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# Slavery The African American Psychic Trauma

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Why We Shouldn't Call Our Ancestors Slaves  
The Female Solution  
The Psychic Hold of Slavery  
Suggestions as to the Spiritual Philosophy of African Slavery  
African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780-1900  
The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie  
Slavery and the Post-Black Imagination  
Trauma and Race  
A Companion to African American History  
Sister Citizen  
A Documentary History of Slavery in North America  
Bailey's Epitome of African American Slavery  
How to Read African American Literature  
Afro-Atlantic Flight  
Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome  
The Door of No Return  
Hearing Enslaved Voices  
The People Could Fly  
The Black Intellectual Tradition  
Slavery  
Celia, a Slave  
Black Magic  
Whispers of Cruel Wrongs  
Archetypal Grief  
Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome  
Damn Near White  
Hell Without Fires  
Slavery  
All That She Carried  
Wounds of Returning  
Trauma and Race  
Broadcasting Freedom  
Ruptured Attachment  
Slavery by Another Name  
Breaking the Curse of Willie Lynch  
My Soul: Enslaved  
Slavery at Sea  
Capitalism and Slavery  
My Soul: Enslaved  
Afropessimism

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## SAWYER BURGESS

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### Why We Shouldn't Call Our

**Ancestors Slaves** University of Georgia Press

The author offers an account of the slave ship Henrietta Marie and its role in his ancestors' history.

#### The Female Solution Latif

Communications Group Incorporated  
From Storyville brothels and narratives of turn-of-the-century New Orleans to plantation tours, Bette Davis films, Elvis memorials, Willa Cather's fiction, and the annual prison rodeo held at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Jessica Adams considers spatial and ideological evolutions of southern plantations after slavery. In *Wounds of Returning*, Adams shows that the slave past returns to inhabit plantation landscapes that have been radically transformed by tourism, consumer culture, and modern modes of punishment--even those landscapes from which slavery has supposedly been banished completely. Adams explores how the commodification of black bodies during slavery did not disappear with abolition--rather, the same principle was transformed into modern consumer capitalism. As Adams demonstrates, however, counternarratives and unexpected cultural hybrids erupt out of attempts to re-create the plantation as an uncomplicated scene of racial relationships or a signifier of national unity. Peeling back the layers of plantation landscapes, Adams reveals connections between seemingly disparate features of modern culture, suggesting that they remain haunted by the force of the unnatural equation of

people as property.

The Psychic Hold of Slavery Rutgers University Press

African American identity is racialized. And this racialized identity has animated and shaped political resistance to racism. Hidden, though, are the psychological implications of rooting identity in race, especially because American history is inseparable from the trauma of slavery. In *Trauma and Race* author Sheldon George begins with the fact that African American racial identity is shaped by factors both historical and psychical. Employing the work of Jacques Lacan, George demonstrates how slavery is a psychic event repeated through the agencies of racism and inscribed in racial identity itself. The trauma of this past confronts the psychic lack that African American racial identity both conceals and traumatically unveils for the African American subject. *Trauma and Race* investigates the vexed, ambivalent attachment of African Americans to their racial identity, exploring the ways in which such attachment is driven by traumatic, psychical urgencies that often compound or even exceed the political exigencies called forth by racism.

### **Suggestions as to the Spiritual Philosophy of African Slavery**

University of Illinois Press

In the 16th century, the beginning of African enslavement in the Americas until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment and emancipation in 1865, Africans were hunted like animals, captured, sold, tortured, and raped. They experienced the worst kind of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual abuse. Given such history, isn't it likely that many of the enslaved were severely traumatized? And did the trauma and the effects of such horrific abuse end

with the abolition of slavery? Emancipation was followed by one hundred more years of institutionalized subjugation through the enactment of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, peonage, convict leasing, domestic terrorism and lynching. Today the violations continue, and when combined with the crimes of the past, they result in yet unmeasured injury. What do repeated traumas, endured generation after generation by a people produce? What impact have these ordeals had on African Americans today? Dr. Joy DeGruy, answers these questions and more. With over thirty years of practical experience as a professional in the mental health field, Dr. DeGruy encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors through the lens of history and so gain a greater understanding of how centuries of slavery and oppression have impacted people of African descent in America. Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome helps to lay the necessary foundation to ensure the well-being and sustained health of future generations and provides a rare glimpse into the evolution of society's beliefs, feelings, attitudes and behavior concerning race in America.

