

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood

****Slavery in Colonial America 1619-1776: Insights from Betty Wood****

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood presents a critical lens through which we can understand the complex and often painful history of African enslavement in the early American colonies. Betty Wood, a distinguished historian specializing in early American history and slavery, offers detailed research that illuminates the social, economic, and cultural dynamics of slavery between the arrival of the first African slaves in 1619 and the dawn of the American Revolution in 1776. Her work provides a nuanced narrative that challenges simplistic portrayals of slavery and sheds light on the lived experiences of enslaved Africans and the evolving institution they endured.

Understanding Slavery in Colonial America: 1619 to 1776 through Betty Wood's Perspective

The story of slavery in colonial America is often viewed through broad strokes, but Betty Wood's scholarship encourages us to look deeper at the period from 1619, when the first Africans arrived in Virginia, to 1776, the year marking American independence. This timeframe is crucial because it encompasses the formation and solidification of slavery as an institution that would profoundly shape American society.

Wood's analysis reveals how slavery was not static; it transformed significantly over these decades, influenced by economic demands, legal frameworks, and cultural interactions. She emphasizes that early colonial slavery was intertwined with indentured servitude, racial attitudes, and labor needs, which gradually hardened into a rigid racial caste system.

The Arrival of the First Africans in 1619: Setting the Stage

In 1619, a group of approximately 20 Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia aboard a Dutch ship. This event is often cited as the beginning of African slavery in what would become the United States. Betty Wood's research contextualizes this moment, explaining that these Africans were initially treated somewhat differently from later generations of enslaved people. Some were considered indentured servants, capable of earning freedom after a period of labor.

However, as tobacco cultivation expanded and demand for labor grew, colonial laws began to codify slavery, stripping Africans and their descendants of legal rights and cementing their status as lifelong property. Wood points out that this transition was gradual and fraught with legal battles, social negotiations, and economic incentives that permanently altered the colony's labor system.

The Legal Foundations of Slavery: Laws and Codes

One of the key contributions of Betty Wood's work on slavery in colonial America 1619 1776 is her detailed examination of the laws that institutionalized slavery. Early colonial governments passed a series of statutes that defined slavery in racial terms and ensured the hereditary nature of the condition.

Key Legal Developments Include:

- **Virginia Slave Codes (1705):** These laws legally distinguished enslaved Africans from white indentured servants, prohibiting slaves from owning property, testifying against whites, or moving freely.
- **Hereditary Slavery:** Laws declared that children born to enslaved women would themselves be enslaved for life, creating a self-reproducing labor force.
- **Restrictions on Freed Blacks:** Even freed African Americans faced severe restrictions, including limitations on property ownership and civil rights.

Wood's scholarship highlights how these laws reflected and reinforced a growing racial hierarchy, one that justified economic exploitation and social exclusion.

Economic Impact: The Role of Slavery in Colonial Economies

Slavery was not only a social institution but also an economic engine in colonial America. Betty Wood carefully details how enslaved labor underpinned the agricultural economies of the Southern colonies, especially in the production of tobacco, rice, and indigo.

The profitability of these crops created an insatiable demand for labor, which in turn accelerated the growth of slavery. Wood explains that unlike in the North, where slavery existed but was less central to the economy, the South's plantation system depended heavily on the forced labor of enslaved Africans.

Social and Cultural Dimensions: Life Under Slavery

Beyond economics and law, Betty Wood's work pays close attention to the social lives of enslaved Africans. She describes the resilience and agency of enslaved people who, despite brutal conditions, sought to maintain their cultural identities and build communities.

Aspects of Enslaved Life Explored by Wood:

- **Family and Kinship:** Despite frequent separations, families were a vital source of strength and cultural continuity.
- **Religion and Spirituality:** Enslaved Africans often blended Christian teachings with African spiritual practices, creating unique religious expressions.
- **Resistance and Survival:** From subtle acts of defiance to outright rebellion, Wood documents how enslaved people resisted their oppression in various ways.

These insights help readers appreciate the humanity and complexity of those who lived through slavery, countering narratives that reduce them to mere labor units.

