

many thousands gone ira berlin

Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin: Exploring the Legacy of Slavery and African American History

many thousands gone ira berlin is a phrase that immediately draws attention to a significant work in the field of African American history and the study of slavery in the United States. Ira Berlin's seminal book, **Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America**, stands as a foundational text that reshaped how historians and readers alike understand the complexities of slavery, the diversity of enslaved peoples' experiences, and the evolution of African American identity. In this article, we'll dive deep into the themes and insights brought forth by Berlin's work, explore its impact on historical scholarship, and discuss why it remains a crucial resource for anyone interested in the origins and legacy of slavery in America.

Who Is Ira Berlin and Why Does He Matter?

Before unpacking **Many Thousands Gone**, it's helpful to know a bit about its author. Ira Berlin was a distinguished historian and professor known for his extensive research on African American history, slavery, and the Atlantic World. His scholarship is marked by a commitment to uncovering the nuanced and often overlooked stories of enslaved people, emphasizing their agency, resilience, and cultural contributions despite the brutal conditions they endured.

Berlin's work goes beyond simply recounting the horrors of slavery; he sought to trace the transformation of African American identities over time, highlighting how enslaved communities adapted to changing circumstances from the 17th through the 19th centuries. His innovative approach has influenced generations of historians and enriched public understanding of American history.

The Core Themes of Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin

At its heart, **Many Thousands Gone** challenges simplistic narratives about slavery by illustrating how diverse and dynamic the institution was over two centuries. The book is organized around several key themes that illuminate the lived experiences of enslaved Africans and their descendants.

1. The Diversity of African American Experiences

One of Berlin's major contributions through **Many Thousands Gone** is his emphasis on the heterogeneity of enslaved peoples' lives. Far from being a monolithic group, enslaved Africans came from various ethnic backgrounds, spoke different languages, and brought diverse cultural practices. Berlin explores how these differences influenced the development of African American culture as a uniquely American phenomenon, shaped by both African heritage and the realities of slavery.

2. Transition and Transformation Over Time

Berlin carefully traces how slavery evolved from its early days in the 1600s through the antebellum period. He shows how legal codes, economic demands, and social structures changed, affecting enslaved people's status and daily lives. This historical arc reveals a gradual hardening of racial boundaries and the emergence of a distinct African American identity forged under oppression.

3. Resistance and Agency

A powerful aspect of **Many Thousands Gone** is its focus on the ways enslaved individuals resisted their bondage. Berlin highlights acts of defiance ranging from subtle forms of cultural preservation to outright rebellion. This perspective counters narratives that portray enslaved people as passive victims and instead celebrates their resilience and determination to maintain dignity and autonomy.

Why *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin Still Matters Today

In contemporary discussions about race, identity, and history, **Many Thousands Gone** continues to offer valuable insights. Understanding the origins of African American culture and the complexity of slavery helps dispel myths and stereotypes that persist in society. Moreover, Berlin's work underscores the importance of historical context in addressing ongoing issues related to racial injustice and inequality.

Educational Impact

Many educators incorporate **Many Thousands Gone** into curricula at high schools and universities because it provides a comprehensive yet accessible

account of slavery's early history. Its narrative style and rich detail engage students and encourage critical thinking about how history shapes the present. For history enthusiasts, it serves as a foundational text that opens the door to further study on the Atlantic slave trade, colonial America, and African American heritage.

Inspiring Further Research

Berlin's scholarship has sparked numerous studies and discussions among historians, sociologists, and cultural scholars. By framing slavery as a complex, evolving institution and highlighting the voices of enslaved people, **Many Thousands Gone** paved the way for more inclusive and nuanced historical research. It also inspired interdisciplinary approaches that connect history to literature, anthropology, and African diaspora studies.

Key Takeaways From *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin

For readers looking to grasp the essence of Berlin's work, here are some important takeaways:

- **Slavery was not static:** It changed significantly over time, influenced by economic, social, and political forces.
- **African American culture is multifaceted:** Rooted in African traditions but continuously reshaped by the American experience.
- **Resistance took many forms:** From everyday acts of survival to organized revolts, enslaved people fought against oppression in diverse ways.
- **Understanding history is crucial:** Knowledge of the past informs contemporary conversations about race and social justice.

