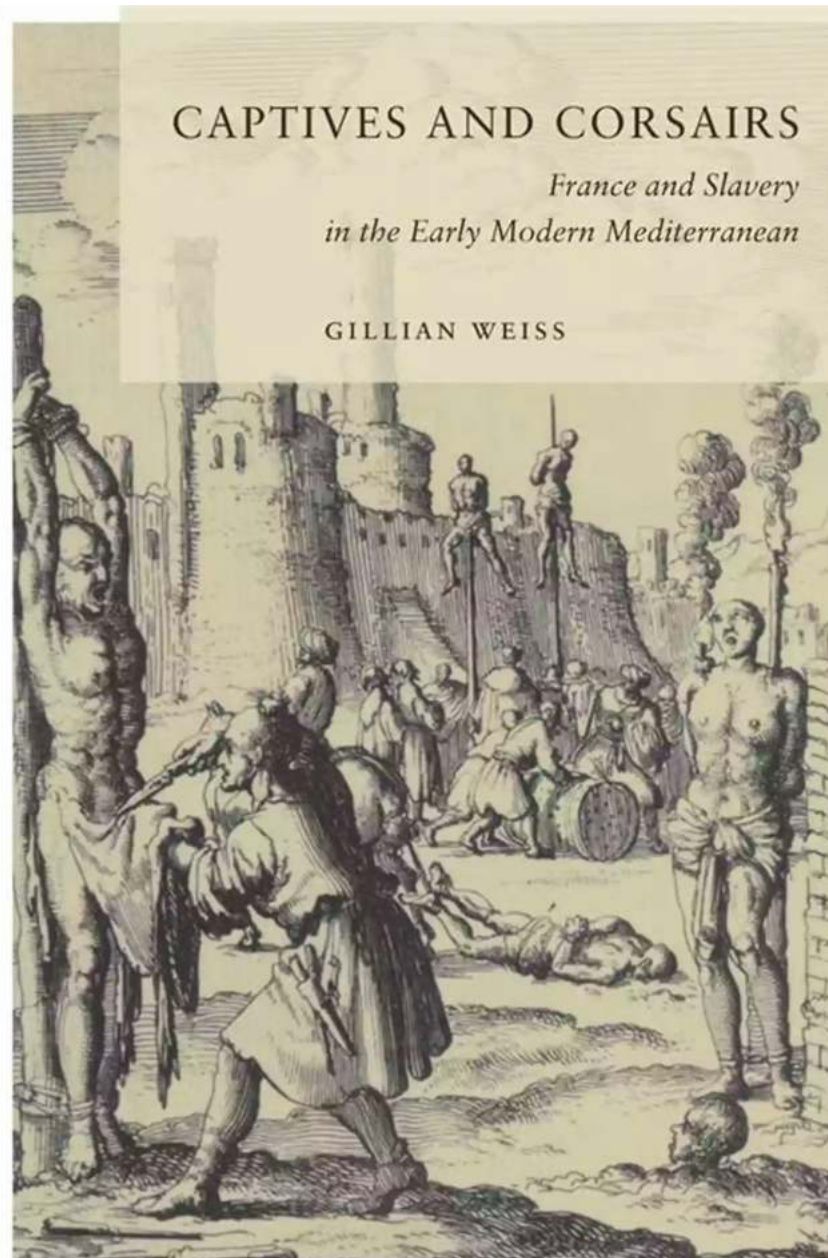


# Exploring France's Involvement in Slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean

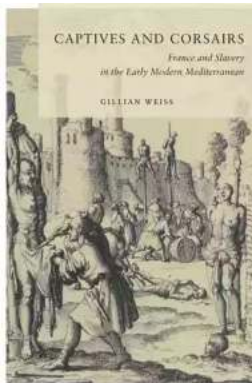


In the early modern period, France, like many other European nations, played a significant role in the slave trade. However, while often overshadowed by the transatlantic slave trade, France's involvement in slavery in the Mediterranean is a crucial part of understanding the country's history. This article aims to shed light

on France's complex relationship with slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean, exploring both the historical context and its lasting impacts.

## France's Expansion into the Mediterranean

In the 15th and 16th centuries, France's maritime presence began to expand, leading to increased involvement in Mediterranean trade routes. As part of this expansion, French merchants and navy officials ventured into regions where slavery was already deeply entrenched, such as North Africa and the Ottoman Empire. Slavery was an integral part of the Mediterranean societies, and France sought opportunities to exploit and profit from this labor system.