*African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780-1900* Xlibris Corporation

3rd Edition- Black history, Psychology, Philosophy, African American History. Why the Africans brought to the Americas under slavery should not be call slaves. It is like an idea whose time has come. This book looks at slavery like no other. It is the paradigm shift we have been waiting for. It is the first book to dispel the stigma of slave from the identity of African Americans. This book is truly revolutionary because it goes

against the grain of how we have been educated to view the history of Africans under slavery in the Americas. Racism in America will never be healed until this error is corrected. "I first discovered this error in 1990. I was writing an article about slavery. For clarity, I went to the dictionary and looked up the word slave. That is when it hit me. The definition did not apply to the ancestors of African Americans whom we call slaves. After that, I began to look up the word slave in every dictionary I could find. I discovered that the definition had gone virtually unchanged for over one hundred years until 1993 when I first published *Why We Shouldn't Call Our Ancestors* as a 19 page pamphlet. Over time, this understanding grew from an article, to a pamphlet, to the third edition. And, still, more learning and insights are coming." For a common understanding of the word slave, this book provides a definition and history of the word slave using the *American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster (1867), *The Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, Unabridged Second Edition* (1979) *The Henry Holt Encyclopedia of WORD and Phrase Origins* (1990) and the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Edition* (2000) *word History*. To prove that the word slave is a bogus word it compares the definition from the above sources to the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence. To prove that the definition does not fit, it uses quotes from esteemed historians such as John Hope Franklin and Lerone Bennett Jr. Just as all cars are not a Cadillacs, this book will show why all forms of human servitude are not slavery. It will show that slavery was a system human servitude that was unique to all other

forms. This is important when it comes to understanding the impact that slavery has had on Black African Americans and Euro-Americans. It will show how the word slavery is being mis-applied, which causes confusion about the subject and makes the word slave more acceptable when applied to Africans who were in the system of slavery. This book will explain how and why this label has a negative effect on the esteem, self-esteem and psyche of African Americans on a conscious and subconscious level. To do that, it uses insights from Dr. Martin Luther King's speech, "The Drum Major Instinct." and other common sense examples. It will show how this belief serves as a core belief that supports racism other negative beliefs about Black African people. Next, this book will show how and why, in the context of American history, the label of slave leads Black African Americans to the most grievous error of abandonment of form. It will explain what is meant by "form" by using quotes from some of our most trusted documents and allegory. It will show why abandonment of form leads to disproportionate suffering. It will show how and why calling our ancestors slaves is a form of Blasphemy. It will explain what blasphemy is and why calling the ancestors of Black African people who were captured under slavery, slaves is a form of blasphemy. Until modern time, blasphemy was punishable by death. (Matthew 15:4) This book will strengthen our mental and spiritual connection to our ancestors and ultimately to the Creator of Man. In the end, it suggests questions about Black history that our children should be able to answer. It also suggests names that we can apply to our ancestors instead of the word slave.

### **The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie**

UNC Press Books

*Archetypal Grief: Slavery's Legacy of Intergenerational Child Loss* is a powerful exploration of the intergenerational psychological effects of child loss as experienced by women held in slavery in the Americas and of its ongoing effects in contemporary society. It presents the concept of archetypal grief in African American women: cultural trauma so deeply wounding that it spans generations. Calling on Jungian psychology as well as neuroscience and attachment theory, Fanny Brewster explores the psychological lives of enslaved women using their own narratives and those of their descendants, and discusses the stories of mothering slaves with reference to their physical and emotional experiences. The broader context of slavery and the conditions leading to the development of archetypal grief are examined, with topics including the visibility/invisibility of the African female body, the archetype of the mother, stereotypes about black women, and the significance of rites of passage. The discussion is placed in the context of contemporary America and the economic, educational, spiritual and political legacy of slavery. *Archetypal Grief* will be an important work for academics and students of Jungian and post-Jungian studies, archetypal and depth psychology, archetypal studies, feminine psychology, women's studies, the history of slavery, African American history, African diaspora studies and sociology. It will also be of interest to analytical psychologists and Jungian psychotherapists in practice and in training.