Where to Start With *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin

If you're interested in exploring **Many Thousands Gone** yourself or want to deepen your knowledge of African American history, here are some tips:

1. Read With Context

It helps to have a basic understanding of American colonial history and the transatlantic slave trade before delving into the book. Supplemental materials such as timelines or documentaries on the early American colonies can provide helpful background.

2. Take Notes on Themes and Stories

Berlin's book is packed with rich narratives and thematic discussions. Keeping a journal or notes on key points can enhance comprehension and retention, especially if you plan to discuss the material or use it for research.

3. Explore Related Works

After reading **Many Thousands Gone**, consider exploring other works by Ira Berlin, such as **The Making of African America** or **Slaves Without Masters**, which expand on different periods and aspects of African American history. Additionally, reading autobiographies and slave narratives can provide personal perspectives that complement Berlin's historical analysis.

The Enduring Influence of *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin

Decades after its publication, **Many Thousands Gone** remains a cornerstone in the study of slavery and African American history. Ira Berlin's meticulous scholarship and compelling storytelling continue to educate and inspire readers to understand the past with greater depth and empathy. Through this work, the stories of those "many thousands gone" are given voice, reminding us of a complex history that is essential to the American story.

Whether you are a student, educator, or history enthusiast, engaging with Berlin's work opens a window into the resilience and humanity of enslaved Africans and their descendants—a legacy that reverberates profoundly in today's cultural and social landscapes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Ira Berlin, the author of 'Many Thousands Gone'?

Ira Berlin was a prominent American historian specializing in the history of slavery in the United States. He authored 'Many Thousands Gone,' a seminal work examining the transformation of African American slavery in the colonial and early American periods.

What is the main focus of Ira Berlin's 'Many Thousands Gone'?

'Many Thousands Gone' focuses on the development and transformation of African American slavery from its beginnings in the colonial period through the early 19th century, highlighting regional differences and the experiences of enslaved people.

When was 'Many Thousands Gone' by Ira Berlin first published?

'Many Thousands Gone' was first published in 1998 and has since become a foundational text in the study of American slavery.

How does Ira Berlin describe the 'slave society' in 'Many Thousands Gone'?

Berlin describes the 'slave society' as a social, economic, and political system where slavery is central to the society's organization, shaping the lives of both the enslaved and the enslavers, with significant regional variations across the American colonies.

What are the four distinct groups of enslaved Africans identified by Ira Berlin in 'Many Thousands Gone'?

Berlin identifies four groups: the first Africans (early enslaved people), the colonial slaves, the Revolutionary generation, and the antebellum slaves, each representing different periods and conditions of slavery in America.

Why is 'Many Thousands Gone' considered an important work in African American history?

'Many Thousands Gone' is important because it provides a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of slavery, challenges previous assumptions, and gives voice to the experiences of enslaved Africans, influencing subsequent scholarship.

What role does geography play in Ira Berlin's analysis in 'Many Thousands Gone'?

Geography is crucial as Berlin highlights how slavery varied regionally—between the Chesapeake, the Low Country, the Upper South, and the North—impacting the social and economic conditions of enslaved people.

How does Ira Berlin address the cultural adaptation of enslaved Africans in 'Many Thousands Gone'?

Berlin discusses how enslaved Africans adapted to new environments by blending African traditions with American circumstances, creating unique cultural expressions that evolved over time and across regions.

Can 'Many Thousands Gone' be used as a resource for understanding the origins of racial slavery in America?

Yes, 'Many Thousands Gone' provides detailed historical context and analysis on the origins and development of racial slavery in America, making it a valuable resource for students and scholars studying this period.