The Role of Women in Colonial Slavery

An important focus in Betty Wood's scholarship is the role of enslaved women. She argues that women's experiences were distinct and shaped by overlapping systems of racial and gender oppression. Enslaved women were subjected not only to forced labor but also to sexual exploitation and the burdens of childbearing under slavery.

Wood also highlights how enslaved women were central to maintaining cultural traditions and family structures, serving as pillars of their communities despite harsh circumstances.

Slavery and the Road to Revolution: Contradictions and Conflicts

As the colonies moved toward the American Revolution, slavery remained a contradictory element within the emerging ideals of freedom and liberty. Betty Wood explores how some colonial leaders who championed independence also upheld slavery, revealing deep hypocrisies.

She also notes that enslaved Africans and free blacks played active roles during the revolutionary period, some seeking freedom by aligning with the British or American forces. This complex dynamic underscores the paradox of a nation fighting for liberty while denying it to a significant portion of its population.

Why Betty Wood's Research Matters Today

Understanding slavery in colonial America 1619 1776 through the lens of Betty Wood's scholarship offers more than historical facts—it provides a deeper comprehension of how America's foundations were shaped by slavery. Wood's work challenges us to recognize the enduring legacies of this past, including systemic racism and social inequalities.

Her meticulous approach encourages educators, students, and history enthusiasts to engage critically with early American history, acknowledging the contributions and sufferings of enslaved Africans. By doing so, we gain a richer, more honest view of the nation's origins.

The exploration of slavery in colonial America from 1619 to 1776 as presented by Betty Wood invites us to reflect on the complexities of an institution that defined early American society. Through legal changes, economic demands, and the resilience of enslaved people themselves, this period laid the groundwork for the struggles and transformations that would continue long after independence. Understanding this history helps us appreciate the profound impact slavery had on shaping the United States in ways that still resonate today.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Betty Wood in the context of slavery in colonial America?

Betty Wood is a historian known for her scholarship on slavery and African American history, particularly focusing on the period of colonial America between 1619 and 1776.

What time period does Betty Wood focus on regarding slavery in colonial America?

Betty Wood focuses on the period from 1619, when the first enslaved Africans arrived in Virginia, up to the American Revolution in 1776.

What was the significance of the year 1619 in colonial American slavery?

The year 1619 marks the arrival of the first recorded Africans in English North America, specifically in Virginia, which is considered the beginning of institutionalized slavery in colonial America.

How did Betty Wood contribute to the understanding of slavery in colonial America?

Betty Wood contributed through detailed historical research and publications that explore the development, conditions, and impact of slavery in colonial America, shedding light on the lives of enslaved Africans and colonial society.

What were some key characteristics of slavery in colonial America between 1619 and 1776?

Key characteristics included the transition from indentured servitude to racialized chattel slavery, legal codifications of slavery, the growth of plantation economies, and the development of social and racial hierarchies.

How does Betty Wood describe the legal status of enslaved people in colonial America?

Betty Wood highlights that enslaved people were considered property under colonial law, with few rights and subjected to harsh control, which was legally reinforced through slave codes enacted in various colonies.

What role did slavery play in the economy of colonial America according to Betty Wood?

According to Betty Wood, slavery was central to the colonial economy, especially in the southern

colonies, where enslaved labor was crucial for the production of cash crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo.

Did Betty Wood address the resistance of enslaved people during 1619-1776?

Yes, Betty Wood's research includes accounts of various forms of resistance by enslaved people, including work slowdowns, escape attempts, and rebellions, which challenged the institution of slavery.

How did Betty Wood's work influence modern understanding of African American history?

Betty Wood's work provided a nuanced and comprehensive view of the origins and development of slavery in America, influencing scholars and educators by emphasizing the complexity and humanity of enslaved Africans.

What sources did Betty Wood use to study slavery in colonial America?

Betty Wood utilized a wide range of primary sources such as colonial records, legal documents, personal letters, plantation records, and narratives to reconstruct the history of slavery in colonial America.

Additional Resources

Slavery in Colonial America 1619 1776 Betty Wood: An Analytical Review

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood serves as a critical framework for understanding the complex and evolving institution of slavery in early America. Betty Wood's scholarship provides a nuanced examination of the legal, social, and economic dimensions of slavery from its inception in 1619 to the cusp of American independence in 1776. Her work sheds light on the ways slavery became entrenched in colonial society, influencing cultural norms and economic structures across the emerging American colonies. This article delves into Wood's insights, contextualizing them within broader historical narratives and contemporary scholarly discussions.

