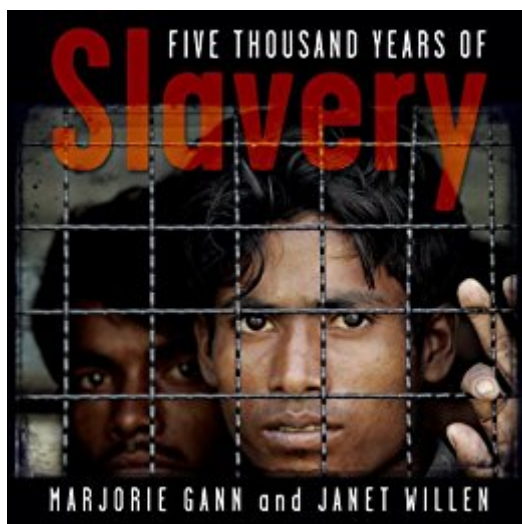


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# Five Thousand Years Of Slavery



## Synopsis

When they were too impoverished to raise their families, ancient Sumerians sold their children into bondage. Slave women in Rome faced never-ending household drudgery. The ninth-century Zanj were transported from East Africa to work the salt marshes of Iraq. Cotton pickers worked under terrible duress in the American South. Ancient history? Tragically, no. In our time, slavery wears many faces. James Kofi Annan's parents in Ghana sold him because they could not feed him. Beatrice Fernando had to work almost around the clock in Lebanon. Julia Gabriel was trafficked from Arizona to the cucumber fields of South Carolina. *Five Thousand Years of Slavery* provides the suspense and emotional engagement of a great novel. It is an excellent resource with its comprehensive historical narrative, firsthand accounts, maps, archival photos, paintings and posters, an index, and suggestions for further reading. Much more than a reference work, it is a brilliant exploration of the worst - and the best - in human society.

## Book Information

File Size: 13301 KB

Print Length: 176 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books (February 21, 2012)

Publication Date: February 21, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007DFU05G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #755,611 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #62

in [Kindle Store > Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Anthropology](#) #100

in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Education & Reference > Social](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Five Thousand Years of Slavery really expanded my perception of the depth and breadth of slavery. I was surprised to learn how extensive slavery was in the ancient world and how pervasive it is in the world today. The book is well written and the format and illustrations are excellent. I think that the book is an ideal survey about slavery for adults and children from the age of twelve up.

I continue to share the information with others. The book is outstanding.

This book explores the long and dreary, yet fascinating, history of slavery. It begins in biblical times and continues through to present day. Slavery has existed for five thousand years. It existed in Christianity, Judaism and Islam alike. The impact of the slave industry on Africa is staggering. This book is filled with fascinating details, such as the fact that thousands of years ago, slavers were required to list character flaws that would indicate "passion" in a slave, such as "an extreme interest in religion, the arts, or love". You may think that slavery ended long ago in the US with the Emancipation Proclamation, but that would be quite far from the truth. Sharecroppers were often little more than glorified slaves, and even in the 1920s, our own US government practiced a form of slavery with the Aleut people in Alaska. And today products listed "Made in China" are often created in forced-labor camps, where those suffering religious persecution are being imprisoned. My final word: This was a rather fascinating read about the history of slavery, in all its shameful truth. Fairly and honestly presented, it's a concise and very readable accounting, filled with photography and stories. Disturbing and strangely alluring, I would recommend this book for anyone wishing to have a better grasp of slavery and its impact on the world. 4 1/2 stars

Five Thousand Years of Slavery  
Marjorie Gann and Janet Willen  
Tundra Books 2011  
A Librarything Early Reviewer book.  
Five Thousand Years of Slavery is a non-fiction history of slavery aimed at a young adult audience. Areas covered are: The Ancient Near East, Ancient Greece and Rome, Europe in the Middle Ages, Slavery under Islam, Africa, The Americas, South America and the Caribbean, British Abolition, North America, The United States, Asia and the Southern Pacific, and The Modern World. This is a very ambitious amount of information to try to cover in 159 pages of texts. In the end, some subjects are covered sparingly while others are covered in depth. Most of the book is focused on the middle ages to the 20th century. The areas it covers well, it covers very well. I am now much more familiar with slavery in the British and French colonies. What the book doesn't do well, is retain the interest of the reader (or at least, this one). The text is very dry. The

section on the modern world is very short and sparse. I expected more, based on the cover and the afterword. A note on the bibliography: It is in an awkward format and incomplete, the authors recommend going to their website to view the full works cited. What I would have liked to see: more on modern slavery and human trafficking, and "for further information" works listed to the side of the text. All in all, a dry, but interesting and informative resource on slavery. 3 1/2 stars.

An excellent choice for a school or educational library, this volume is directed toward the pre-adolescent to middle-school reader. It presents the world-wide history of slavery in its many manifestations in a comprehensive, culturally-sensitive, and non-frightening visual and essay format. It does not go into great detail of modern slave issues, perhaps because it is difficult to do so without being judgmental or scary given most slavery situations, but it does touch on them. Historic depictions as well as modern photographs are used. Many individual stories are given, of slaves, slave owners, and abolitionists. While it's not of any use for in-depth research, this was a perfect volume for our middle-school student's class when they approached the subject of historic and modern slavery.

Five Thousand Years of Slavery provides a powerful history of world slavery processes as a whole, from ancient Sumerians who sold their children to slave women in Rome and American blacks. History accounts, firsthand accounts, maps, photos and paintings explore circumstances of slavery in human culture, with a special focus on world slavery today linking past to present. Any library strong in world history and social issues from high school through college and general lending collections will find this a winning survey.

Five Thousand Years of Slavery fills a need for information on the history of slavery on a young adult level. The writing and research are outstanding. The authors demonstrate the evil of slavery in all its forms from ancient times until the present without talking down to their audience. Also included are illustrations, a timeline, maps and a section on "How I Can Help?"

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