Additional Resources

Many Thousands Gone: A Critical Examination of Ira Berlin's Magnum Opus

many thousands gone ira berlin stands as a seminal phrase that immediately evokes the profound historical narrative crafted by historian Ira Berlin. His landmark work, **Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America**, has been pivotal in reshaping the understanding of early American slavery. Berlin's meticulous research and analytical depth provide a comprehensive exploration of the transformation and lived realities of enslaved Africans from the 17th to the early 19th centuries. This article delves into the critical aspects of **Many Thousands Gone**, exploring its historical significance, methodology, and enduring impact on both academic scholarship and public discourse.

Contextualizing Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin

Ira Berlin's **Many Thousands Gone** challenges traditional narratives that often marginalize or oversimplify the complex evolution of slavery in colonial America. The title itself, "many thousands gone," draws from a spiritual song, symbolizing the countless African lives forcibly uprooted and enslaved. Berlin situates his work in the broader framework of Atlantic history, emphasizing the dynamic processes by which slavery adapted and

transformed over time and across regions.

Unlike earlier historical accounts that focus primarily on antebellum slavery and the plantation economy of the Deep South, Berlin's analysis extends back to the earliest periods of enslavement in the Chesapeake and New England colonies. By doing so, he highlights the diversity of slave experiences and the gradual codification of racial slavery.

Exploring the Structure and Themes of *Many Thousands Gone*

The structure of *Many Thousands Gone* is both thematic and chronological, allowing readers to follow the development of slavery as a social, economic, and cultural institution. Berlin divides the narrative into several key phases:

- **Initial Enslavement and African Origins:** Berlin traces the origins of African captives, their varied ethnic backgrounds, and the initial conditions under which they were enslaved in North America.
- **Transition from Servitude to Racial Slavery:** The transformation from indentured servitude to lifelong racial slavery forms a central theme, illustrating how legal and social frameworks evolved.
- **Regional Variations:** Berlin meticulously contrasts slavery in different colonies, such as the tobacco economies of Virginia and Maryland, versus the rice plantations of South Carolina, underscoring how geography influenced slavery's character.
- **Cultural Persistence and Adaptation:** The book also explores how enslaved Africans retained, modified, or lost cultural practices in response to the pressures of enslavement.

This multi-faceted approach provides a nuanced understanding of slavery's early history, moving beyond simplistic binaries to reveal a fluid and contested institution.

The Significance of Ira Berlin's Scholarship in Slavery Studies

Berlin's scholarship is notable for its reliance on a wide array of primary sources, including legal documents, plantation records, and personal narratives. His ability to synthesize these materials leads to several

groundbreaking insights:

Redefining the Timeline and Geography of Slavery

Prior to Berlin's work, many histories concentrated on the antebellum South, often neglecting the earlier and geographically broader experiences of enslaved Africans. Berlin's **Many Thousands Gone** reframes slavery as a centuries-long evolution beginning in the early 1600s. This broader temporal scope reveals how slavery was not a static institution but one constantly shaped by economic demands, legal innovations, and resistance.

Highlighting African Agency and Cultural Resilience

A critical contribution of the book is its focus on the agency of enslaved Africans. Berlin emphasizes that enslaved people were not merely passive victims but active participants in shaping their own lives and cultures. The retention of African traditions, the creation of new cultural forms, and acts of resistance are all explored in depth, providing a richer picture of enslaved communities.

Legal and Social Codification of Race

Berlin carefully documents how laws increasingly codified racial distinctions, transforming slavery into a hereditary condition based on race. This process was gradual and regionally varied, reflecting the negotiation between economic interests and social ideologies. His analysis helps explain how racial slavery became entrenched as a defining feature of American society.

Comparative Perspectives and Legacy

Many scholars have compared **Many Thousands Gone** with other key works in slavery historiography, such as Herbert Gutman's **The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom** and Philip D. Morgan's studies of the Chesapeake. Berlin's work is distinguished by its Atlantic-wide perspective and its thematic breadth.

Pros and Cons of Berlin's Analytical Approach

- **Pros:** Comprehensive scope, rich use of primary sources, nuanced portrayal of enslaved lives, and emphasis on cultural and legal

transformations.

- **Cons:** Some critics argue that the wide-ranging approach sometimes sacrifices depth in specific local contexts; others suggest that more could be done to integrate gender analysis.