## Captives and Corsairs: France and Slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean

by T. H. Breen(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Language             | : English                   |
| File size            | : 3636 KB                   |
| Text-to-Speech       | : Enabled                   |
| Screen Reader        | : Supported                 |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled                   |
| Print length         | : 419 pages                 |
| Hardcover            | : 270 pages                 |
| Item Weight          | : 1.22 pounds               |
| Dimensions           | : 6.14 x 0.63 x 9.21 inches |



## The Mediterranean Slave Trade

The Mediterranean slave trade had existed for centuries before France's active involvement. Slavery was prevalent in various forms, including household servants, agricultural laborers, and galley slaves. France's role in this trade was

multifaceted. On one hand, French merchants sold enslaved individuals from sub-Saharan Africa to Mediterranean markets. On the other hand, French ships also participated in piracy, capturing merchant vessels and enslaving those on board.

## **The Impact of French Slavery in the Mediterranean**

The French participation in the Mediterranean slave trade had profound economic and cultural impacts. Slavery provided a significant source of wealth for French merchants and expanded their commercial activities. The enslaved labor force greatly contributed to the growth of French agricultural production, particularly in the sugar industry. Additionally, the interactions between French slaveholders and enslaved individuals fueled the development of cultural exchange and cross-pollination. As a result, traces of African, Middle Eastern, and Ottoman influences are evident in French art, music, and cuisine.

## **Resistance and Abolition**

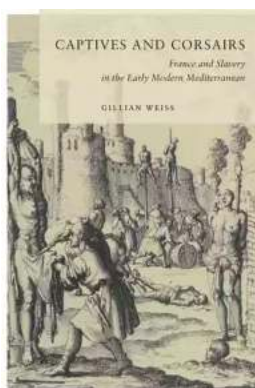
Resisting slavery in the Mediterranean was complex and diverse. Some enslaved individuals rebelled against their captors, while others sought manumission through various means. The spread of Enlightenment ideas and evolving moral views on slavery influenced the emergence of abolitionist movements in France. Eventually, in the early 19th century, France abolished slavery throughout its territories, including the Mediterranean colonies. However, it is essential to acknowledge the continuities of racism and social inequality that lingered long after emancipation.

France's involvement in slavery in the Early Modern Mediterranean is a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of its history. By understanding and discussing this chapter, we gain a more comprehensive perspective on the country's historical development and the interconnectedness of global systems of oppression.

Recognizing the legacy of slavery allows us to confront the ongoing impact of this dark period and work towards a more inclusive and just society.

## References:

- Author 1 (Year). Title of Article. Journal Name, Volume(Issue),Page Numbers. URL
- Author 2 (Year). Title of Article. Journal Name, Volume(Issue),Page Numbers. URL
- Author 3 (Year). Title of Article. Journal Name, Volume(Issue),Page Numbers. URL



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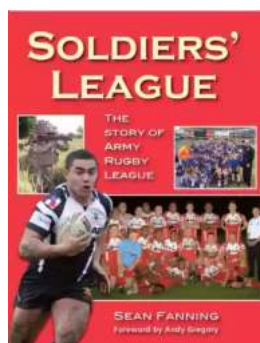
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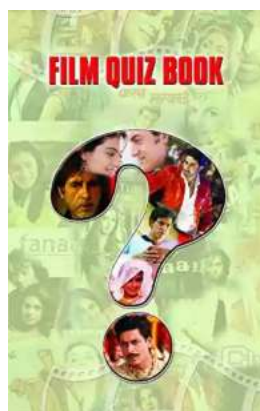
Captives and Corsairs uncovers a forgotten story in the history of relations between the West and Islam: three centuries of Muslim corsair raids on French ships and shores and the resulting captivity of tens of thousands of French subjects and citizens in North Africa. Through an analysis of archival materials,

writings, and images produced by contemporaries, the book fundamentally revises our picture of France's emergence as a nation and a colonial power, presenting the Mediterranean as an essential vantage point for studying the rise of France. It reveals how efforts to liberate slaves from North Africa shaped France's perceptions of the Muslim world and of their own "Frenchness". From around 1550 to 1830, freeing these captives evolved from an expression of Christian charity to a method of state building and, eventually, to a rationale for imperial expansion. Captives and Corsairs thus advances new arguments about the fluid nature of slavery and firmly links captive redemption to state formation—and in turn to the still vital ideology of liberatory conquest.



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