

door de staat aangestuurde kolonialisme op grotere schaal zou worden toegepast. Kars citeert hierover een functionaris, die na de onderdrukking van de grote sla-venopstand in Berbice stelde dat de animositeit tussen de zwarte bevolking en inheemsen, 'wel en in de redelijkheid aengequeekt, niet als van veel nut en dienst in het vervolg voor de colonien kan wezen'.

Een van de sterke punten van deze bundel is dat 'extern' en 'intern' militair geweld zo duidelijk met elkaar in verband worden gebracht. Minder aandacht is er voor de dwarsverbanden tussen de verschillende strijdtonelen onderling, en voor de verhouding tussen periferie en centrum. Gedeeltelijk is dat volgens mij te wijten aan de ook in deze bundel doorklinkende gedachte dat van een samenhangend overzees beleid in de decentraal georganiseerde Republiek geen sprake kon zijn. Zeker, het initiatief tot de inzet van militaire middelen ging vaak uit van semi-private instellingen zoals de WIC, de Sociëteit van Suriname of de zogenaamde patroonschappen, en niet van een centrale staat. Toch bestonden er op elk moment honderden personele en organisatorische dwarsverbanden tussen deze semi-private instellingen en de verschillende bestuurslagen van de federale staat. Meer aandacht zou mogen gaan naar de wijze waarop dit nauwe onderlinge contact van invloed was op de ontwikkeling van gedeelde prioriteitstellingen en strategische noties over de inzet van geweld. Een interessante vraag is daarnaast of er ook onder overzeese bestuurders en militaire gezagsdragers – en niet te vergeten onder gewone soldaten, vrije zwarten en slaafgemaakten – een *learning curve* kan worden waargenomen, waarbij bijvoorbeeld de ervaringen van de opstand in Berbice werden meegenomen in de marronoorlogen in Suriname. Vervolg vragen zijn er dus nog genoeg. Maar de bundel *Geweld in de West* legt een goede basis om op voort te bouwen.

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Josep M. Fradera, Cristopher Schmidt-Nowara (ed.), *Slavery & Antislavery in Spain's Atlantic Empire* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn, 2013), 328 p. ISBN 978-0-85745-933-6

*Slavery & Antislavery in Spain's Atlantic Empire* is a collection of eleven chapters adapted from papers presented at a conference held in 2009 in the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Each of these chapters provide different insights on the institutionalization and the diffusion of slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, and the processes leading to the suppression of both, in Spain's late eighteenth and nineteenth century Atlantic empire.

As far as the organization of contents goes, the book starts with Josep Delgado Ribas overview on the evolution of slave trade to Spanish America during the early modern period, up to the aftermath of the deregulation of trade in 1789. Special attention is paid to the *asiento* contracts, so to showcase Spanish Monarchy's traditional policy of farming out the monopoly over the supply of slaves to the overseas territories to foreign companies, as well as the feeble participation of Spanish mercantile groups in the transatlantic traffic for more than three centuries. The public perceptions and the agendas of political and economic groups (colonial and metropolitan) regarding slavery and abolition are covered in the contributions of Josep Fradera and Albert Garcia Balaña. The discursive aspects of the debate in favor or against slavery are analyzed for different chronologies in chapters by Luiz Felipe Alencastro, who analyzes the writings of sixteenth and seventeenth century Portuguese missionaries and by Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, who looks into the nineteenth century anglophile Spanish antislavery activist Joseph Blanco White. Other chapters tackle the sociological profile of the individuals who profited the most from slavery and the webs of interest linking these individuals throughout the Atlantic. This is the case of the essay by Martín Rodrigo y Alharilla, as well as Michael Zeuske and Orlando Martinez's reappraisal of the famous *Amistad* episode (seen here from the perspective of the ship's captain and the networks who financed identical voyages to West Africa). Alejandro de la Fuente, on the other hand, focuses on the juridical background regulating slavery and the judicial conflicts opposing masters and slaves, by looking at nineteenth century Cuba. The contributions by Ada Ferrer and Seymour Drescher analyze the peak of slavery in the Spanish Empire from an Atlantic standpoint, while Juan Carlos Garavaglia provides a regional perspective (using the case of the River Plate between 1750 and 1860 to highlight the importance of slavery in a colonial periphery).

The main goal of this book is, therefore, to place Spain's slavery and anti-slavery debate into the broader economic, social and political contexts, highlighting the connections between colonies and metropolis within the Spanish Empire, Europe and post-revolutionary America.