Historical Context of Slavery in Colonial America

The arrival of the first African slaves in Virginia in 1619 marked the beginning of a system that would become deeply interwoven with the colonial economy and society. Betty Wood's research highlights that early colonial slavery was not uniform but developed through a series of legal and social transformations. Initially, enslaved Africans experienced ambiguous statuses, often intersecting with the conditions of indentured servitude. However, by the late 17th century, colonial laws increasingly codified racial slavery, restricting rights and institutionalizing lifelong bondage.

Wood's detailed examination of legislative acts reveals how colonial governments progressively aligned racial identity with enslaved status. These laws included prohibitions on interracial marriage, restrictions on African Americans' rights to testify in court, and statutes that made the condition of slavery hereditary through the mother. This legal framework entrenched slavery as a race-based institution, fundamentally shaping colonial social hierarchies.

Economic Foundations and Regional Differences

Betty Wood's analysis is particularly valuable in understanding the economic imperatives that drove slavery's expansion. The plantation economies of the Chesapeake and Southern colonies, reliant on tobacco, rice, and indigo, created a demand for a large, controlled labor force. Slavery was economically advantageous to colonial elites because it provided a permanent and inheritable labor pool without the need for ongoing recruitment or contracts.

In contrast, Northern colonies exhibited different patterns. Wood points out that while slavery existed in the North, it was less central to the economy and often involved smaller numbers of enslaved people engaged in domestic service, skilled labor, or artisan trades. This regional variation influenced social attitudes towards slavery and its eventual political ramifications.

Betty Wood's Contributions to Slavery Studies

Betty Wood's scholarship stands out for its rigorous archival research and balanced approach to interpreting primary sources. Unlike earlier historians who often portrayed slavery through polarized perspectives, Wood emphasizes the complexity of enslaved people's lives and their agency within oppressive systems. Her work uncovers the varied experiences of enslaved individuals, including resistance, adaptation, and cultural retention, which challenge monolithic narratives.

Legal Codification and Social Implications

One of Wood's significant contributions is her detailed tracing of legal codifications that formalized slavery in each colony. By chronicling laws passed between 1619 and 1776, she illustrates the gradual hardening of racial boundaries and the institutionalization of slavery. These statutes not only regulated the treatment of enslaved people but also affected colonial society broadly, reinforcing white supremacy and social stratification.

Additionally, Wood explores how slavery influenced family structures, community dynamics, and colonial politics. For example, enslaved women often faced unique challenges and roles, navigating forced labor alongside reproductive coercion. These social dimensions are critical for understanding the full impact of slavery beyond economics.

Resistance and Agency Among the Enslaved

Wood's examination also highlights the forms of resistance employed by enslaved Africans and

African Americans. From subtle acts such as work slowdowns and cultural preservation to overt rebellions and escapes, enslaved people actively contested their bondage. Wood argues that acknowledging this resistance is essential to a complete historical narrative and contributes to a more humanized portrayal of those subjected to slavery.

Slavery in Colonial America 1619 1776 Betty Wood: Comparative Perspectives

In comparing Wood's findings with other historians, her balanced and detail-oriented approach becomes evident. While scholars like Edmund Morgan emphasize slavery's economic inevitability, Wood adds depth by incorporating legal and social analyses. Furthermore, her work complements recent scholarship that prioritizes enslaved people's perspectives and lived experiences.

- **Legal Evolution:** Wood's documentation of laws contrasts with earlier scholarship that underplayed legislative roles.
- **Regional Variations:** Her focus on distinctions between Northern and Southern colonies enriches understanding of slavery's heterogeneous nature.
- **Agency and Resistance:** Wood aligns with modern historians who foreground enslaved Africans' resistance and cultural resilience.

Implications for Modern Historical Understanding

By exploring slavery through multiple lenses, Betty Wood's work encourages contemporary readers and scholars to rethink simplistic or monolithic portrayals of colonial slavery. Her research underscores the importance of legal history, economic contexts, and human experiences in constructing a comprehensive view.