Despite minor critiques, **Many Thousands Gone** remains a cornerstone text, informing both academic research and educational curricula.

Implications for Contemporary Understanding of Slavery

The insights from **Many Thousands Gone** continue to resonate in current discussions about race, identity, and American history. By illustrating the complexity of early slavery, Berlin's work challenges reductive narratives and encourages a more critical engagement with the past.

Educational programs and museums frequently draw upon Berlin's research to offer visitors a more accurate and humanized portrayal of enslaved Africans. His scholarship also informs ongoing debates about reparations, racial justice, and historical memory.

In tracing the contours of slavery's first two centuries, **Many Thousands Gone** by Ira Berlin remains an essential text for anyone seeking to understand the deep roots and enduring legacies of African American history. Its careful analysis and rich storytelling ensure that the "many thousands gone" are neither forgotten nor misunderstood.

[Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin](#)

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many thousands gone ira berlin: Many Thousands Gone Ira Berlin, 2009-07-01 Today most Americans, black and white, identify slavery with cotton, the deep South, and the African-American church. But at the beginning of the nineteenth century, after almost two hundred years of African-American life in mainland North America, few slaves grew cotton, lived in the deep South, or embraced Christianity. *Many Thousands Gone* traces the evolution of black society from the first

arrivals in the early seventeenth century through the Revolution. In telling their story, Ira Berlin, a leading historian of southern and African-American life, reintegrates slaves into the history of the American working class and into the tapestry of our nation. Laboring as field hands on tobacco and rice plantations, as skilled artisans in port cities, or soldiers along the frontier, generation after generation of African Americans struggled to create a world of their own in circumstances not of their own making. In a panoramic view that stretches from the North to the Chesapeake Bay and Carolina lowcountry to the Mississippi Valley, *Many Thousands Gone* reveals the diverse forms that slavery and freedom assumed before cotton was king. We witness the transformation that occurred as the first generations of creole slaves—who worked alongside their owners, free blacks, and indentured whites—gave way to the plantation generations, whose back-breaking labor was the sole engine of their society and whose physical and linguistic isolation sustained African traditions on American soil. As the nature of the slaves' labor changed with place and time, so did the relationship between slave and master, and between slave and society. In this fresh and vivid interpretation, Berlin demonstrates that the meaning of slavery and of race itself was continually renegotiated and redefined, as the nation lurched toward political and economic independence and grappled with the Enlightenment ideals that had inspired its birth.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin, 1998 Traces the development of Black society from the 1600s through the 1800s, describing the social conditions of both slaves and free Blacks

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Many Thousands Gone* Ira Berlin, 1998

many thousands gone ira berlin: *The Long Emancipation* Ira Berlin, 2015-09-15 Perhaps no event in American history arouses more impassioned debate than the abolition of slavery. Answers to basic questions about who ended slavery, how, and why remain fiercely contested more than a century and a half after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment. In *The Long Emancipation*, Ira Berlin draws upon decades of study to offer a framework for understanding slavery's demise in the United States. Freedom was not achieved in a moment, and emancipation was not an occasion but a near-century-long process—a shifting but persistent struggle that involved thousands of men and women. “Ira Berlin ranks as one of the greatest living historians of slavery in the United States... *The Long Emancipation* offers a useful reminder that abolition was not the charitable work of respectable white people, or not mainly that. Instead, the demise of slavery was made possible by the constant discomfort inflicted on middle-class white society by black activists. And like the participants in today's Black Lives Matter movement, Berlin has not forgotten that the history of slavery in the United States—especially the history of how slavery ended—is never far away when contemporary Americans debate whether their nation needs to change.” —Edward E. Baptist, *New York Times Book Review*