The point of departure is a discord concerning the role played by the Spanish empire in the employment of African unfree work force and its participation in the processes through which enslaved populations were transferred to the American continent. If Spain was the first European power to put in place a system of colonial exploitation in the New World, slavery was not, until the end of the 18th century, a core social and economic institution (despite its importance at a regional/local scale, as Juan Carlos Garavaglia chapter which seeks to measure the economic impact of slavery in the River Plate reveals). In Spanish America the employment of coerced Indian labor, namely in the extractive mining economy, played, overall, a more prominent role, even though African labor force was, accor-

ding to estimations on the volume of the trade by such authors as Enriqueta Vilar, Herbert Klein, David Eltis and David Richardson or António de Almeida Mendes, sought after as an important complement throughout the early modern period.

Thus, regarding slavery, the Spanish empire seemed to work in counter-cycle. When, by the dawn of the Age of Revolutions the majority of the other European empires were being swept by the winds of abolition and emancipation, Spain's empire, especially in Cuba, was taking the first steps towards becoming a slave-based plantation economy.

Questioning and clarifying this seeming paradox is precisely one of the book's main concerns. It is claimed that 'the antithesis of a context' (p. 130) should actually be seen as an expectable consequence. Cuba's rise as a major producer of sugar via the massive employment of slave labor can only be understood if integrated in the wider transformations that were taking place at the core of the Atlantic economy. The first half of the 19th century witnessed the formation of a new wave of slave systems in the peripheries of the Atlantic.

The book addresses how slavery came up on the metropolis' political decision centers, revealing the ambiguities and the pragmatism of Madrid's policy making, as well as the lobbying of Catalan industrialist sectors, who throughout the nineteenth century were tightly linked with Cuban planters and slave smugglers. Strong claims are made that the industrial burst that took place in Catalonia, was fueled to a great extent by the slave-based colonial economy, therefore making the case that slavery's role in the development of capitalism was actually more relevant in nineteenth-century Spain, than it was for eighteenth-century Britain. This statement challenges the current historiographical view on Eric Williams' classic thesis linking accumulation of capital from slave trade with the industrial revolution. This connection is currently dismissed for continental Europe and claimed to be an exclusive feature of British economic development. By opening a new research agenda, this book invites historians to once again rethink this much discussed topic, namely for peripheral European regions, such as the Iberian countries.

Some chapters show the concern not to depict slaves as merely passive agents, who remained static in view of the movements towards abolition and emancipation. Alejandro de la Fuente reveals how Cuban slaves, resorted to legal mechanisms (*coartación* and the granting of *papel*) to improve their situation and even achieve manumission against their owner's will. This reveals how in both ends of the spectrum of relationships of production, legitimacy through the law was fought over. The tensions between a paternalist legal culture (coming from the Ancien Régime peninsular tradition), the claims for enforcement of absolute property rights on behalf of the planters, and an increasingly centralized state who

sought to regulate relationships of production, in a period of economic transition, are showcased.

Therefore it is not surprising to find that the themes of abolition and emancipation only entered the Spanish public sphere at a later stage when compared to other European colonial empires, a discussion forced upon by the British, whose discourse had to be adapted to Spain's cultural and imperial traditions, as well as to nineteenth century political context. However, discussions about abolition and emancipation failed to entice major debates. This was why in nineteenth-century Spain, where the matters of imperial reform were extremely sensitive (the overseas possessions were seen as means to revitalize the economy of the metropolis), the discussion about slavery was not be addressed so to not jeopardize the empire's political stability.

These essays are a welcome contribution to the field, although more could have been said about the presence of Spanish slave traders in the West Coast of Africa and their links with the hinterland suppliers. Nonetheless, the newest historiographical insights have been brought forth and a new research agenda has been set towards a more Atlantic-centric approach to the interactions between the discourse and the practice of pro and antislavery activism in nineteenth-century Spain and Spanish America. Despite the connected "Atlantic" perspective followed in this book, the study of the Spanish empire shows how slavery, as a cornerstone of American colonial societies, was not uniform "because it developed in distinct institutional, political and ideological and economic situations" [p.6].

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Ruud Paesie en Hubregt Kempe. *Voor zilver en Zeeuws belang: De rampzalige Zuidzee-expeditie van de Middelburgse Commercie Compagnie, 1724 - 1727*. (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 2012), 239 p. ISBN 978-90-57308-451

Sinds 1908 geeft de Linschoten-Vereeniging jaarlijks werken uit die bestaan uit een historisch reisverslag voorzien van een inleiding. Deel III behelst het reisverslag opgetekend door Hubregt Kempe van een onfortuinlijke expeditie richting de Stille Zuidzee waar hij als secretaris aan deelnam. Deze uitstekend verzorgde bronnenpublicatie biedt inzicht in het besluitvormingsproces rond het uitreden van de reis, het verkrijgen van de nodige (cartografische) kennis en bemanning en het doorwerken van smokkel- en kaapvaartervaring in de Zeeuwse risicovolle scheepvaart. Daarnaast krijgen we een beeld van het verband tussen de Amsterdamse en Zeeuwse ondernemingen richting de Stille Zuidzee, de ontwikkeling in