Furthermore, the timeline from 1619 to 1776 encapsulates pivotal transformations that shaped future American social and political landscapes. Wood's emphasis on this period reveals how foundational slavery was to colonial development and foreshadows the contentious debates over slavery that would culminate in the American Civil War.

Key Features of Slavery in Colonial America According to Betty Wood

- **Legal Institutionalization:** Progressive codification of slavery laws that entrenched racialized, hereditary slavery.

- **Economic Drivers:** Reliance on enslaved labor in plantation economies, particularly in the Chesapeake and Southern colonies.
- **Social Stratification:** Creation of rigid social hierarchies based on race, affecting community relations and political power.
- **Enslaved Agency:** Documented instances of resistance, cultural retention, and adaptation by enslaved individuals.
- **Regional Diversity:** Differing roles and prevalence of slavery in Northern versus Southern colonial contexts.

The meticulous research by Betty Wood on slavery in colonial America from 1619 to 1776 reveals a layered and evolving institution that shaped the nascent nation's economy, society, and laws. Her work remains an essential resource for understanding the complexities of early American slavery and the enduring legacies it left behind.

[Slavery In Colonial America 1619 1776 Betty Wood](#)

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: *Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776* Betty Wood, 2005 *Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776* brings together original sources and recent scholarship to trace the origins and development of African slavery in the American colonies. Distinguished scholar Betty Wood clearly explains the evolution of the transatlantic slave trade and compares the regional social and economic forces that affected the growth of slavery in early America. In addition, Wood provides a window into the reality of slavery, presenting an accurate picture of daily life throughout the colonies. As slavery became more ingrained in American society, Wood examines early forms of slave rebellion and resistance and how the reliance on enslaved labor conflicted with the ideals of a nation calling for freedom and liberty. Succinct and engaging, *Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776* is essential reading for all interested in early American and African American history.

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slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: *Slavery in Colonial America* Alison Morretta, 2017-12-15 Slaves replaced indentured servants as a source of cheap labor in all of the colonies early in the seventeenth century. Slavery was first legalized in Massachusetts. However, economics soon made slavery unnecessary in the North while increasing demand for it in the South. Readers learn from those who lived it, how this increased demand led to the importation of African

slaves into the colonies and the expansion of an institution that would threaten to tear a new nation apart.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776 Betty Wood, 2005-03-11 Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776 brings together original sources and recent scholarship to trace the origins and development of African slavery in the American colonies. Distinguished scholar Betty Wood clearly explains the evolution of the transatlantic slave trade and compares the regional social and economic forces that affected the growth of slavery in early America. In addition, Wood provides a window into the reality of slavery, presenting an accurate picture of daily life throughout the colonies. As slavery became more ingrained in American society, Wood examines early forms of slave rebellion and resistance and how the reliance on enslaved labor conflicted with the ideals of a nation calling for freedom and liberty. Succinct and engaging, Slavery in Colonial America, 1619-1776 is essential reading for all interested in early American and African American history.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Handbuch Geschichte der Sklaverei Michael Zeuske, 2019-05-20 Michael Zeuske hat sein Standardwerk für die zweite Auflage komplett überarbeitet und aktualisiert sowie deutlich erweitert. Die Geschichte der Sklaverei wird in diesem Handbuch erstmalig in globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive systematisch dargestellt. Ausgangspunkt ist ein Verständnis von Sklaverei als Kapitalisierung menschlicher Körper. Analysiert werden die unterschiedlichsten Formen, Typen und Entwicklungsepochen (Plateaus) von Sklavereien und Menschenhandelssystemen – auf allen Kontinenten, Ozeanen und Meeren, in ihrer jeweiligen Benennung und ihrem historisch-kulturellen Kontext. Auf breiter empirischer Basis entsteht auf diese Weise eine Geschichte der Sklaverei, die ca. 10.000 v. u. Z. begann und bis in die heutige Zeit andauert.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Caring for Equality David McBride, 2018-08-24 African Americans today continue to suffer disproportionately from heart disease, diabetes, and other health problems. In *Caring for Equality* David McBride chronicles the struggle by African Americans and their white allies to improve poor black health conditions as well as inadequate medical care—caused by slavery, racism, and discrimination—since the arrival of African slaves in America. Black American health progress resulted from the steady influence of what David McBride calls the health equality ideal: the principle that health of black Americans could and should be equal to that of whites and other Americans. Including a timeline, selected primary sources, and an extensive bibliographic essay, McBride's book provides a superb starting point for students and readers who want to explore in greater depth this important and understudied topic in African American history.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: More Than a Game David K. Wiggins, 2018-10-01 *More than a Game* discusses how African American men and women sought to participate in sport and what that participation meant to them, the African American community, and the United States more generally. Recognizing the complicated history of race in America and how sport can both divide and bring people together, the book chronicles the ways in which African Americans overcame racial discrimination to achieve success in an institution often described as America's only true meritocracy. African Americans have often glorified sport, viewing it as one of the few ways they can achieve a better life. In reality, while some African Americans found fame and fortune in sport, most struggled just to participate – let alone succeed at the highest levels of sport. Thus, the book has two basic themes. It discusses the varied experiences of African Americans in sport and how their participation has both reflected and changed views of race.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: The African American Experience in Vietnam James E. Westheider, 2007-07-20 In this book James E. Westheider explores the social and professional paradoxes facing African-American soldiers in Vietnam. Service in the military started as a demonstration of the merits of integration as blacks competed with whites on a near equal basis for the first time. Military service, especially service in Vietnam, helped shape modern black culture and fostered a sense of black solidarity in the Armed Forces. But as the war progressed, racial