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Generations of Captivity* Ira Berlin, 2004-09-30 Ira Berlin traces the history of African-American slavery in the United States from its beginnings in the seventeenth century to its fiery demise nearly three hundred years later. Most Americans, black and white, have a singular vision of slavery, one fixed in the mid-nineteenth century when most American slaves grew cotton, resided in the deep South, and subscribed to Christianity. Here, however, Berlin offers a dynamic vision, a major reinterpretation in which slaves and their owners continually renegotiated the terms of captivity. Slavery was thus made and remade by successive generations of Africans and African Americans who lived through settlement and adaptation, plantation life, economic transformations, revolution, forced migration, war, and ultimately, emancipation. Berlin's understanding of the processes that continually transformed the lives of slaves makes *Generations of Captivity* essential reading for anyone interested in the evolution of antebellum America. Connecting the Charter Generation to the development of Atlantic society in the seventeenth century, the Plantation Generation to the reconstruction of colonial society in the eighteenth century, the Revolutionary Generation to the Age of Revolutions, and the Migration Generation to American expansionism in the nineteenth century, Berlin integrates the history of slavery into the larger story of American life. He demonstrates how enslaved black people, by adapting to changing

circumstances, prepared for the moment when they could seize liberty and declare themselves the Freedom Generation. This epic story, told by a master historian, provides a rich understanding of the experience of African-American slaves, an experience that continues to mobilize American thought and passions today.

many thousands gone ira berlin: American Colonial History Thomas S. Kidd, 2016-04-26 Thomas Kidd, a widely respected scholar of colonial history, deftly offers both depth and breadth in this accessible, introductory text on the American Colonial era. Interweaving primary documents and new scholarship with a vivid narrative reconstructing the lives of European colonists, Africans, and Native Americans and their encounters in colonial North America, Kidd offers fresh perspectives on these events and the period as a whole. This compelling volume is organized around themes of religion and conflict, and distinguished by its incorporation of an expanded geographic frame.

many thousands gone ira berlin: Stolen Childhood, Second Edition Wilma King, 2011-06-29 One of the most important books published on slave society, *Stolen Childhood* focuses on the millions of children and youth enslaved in 19th-century America. This enlarged and revised edition reflects the abundance of new scholarship on slavery that has emerged in the 15 years since the first edition. While the structure of the book remains the same, Wilma King has expanded its scope to include the international dimension with a new chapter on the transatlantic trade in African children, and the book's geographic boundaries now embrace slave-born children in the North. She includes data about children owned by Native Americans and African Americans, and presents new information about children's knowledge of and participation in the abolitionist movement and the interactions between enslaved and free children.

many thousands gone ira berlin: Denmark Vesey's Garden Ethan J. Kyle, Blain Roberts, 2018-04-03 One of Janet Maslin's Favorite Books of 2018, The New York Times One of John Warner's Favorite Books of 2018, Chicago Tribune Named one of the "Best Civil War Books of 2018" by the Civil War Monitor "A fascinating and important new historical study." —Janet Maslin, The New York Times "A stunning contribution to the historiography of Civil War memory studies." —Civil War Times The stunning, groundbreaking account of the ways in which our nation has tried to come to grips with its original sin (Providence Journal) Hailed by the New York Times as a fascinating and important new historical study that examines . . . the place where the ways slavery is remembered mattered most, Denmark Vesey's Garden maps competing memories of slavery from abolition to the very recent struggle to rename or remove Confederate symbols across the country (The New Republic). This timely book reveals the deep roots of present-day controversies and traces them to the capital of slavery in the United States: Charleston, South Carolina, where almost half of the slaves brought to the United States stepped onto our shores, where the first shot at Fort Sumter began the Civil War, and where Dylann Roof murdered nine people at Emanuel A.M.E. Church, which was co-founded by Denmark Vesey, a black revolutionary who plotted a massive slave insurrection in 1822. As they examine public rituals, controversial monuments, and competing musical traditions, Kyle and Roberts's combination of encyclopedic knowledge of Charleston's history and empathy with its inhabitants' past and present struggles make them ideal guides to this troubled history (Publishers Weekly, starred review). A work the Civil War Times called a stunning contribution, Denmark Vesey's Garden exposes a hidden dimension of America's deep racial divide, joining the small bookshelf of major, paradigm-shifting interpretations of slavery's enduring legacy in the United States.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *The Atlantic World and Virginia, 1550-1624* Peter C. Mancall, 2018-01-15 In response to the global turn in scholarship on colonial and early modern history, the eighteen essays in this volume provide a fresh and much-needed perspective on the wider context of the encounter between the inhabitants of precolonial Virginia and the English. This collection offers an interdisciplinary consideration of developments in Native America, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Chesapeake, highlighting the mosaic of regions and influences that formed the context and impetus for the English settlement at Jamestown in 1607. The volume reflects an understanding of Jamestown not as the birthplace of democracy in America but as the