*Slavery and the Post-Black Imagination*

Joy Degruy Publications Incorporated

From acclaimed author and researcher

Dr. Joy DeGruy comes this fascinating book that explores the psychological and emotional impact on African Americans after enduring the horrific Middle Passage, over 300 years of slavery, followed by continued discrimination. From the beginning of American chattel slavery in the 1500's, until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865, Africans were hunted like animals, captured, sold, tortured, and raped. They experienced the worst kind of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual abuse. Given such history, Dr. Joy DeGruy asked the question, "Isn't it likely those enslaved were severely traumatized? Furthermore, did the trauma and the effects of such horrific abuse end with the abolition of slavery?" Emancipation was followed by another hundred years of institutionalized subjugation through the enactment of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, peonage and convict leasing, and domestic terrorism and lynching. Today the violations continue, and when combined with the crimes of the past, they result in further unmeasured injury. What do repeated traumas visited upon generation after generation of a people produce? What are the impacts of the ordeals associated with chattel slavery, and with the institutions that followed, on African Americans today? Dr. DeGruy answers these questions and more as she encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and emotions through the lens of history. By doing so, she argues they will gain a greater understanding of the impact centuries of slavery and oppression has had on African Americans. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* is an important read for all Americans, as the institution of slavery has had an impact on every race and culture. "A

masterwork. [DeGruy's] deep understanding, critical analysis, and determination to illuminate core truths are essential to addressing the long-lived devastation of slavery. Her book is the balm we need to heal ourselves and our relationships. It is a gift of wholeness."—Susan Taylor, former Editorial Director of *Essence* magazine

**Trauma and Race** UNC Press Books

What would it mean to "get over slavery"? Is such a thing possible? Is it even desirable? Should we perceive the psychic hold of slavery as a set of mental manacles that hold us back from imagining a postracist America? Or could the psychic hold of slavery be understood as a tool, helping us get a grip on the systemic racial inequalities and restricted liberties that persist in the present day? Featuring original essays from an array of established and emerging scholars in the interdisciplinary field of African American studies, *The Psychic Hold of Slavery* offers a nuanced dialogue upon these questions. With a painful awareness that our understanding of the past informs our understanding of the present—and vice versa—the contributors place slavery's historical legacies in conversation with twenty-first-century manifestations of antiblack violence, dehumanization, and social death. Through an exploration of film, drama, fiction, performance art, graphic novels, and philosophical discourse, this volume considers how artists grapple with questions of representation, as they ask whether slavery can ever be accurately depicted, trace the scars that slavery has left on a traumatized body politic, or debate how to best convey that black lives matter. *The Psychic Hold of Slavery* thus raises provocative questions about how we behold the historically distinct

event of African diasporic enslavement and how we might hold off the transhistorical force of antiblack domination.

*A Companion to African American History* Univ of South Carolina Press  
Harriet Jacobs's famous autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, includes her heartbreaking account of parting with her young daughter, Louisa, who had been taken away to the North by her white father. Here, Mary Maillard follows the thread of the Jacobs family lineage by revealing the communications of Louisa Jacobs and her close friends in more than seventy previously unidentified letters. In this annotated correspondence, new voices call out from the lost world of nineteenth-century African American women who persevered despite difficult family obligations and the racial strife that marked the post-Reconstruction era.  
*Sister Citizen* Routledge

"A psychic examination of slavery's haunting effects on the conscious of black men & women"--Cover.

*A Documentary History of Slavery in North America* FnnC Publishing  
This book focuses on alternative types of slave narratives, especially courtroom testimony, and interrogates how such narratives were produced, the societies (both those that were majority slave societies and those in which slaves were a distinct minority of the population) in which testimony was permitted, and the meanings that can be attached to such narratives. The chapters in this book provide valuable information about the everyday lives—including the inner and spiritual lives—of enslaved African American and Native American individuals in the British and French Atlantic World, from Canada to the Caribbean. It explores slave testimony as

a form of autobiographical narrative, and in ways that allow us to foreground enslaved persons' lived experience as expressed in their own words.

*Bailey's Epitome of African American Slavery* University of Missouri Press  
Documenting multiple aspects of slavery and its development in North America, this collection provides more than one hundred excerpts from personal accounts, songs, legal documents, diaries, letters, and other written sources. The book assembles a remarkable portrayal of the day-to-day connections between, and among, slaves and their owners across more than two centuries of subjugation and resistance, despair and hope. Beginning with a chronicle of the origins of slavery in the British colonies of North America, the collection traces the growth of the system to the antebellum period and includes accounts of slave revolts, auctions, slave travel and laws, and family life. Intimate as well as comprehensive, the documents reveal the individual views, goals, and lives of slaves and their masters, making this engaging work one of the most respected catalogs of firsthand information about slavery in North America.