violence became a major problem for the Armed Forces as they failed to keep pace with the sweeping changes in civilian society. Despite the boasts of the Department of Defense, personal and institutional racism remained endemic to the system. Westheider tells this story expertly and accessibly by providing the history and background of African American participation in the U.S. Armed Forces then following all the way through to the experience of African Americans returning home from the Vietnam war.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: *Abe* David S. Reynolds, 2020-09-29 Now an Apple TV+ documentary, *Lincoln's Dilemma*, airing February 18, 2022. One of the Wall Street Journal's Ten Best Books of the Year | A Washington Post Notable Book | A Christian Science Monitor and Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2020 Winner of the Gilder Lehrman Abraham Lincoln Prize and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award A marvelous cultural biography that captures Lincoln in all his historical fullness. . . . using popular culture in this way, to fill out the context surrounding Lincoln, is what makes Mr. Reynolds's biography so different and so compelling . . . Where did the sympathy and compassion expressed in [Lincoln's] Second Inaugural—'With malice toward none; with charity for all'—come from? This big, wonderful book provides the richest cultural context to explain that, and everything else, about Lincoln. —Gordon Wood, Wall Street Journal From one of the great historians of nineteenth-century America, a revelatory and enthralling new biography of Lincoln, many years in the making, that brings him to life within his turbulent age David S. Reynolds, author of the Bancroft Prize-winning cultural biography of Walt Whitman and many other iconic works of nineteenth century American history, understands the currents in which Abraham Lincoln swam as well as anyone alive. His magisterial biography *Abe* is the product of full-body immersion into the riotous tumult of American life in the decades before the Civil War. It was a country growing up and being pulled apart at the same time, with a democratic popular culture that reflected the country's contradictions. Lincoln's lineage was considered auspicious by Emerson, Whitman, and others who prophesied that a new man from the West would emerge to balance North and South. From New England Puritan stock on his father's side and Virginia Cavalier gentry on his mother's, Lincoln was linked by blood to the central conflict of the age. And an enduring theme of his life, Reynolds shows, was his genius for striking a balance between opposing forces. Lacking formal schooling but with an unquenchable thirst for self-improvement, Lincoln had a talent for wrestling and bawdy jokes that made him popular with his peers, even as his appetite for poetry and prodigious gifts for memorization set him apart from them through his childhood, his years as a lawyer, and his entrance into politics. No one can transcend the limitations of their time, and Lincoln was no exception. But what emerges from Reynolds's masterful reckoning is a man who at each stage in his life managed to arrive at a broader view of things than all but his most enlightened peers. As a politician, he moved too slowly for some and too swiftly for many, but he always pushed toward justice while keeping the whole nation in mind. *Abe* culminates, of course, in the Civil War, the defining test of Lincoln and his beloved country. Reynolds shows us the extraordinary range of cultural knowledge Lincoln drew from as he shaped a vision of true union, transforming, in Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. Abraham Lincoln did not come out of nowhere. But if he was shaped by his times, he also managed at his life's fateful hour to shape them to an extent few could have foreseen. Ultimately, this is the great drama that astonishes us still, and that *Abe* brings to fresh and vivid life. The measure of that life will always be part of our American education.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Paying Freedom's Price Paul David Escott, 2016-10-28 *Paying Freedom's Price* provides a comprehensive yet brief and readable history of the role of African Americans—both slave and free—from the decade leading up to the Civil War until its immediate aftermath. Rather than focusing on black military service, the white-led abolitionist movement, or Lincoln's emergence as the great emancipator, Escott concentrates on the black military and civilian experience in the North as well as the South. He argues that African Americans—slaves, free Blacks, civilians, soldiers, men, and women— played a crucial role in transforming the sectional conflict into a war for black freedom. The book is organized