creation of a European outpost in a neighborhood that included Africans, Native Americans, and other Europeans. With contributions from both prominent and rising scholars, this volume offers far-ranging and compelling studies of peoples, texts, places, and conditions that influenced the making of New World societies. As Jamestown marks its four-hundredth anniversary, this collection provides provocative material for teaching and launching new research. Contributors: Philip P. Boucher, University of Alabama, Huntsville Peter Cook, Nipissing University J. H. Elliott, University of Oxford Andrew Fitzmaurice, University of Sydney Joseph Hall, Bates College Linda Heywood, Boston University James Horn, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation E. Ann McDougall, University of Alberta Peter C. Mancall, University of Southern California Philip D. Morgan, Johns Hopkins University David Northrup, Boston College Marcy Norton, The George Washington University James D. Rice, State University of New York, Plattsburgh Daniel K. Richter, University of Pennsylvania David Harris Sacks, Reed College Benjamin Schmidt, University of Washington Stuart B. Schwartz, Yale University David S. Shields, University of South Carolina Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, McGill University James H. Sweet, University of Wisconsin, Madison John Thornton, Boston University

many thousands gone ira berlin: Gateway to Freedom Eric Foner, 2015 Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Eric Foner tells the story of how, between 1830 and 1860, three remarkable men from New York city - a journalist, a furniture polisher, and a black minister - led a secret network that helped no fewer than 3,000 fugitive slaves from the southern states of America to a new life of liberty in Canada.

many thousands gone ira berlin: "Myne Owne Ground" T. H. Breen, Stephen Innes, 2005 During the earliest decades of Virginia history, some men and women who arrived in the New World as slaves achieved freedom and formed a stable community on the Eastern shore. Holding their own with white neighbors for much of the 17th century, these free blacks purchased freedom for family members, amassed property, established plantations, and acquired laborers. T.H. Breen and Stephen Innes reconstruct a community in which ownership of property was as significant as skin color in structuring social relations. Why this model of social interaction in race relations did not survive makes this a critical and urgent work of history.

many thousands gone ira berlin: A People's History of the American Revolution Ray Raphael, 2011-05-24 "The best single-volume history of the Revolution I have read." —Howard Zinn Upon its initial publication, Ray Raphael's magisterial *A People's History of the American Revolution* was hailed by NPR's Fresh Air as "relentlessly aggressive and unsentimental." With impeccable skill, Raphael presented a wide array of fascinating scholarship within a single volume, employing a bottom-up approach that has served as a revelation. *A People's History of the American Revolution* draws upon diaries, personal letters, and other Revolutionary-era treasures, weaving a thrilling "you are there" narrative—"a tapestry that uses individual experiences to illustrate the larger stories". Raphael shifts the focus away from George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to the slaves they owned, the Indians they displaced, and the men and boys who did the fighting (Los Angeles Times Book Review). This "remarkable perspective on a familiar part of American history" helps us appreciate more fully the incredible diversity of the American Revolution (Kirkus Reviews). "Through letters, diaries, and other accounts, Raphael shows these individuals—white women and men of the farming and laboring classes, free and enslaved African Americans, Native Americans, loyalists, and religious pacifists—acting for or against the Revolution and enduring a war that compounded the difficulties of everyday life." —Library Journal "A tour de force . . . Ray Raphael has probably altered the way in which future historians will see events." —The Sunday Times

many thousands gone ira berlin: Litigating Across the Color Line Melissa Lambert Milewski, 2018 In a largely previously untold story, from 1865 to 1950, black litigants throughout the South took on white southerners in civil suits. Drawing on almost a thousand cases, Milewski shows how African Americans negotiated the southern legal system and won suits against whites after the Civil War and before the Civil Rights struggle.

