comprise one subordinate clause. There are typographical errors that the most elementary spellcheck program would detect. Some of these errors are so egregious they suggest a degree of illiteracy in the author (which is inconsistent with the text and treatment of the sources). The presentation is an embarrassment to Cambridge and the author. Still, ignoring this, heartily recommended.

From ca. 1400 to 1900 the Atlantic Ocean served as a major highway, allowing people and goods to move easily between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. These interactions and exchanges transformed European, African, and American societies and led to the creation of new peoples, cultures, economies, and ideas throughout the Atlantic arena. The Atlantic World provides a comprehensive and lucid history of one of the most important and impactful cross-cultural encounters in human history. Empires, economies, and trade in the Atlantic world thrived due to the European drive to expand as well as the creative ways in which the peoples living along the Atlantic's borders adapted to that drive. This comprehensive, cohesively written textbook offers a balanced view of the activity in the Atlantic world. The 40 maps, 60 illustrations, and multiple excerpts from primary documents bring the history to life. Each chapter offers a reading list for those interested in a more in-depth look at the period.

"The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and Their Shared History, 1400- 1900, is a welcome addition to the growing scholarship on the history of the Atlantic World. Benjamin's narrative, supplemented by the voices of contemporary Atlantic World inhabitants, deftly illustrates the complex connections that have historically joined people and places around the Atlantic Basin. The text's chronological and geographic breadth make it an ideal resource for scholars and students alike." - Dr. Rebecca Hartkopf Schloss, Texas A M University

"Benjamin's is a sweeping, learned, and comprehensive history of the making and undoing of a transnational world that the peoples of Africa, Europe, and the Americas created together from roughly 1450 to 1850. Benjamin traces the rise and decline of an Iberian Atlantic followed by one dominated by the French and the British. Both systems to work, however, relied on forced labor systems and fluid but unequal sexual commerce between the races. The system came to an end with a protracted 'Age of Revolutions' that shattered empires, emancipated slaves, and brought notions of equality to the fore, but that also marginalized Africa from the global economy." - Jorge Caizares-Esguerra, University of Texas at Austin

"Both erudite and accessible, The Atlantic World is the perfect textbook for courses on the interaction between Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in the early modern period. Professor Benjamin has achieved just the right tone, length, and detailed coverage, without losing sight of the larger picture. His years of reading widely on myriad topics has paid off handsomely, to the benefit of instructors and students alike." - Matthew Restall, The Pennsylvania State University

"One of the leading teachers and scholars in the field of Atlantic history, Benjamin (Central Michigan Univ.) has written the most comprehensive survey of the field from the Age of Exploration through the revolutions of the early 19th century and the abolition of slavery. While suitable as a course textbook for upper-division classes, Benjamin's work includes rich materials for scholars and other experts in the field. He also seeks to synthesize some of the key historiographical questions. The author interweaves primary source texts with the narrative and uses maps, tables, and illustrations to excellent effect throughout. While recognizing that Europeans were the main actors in this story, the author pays considerable attention to the interactions that created the Atlantic world. Benjamin reminds readers that the number of Africans forced to emigrate was much greater than the number of Europeans who came to the Americas. In addition, the book is particularly strong at comparing and contrasting the actions of the various European nations as well as the diversity of the Native peoples. In sum, this seems likely to become the standard text in the field of Atlantic history. Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries." - J. Mercantini, Kean University, CHOICE

"...The Atlantic World is a good representation of the themes of the New Atlantic History, which focuses on exactly the sort of questions and interactions that Benjamin chooses. It is particularly commendable for the ease with which both Americas and Africa are included in the Atlantic World. He has been attentive to recent literature and

themes. ...On the whole, then, the book is likely to be a worthwhile textbook for classes devoted to the New Atlantic History at the undergraduate level." John K. Thornton, Boston University, *African Studies Quarterly*"...this reviewer highly recommends Benjamin's *The Atlantic World* for both the classroom and the library." Charles H. Ford, *The Historian*"The *Atlantic World* synthesizes material from a wide array of sources and should be read by those interested in Atlantic, Latin American, and United States history as well as world history. It would also be useful as a supplementary text in courses on Atlantic history." -Wilfred Bison, *World History Connected*"This is a highly lucid and readable textbook synthesis of five centuries of Atlantic world history." -Catherine Desbarats, *Canadian Journal of History*About the AuthorThomas Benjamin is Professor of History and a member of the Center for Transnational and Comparative History at Central Michigan University. He is editor-in-chief of the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450* and co-editor of *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire*.