chronologically as well as thematically. The chronological organization will help readers understand how the Civil War evolved from a war to preserve the Union to a war that sought to abolish slavery, but not racial inequality. Within this chronological framework, Escott provides a thematic structure, tracing the causes of the war and African American efforts to include abolition, black military service, and racial equality in the wartime agenda. Including a timeline, selected primary sources, and an extensive bibliographic essay, Escott's book will provide a superb starting point for students and general readers who want to explore in greater depth this important aspect of the Civil War and African American history.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Enjoy the Same Liberty Edward Countryman, 2011-12-22 In this cohesive narrative, Edward Countryman explores the American Revolution in the context of the African American experience, asking a question that blacks have raised since the Revolution: What does the revolutionary promise of freedom and democracy mean for African Americans? Countryman, a Bancroft Prize-winning historian, draws on extensive research and primary sources to help him answer this question. He emphasizes the agency of blacks and explores the immense task facing slaves who wanted freedom, as well as looking at the revolutionary nature of abolitionist sentiment. Countryman focuses on how slaves remembered the Revolution and used its rhetoric to help further their cause of freedom. Many contend that it is the American Revolution that defines us as Americans. Edward Countryman gives the reader the chance to explore this notion as it is reflected in the African American experience.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: A Working People Steven A. Reich, 2013-09-12 In this book, historian Steven A. Reich examines the economic, political and cultural forces that have beaten and built America's black workforce since Emancipation. From the abolition of slavery through the Civil Rights Movement and Great Recession, African Americans have faced a unique set of obstacles and prejudices on their way to becoming a productive and indispensable portion of the American workforce. Repeatedly denied access to the opportunities all Americans are to be afforded under the Constitution, African Americans have combined decades of collective action and community mobilization with the trailblazing heroism of a select few to pave their own way to prosperity. This latest installment of the African American HistorySeries challenges the notion that racial prejudices are buried in our nation's history, and instead provides a narrative connecting the struggles of many generations of African American workers to those felt the present day. Reich provides an unblinking account of what being an African American worker has meant since the 1860s, alluding to ways in which we can and must learn from our past, for the betterment of all workers, however marginalized they may be. *A Working People: A History of African American Workers Since Emancipation* is as factually astute as it is accessibly written, a tapestry of over 150 years of troubled yet triumphant African American labor history that we still weave today.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Loyalty in Time of Trial Nina Mjagkij, 2023-06-14 The little-known history of black soldiers and defense workers in the First World War, and what happened afterward: "Highly recommended." —Choice In one of the few book-length treatments of the subject, historian Nina Mjagkij conveys the full range of the African American experience during the "Great War." Prior to World War I, most African Americans did not challenge the racial status quo. But nearly 370,000 black soldiers served in the military during the war, and some 400,000 black civilians migrated from the rural South to the urban North for defense jobs. Following the war, emboldened by their military service and their support of the war on the home front, African Americans were determined to fight for equality—but struggled in the face of indifference and hostility in spite of their combat-veteran status. America would soon be forced to confront the impact of segregation and racism—beginning a long, dramatic reckoning that continues over a century later. "Painstakingly describes the frustration, sometimes anger, and frequent courage demonstrated by southern and northern African Americans in their attempts to include themselves in the national crusade of making the world safe for democracy . . . one of the most comprehensive treatments of the race issue in the early twentieth century that this reader has seen." —Journal of Southern History