many thousands gone ira berlin: Agrarian Elites Enrico Dal Lago, 2005-11-01 Between 1815 and 1861, American slaveholders and southern Italian landowners presided over the economic and

social life of two predominantly agricultural regions, the U.S. South and Italy's Mezzogiorno. Enrico Dal Lago ingeniously compares these agrarian elites, demonstrating how the study of each enhances our understanding of the other as well as of their shared nineteenth-century world. *Agrarian Elites* charts the parallel developments of plantations and latifondi in relation to changes in the world economy. At the same time, it examines the spread of paternalistic models of family relations and of slave and free-labor management that accompanied the rise of large groups of American slaveholders and southern Italian landed proprietors in the early-to-mid-1800s. According to Dal Lago, the most articulate and enlightened members of both elites combined the pursuit of profit with the implementation of modern contractual practices in dealing with their workforces. Both elites also used their economic and social power for political advantage, opposing the intervention of their national governments in local affairs. The search for ever-better protection of their respective interests in slaveholding and landed property led ultimately to their support for the creation of two nations, the Confederate States of America and the Kingdom of Italy, both in 1861. Dal Lago brings together two subjects that have generated considerable debate and research: systems of slave and nominally free labor and the elites who employed them, and nineteenth-century nationalism. With its pathbreaking approach and singular and comparative insights, *Agrarian Elites* will inform not only American and Italian studies but also the very practice of comparative history.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Inhuman Bondage* David Brion Davis, 2008-06-05 Davis begins with the dramatic Amistad case, and then looks at slavery in the American South and the abolitionists who defeated one of human history's greatest evils.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Working the Diaspora* Frederick C. Knight, 2012-08-22 From the sixteenth to early-nineteenth century, four times more Africans than Europeans crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. While this forced migration stripped slaves of their liberty, it failed to destroy many of their cultural practices, which came with Africans to the New World. In *Working the Diaspora*, Frederick Knight examines work cultures on both sides of the Atlantic, from West and West Central Africa to British North America and the Caribbean. Knight demonstrates that the knowledge that Africans carried across the Atlantic shaped Anglo-American agricultural development and made particularly important contributions to cotton, indigo, tobacco, and staple food cultivation. The book also compellingly argues that the work experience of slaves shaped their views of the natural world. Broad in scope, clearly written, and at the center of current scholarly debates, *Working the Diaspora* challenges readers to alter their conceptual frameworks about Africans by looking at them as workers who, through the course of the Atlantic slave trade and plantation labor, shaped the development of the Americas in significant ways.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Astray* Eluned Summers-Bremner, 2023-07-17 A meandering celebration of the indirect and unforeseen path, revealing that to err is not just human—it is everything. This book explores how, far from being an act limited to deviation from known pathways or desirable plans of action, wandering is an abundant source of meaning—a force as intimately involved in the history of our universe as it will be in the future of our planet. In ancient Australian Aboriginal cosmology, in works about the origins of democracy and surviving disasters in ancient Greece, in Eurasian steppe nomadic culture, in the lifeways of the Roma, in the movements of today's refugees, and in our attempts to preserve spaces of untracked online freedom, wandering is how creativity and skills of adaptation are preserved in the interests of ongoing life. *Astray* is an enthralling look at belonging and at notions of alienation and hope.

many thousands gone ira berlin: *Negro Slavery in Arkansas* Orville Taylor, 2000-07-01 Long out of print and found only in rare-book stores, it is now available to a contemporary audience with this new paperback edition. When slavery was abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation, there were slaves in every county of the state, and almost half the population was directly involved in slavery as either a slave, a slaveowner, or a member of an owner's family. Orville Taylor traces the growth of slavery from John Law's colony in the early eighteenth century through the French and Spanish colonial period, territorial and statehood days, to the beginning of the Civil War. He describes the various facets of the institution, including the slave trade, work and overseers, health

and medical treatment, food, clothing, housing, marriage, discipline, and free blacks and manumission. While drawing on unpublished material as appropriate, the book is, to a great extent, based on original, often previously unpublished, sources. Valuable to libraries, historians in several areas of concentration, and the general reader, it gives due recognition to the significant place slavery occupied in the life and economy of antebellum Arkansas.

