

**Britain,
the slave trade and slavery,
from 1562 to the 1880s**

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This brief booklet outlines the early forms of slavery, beginning with the enslavement of the Britons by the Romans. It then describes West Africa, its culture and kingdoms when the Europeans first arrived, before going on to look at the British trade in enslaved Africans. With much campaigning by Blacks as well as Whites, in 1807 Parliament eventually passed an Act making it illegal to trade in slaves. In 1833 another Act was passed, emancipating slaves in the British 'possessions' in the Caribbean. But both Acts were ignored by many Britons, whose wealth derived from the trade in enslaved Africans and slavery and grew hugely. The final Act abolishing slavery in British colonies was not passed till 1928. The booklet also sketches the population of African origins and descent in Britain until c.1880, the long-term effects of slavery in Africa and the West, and provides reading lists.

Contents:

Introduction; 1. Early forms of slavery; 2. West Africa when the Europeans first arrived; 3. Britain, slavery and the cross-Atlantic trade until 1807; 4. The cross-Atlantic trade and slavery after 1807; 5. Escape, rebellion, protest; 6. Partners in crime: London, Liverpool and Manchester; Aftermath



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