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Through the Storm, Through the Night Paul Harvey, 2011-07-21 Paul Harvey illustrates how black Christian traditions provided theological, institutional, and personal strategies for cultural survival during bondage and into an era of partial freedom. At the same time, he covers the ongoing tug-of-war between themes of respectability versus practices derived from an African heritage; the adoption of Christianity by the majority; and the critique of the adoption of the white man's religion from the eighteenth century to the present. The book also covers internal cultural, gendered, and class divisions in churches that attracted congregants of widely disparate educational levels, incomes, and worship styles. *Through the Storm, Through the Night* provides a lively overview of the history of African American religion, beginning with the birth of African Christianity amidst the Transatlantic slave trade, and tracing the story through its growth in America. Paul Harvey successfully uses the history of African American religion to portray the complexity and humanity of the African American experience.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: To Ask for an Equal Chance Cheryl Lynn Greenberg, 2009-08-16 The Great Depression hit Americans hard, but none harder than African Americans and the working poor. *To Ask for an Equal Chance* explores black experiences during this period and the intertwined challenges posed by race and class. Last hired, first fired, black workers lost their jobs at twice the rate of whites, and faced greater obstacles in their search for economic security. Black workers, who were generally urban newcomers, impoverished and lacking industrial skills, were already at a disadvantage. These difficulties were intensified by an overt, and in the South legally entrenched, system of racial segregation and discrimination. New federal programs offered hope as they redefined government's responsibility for its citizens, but local implementation often proved racially discriminatory. As Cheryl Lynn Greenberg makes clear, African Americans were not passive victims of economic catastrophe or white racism; they responded to such challenges in a variety of political, social, and communal ways. The book explores both the external realities facing African Americans and individual and communal responses to them. While experiences varied depending on many factors including class, location, gender and community size, there are also unifying and overarching realities that applied universally. *To Ask for an Equal Chance* straddles the particular, with examinations of specific communities and experiences, and the general, with explorations of the broader effects of racism, discrimination, family, class, and political organizing.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Lift Every Voice Burton William Peretti, Jacqueline M Moore, Nina Mjagkij, 2009 Looks at the history of African American music from its roots in Africa and slavery to the present day and examines its place within African American communities and the nation as a whole.

slavery in colonial america 1619 1776 betty wood: Bayard Rustin Jerald Podair, 2008-12-16 Bayard Rustin was a unique twentieth-century American radical voice. A homosexual, World War II draft resister, and ex-communist, he made enormous contributions to the civil rights, socialist, labor, peace, and gay rights movements in the United States, despite being viewed as an outsider even by fellow activists. Rustin was a humanist who championed the disadvantaged and oppressed, regardless of identity. In *Bayard Rustin: American Dreamer*, Jerald Podair examines the life and career of a man who shaped virtually every aspect of the modern civil rights movement as a theorist, strategist, and spokesman. Podair begins by covering the period from Rustin's 1912 birth in West Chester, Pennsylvania, to his 1946 release from federal prison, where he served over two years for draft evasion. After his release, Rustin threw himself into work on behalf of pacifism and racial integration, two goals that, at this stage of his career, fit together almost seamlessly. Podair goes on to examine Rustin's role as the main organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, the most important civil rights demonstration in American history. He was a major influence on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolent direct action, which led to the strategy that changed the course of American race relations. During the last years of his life, Rustin continued to champion the causes of socialism, coalition politics, and racial integration, as he also sought to aid oppressed people and foster democratic institutions worldwide. Yet for all this, Rustin was rarely permitted a leading role

in the movements he helped to shape. Because of his sexuality and his background as a former communist and draft resister, he was forced to do much of his work on the fringes, offering his organizational, strategic, and rhetorical skills to public leaders who chose to keep him at arm's length. Despite this, as Podair makes clear, Bayard Rustin was one of the most important civil rights leaders—and one of the most important radical leaders—in twentieth-century American history. Documents in this book include excerpts from Rustin's writings, speeches, and public statements.

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