many thousands gone ira berlin: Trace Lauret Savoy, 2016-09-13 With a New Preface by the Author Through personal journeys and historical inquiry, this PEN Literary Award finalist explores how America's still unfolding history and ideas of "race" have marked its people and the land. Sand and stone are Earth's fragmented memory. Each of us, too, is a landscape inscribed by memory and loss. One life-defining lesson Lauret Savoy learned as a young girl was this: the American land did not hate. As an educator and Earth historian, she has tracked the continent's past from the relics of deep time; but the paths of ancestors toward her—paths of free and enslaved Africans, colonists from Europe, and peoples indigenous to this land—lie largely eroded and lost. A provocative and powerful mosaic that ranges across a continent and across time, from twisted terrain within the San Andreas Fault zone to a South Carolina plantation, from national parks to burial grounds, from "Indian Territory" and the U.S.-Mexico Border to the U.S. capital, Trace grapples with a searing national history to reveal the often unvoiced presence of the past. In distinctive and illuminating prose that is attentive to the rhythms of language and landscapes, she weaves together human stories of migration, silence, and displacement, as epic as the continent they survey, with uplifted mountains, braided streams, and eroded canyons. Gifted with this manifold vision, and graced by a scientific and lyrical diligence, she delves through fragmented histories—natural, personal, cultural—to find shadowy outlines of other stories of place in America. Every landscape is an accumulation, reads one epigraph. Life must be lived amidst that which was made before. Courageously and masterfully, Lauret Savoy does so in this beautiful book: she lives there, making sense of this land and its troubled past, reconciling what it means to inhabit terrains of memory—and to be one.

many thousands gone ira berlin: Slavery and the American South Annette Gordon-Reed, 2003 In 1900 very few historians were exploring the institution of slavery in the South. But in the next half century, the culture of slavery became a dominating theme in Southern historiography. In the 1970s it was the subject of the first Chancellor's Symposium in Southern History held at the University of Mississippi. Since then, scholarly interest in slavery has proliferated ever more widely. In fact, the editor of this retrospective volume states that since the 1970s the expansion has resulted in a corpus that has a huge number of components—scores, even hundreds, rather than mere dozens. He states that no such gathering could possibly summarize all the changes of those twenty-five years. Hence, for the Chancellor Porter L. Fortune Symposium in Southern History in the year 2000, instead of providing historiographical summary, the participants were invited to formulate thoughts arising from their own special interests and experiences. Each paper was complemented by a learned, penetrating reaction. On balance, the editor avers in his introduction, reflection about the whole can convey a further sense of the condition of this field of scholarship at the very end of the last century, which was surely an improvement over what prevailed at the beginning. The collection of papers includes the following: Logic and Experience: Thomas Jefferson's Life in the Law by Annette Gordon-Reed, with commentary by Peter S. Onuf; The Peculiar Fate of the Bourgeois Critique of Slavery by James Oakes, with commentary by Walter Johnson; Reflections on Law, Culture, and Slavery by Ariela Gross, with commentary by Laura F. Edwards; Rape in Black and White: Sexual Violence in the Testimony of Enslaved and Free Americans by Norrece T. Jones, Jr., with commentary by Jan Lewis; The Long History of a Low Place: Slavery on the South Carolina Coast, 1670-1870 by Robert Olwell, with commentary by William Dushinberre; Paul Robeson and Richard Wright on the Arts and Slave Culture by Sterling Stuckey, with commentary by Roger D. Abrahams. Winthrop D. Jordan is William F. Winter Professor of History and professor of African American studies at the University of Mississippi. His previous books include *White Over Black: American Attitudes toward the Negro, 1550-1812* and *The White Man's Burden: Historical Origins of Racism in*

the United States, and his work has been published in the Atlantic Monthly, Daedalus, and the Journal of Southern History, among other periodicals.

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