[How to Read African American Literature](#)  
AuthorHouse

Considering the development and ongoing influence of Black thought From 1900 to the present, people of African descent living in the United States have drawn on homegrown and diasporic minds to create a Black intellectual tradition engaged with ideas on race, racial oppression, and the world. This volume presents essays on the diverse thought behind the fight for racial justice as developed by African American artists and intellectuals; performers and protest

activists; institutions and organizations; and educators and religious leaders. By including both women's and men's perspectives from the U.S. and the Diaspora, the essays explore the full landscape of the Black intellectual tradition. Throughout, contributors engage with important ideas ranging from the consideration of gender within the tradition, to intellectual products generated outside the intelligentsia, to the ongoing relationship between thought and concrete effort in the quest for liberation. Expansive in scope and interdisciplinary in practice, *The Black Intellectual Tradition* delves into the ideas that animated a people's striving for full participation in American life. Contributors: Derrick P. Alridge, Keisha N. Blain, Cornelius L. Bynum, Jeffrey Lamar Coleman, Pero Gaglo Dagbovie, Stephanie Y. Evans, Aaron David Gresson III, Claudrena N. Harold, Leonard Harris, Maurice J. Hobson, La TaSha B. Levy, Layli Maparyan, Zebulon V. Miletsky, R. Baxter Miller, Edward Onaci, Venetria K. Patton, James B. Stewart, and Nikki M. Taylor

*Afro-Atlantic Flight* HarperCollins

A Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the mistreatment of black Americans. In this 'precise and eloquent work' - as described in its Pulitzer Prize citation - Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history - an 'Age of Neoslavery' that thrived in the aftermath of the Civil War through the dawn of World War II. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude thereafter. By turns moving,

sobering and shocking, this unprecedented account reveals these stories, the companies that profited the most from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

**Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome** John Wiley & Sons

Tells how Blacks used radio

[The Door of No Return](#) Univ of California Press

The Soul of a "human-to-be", upon receiving a Spark of God's Flame, shares the vibratory likeness of: (1) Omniscience--"First Wisdom" whose Pure Intellect finds 'workable' solutions for life's worst problems; (2)-- Omnipresence-being in Cosmic "Oneness"--thus everywhere simultaneously--creating, enhancing, maintaining Harmony with all Real Creatures/Creations; and (3) Omnipotent Spiritual Power in natural Peace responses to challenges, adversities, and oppositions + achieving pertinent goals within ones Capacity, Mission, and Destiny. These three are ones fixed "Self" (i.e. Divine Consciousness), true Self-Identity, and Highest (Divinity) Self'. They creatively orchestrate ones acquired non-creative Matter parts--e.g. Sixth Sense + Ancient Brain Instincts, spontaneously expressing God's Will. Ones Genius--by seeing inner independent Qualitative things' mutual relationships and interdependence with each other and the whole-orchestrates ones Talent in fashioning ones Spiritual Elements of Unconditional Love, Truth, Reality, and the Natural for ones "ME/WE" Love Platter. This thriving nourishment for ones Happiness core, is the instinct to Love; to spread Love regardless of how it is accepted or not; to be Loved; and to be Lovable. These benefits display as Soul Sunshine

Attributes of: Accountability; Aliveness; Appreciation; Beauty; Caring; Compassion; Courage; Creativity, Curiosity; Dignity; Freedom; Gentleness; Goodness; Happiness; Honorableness, Humor; Human Perfection; Insights, Integrity, Kindness; Play; Personal Power; Responsibility; and Well-Being. Selfhood Synthesis is Harmonious Unity between what underlies a Wholistic plurality of different Attributes. To cultivate and continually pursue achievements of each Attribute for "ME/WE" Gifts is Selfhood Greatness!!! Right Life Living means ones final death occurs when one again shares the same primal Soul vibration rate with God.

### **Hearing Enslaved Voices** Latif

Communications Group

Carolyn Wilkins grew up defending her racial identity. Because of her light complexion and wavy hair, she spent years struggling to convince others that she was black. Her family's prominence set Carolyn's experiences even further apart from those of the average African American. Her father and uncle were well-known lawyers who had graduated from Harvard Law School. Another uncle had been a child prodigy and protégé of Albert Einstein. And her grandfather had been America's first black assistant secretary of labor. Carolyn's parents insisted she follow the color-conscious rituals of Chicago's elite black bourgeoisie—experiences Carolyn recalls as some of the most miserable of her entire life. Only in the company of her mischievous Aunt Marjory, a woman who refused to let the conventions of "proper" black society limit her, does Carolyn feel a true connection to her family's African American heritage. When Aunt Marjory passes away, Carolyn inherits ten bulging scrapbooks filled with family history and memories.

What she finds in these photo albums inspires her to discover the truth about her ancestors—a quest that will eventually involve years of research, thousands of miles of travel, and much soul-searching. Carolyn learns that her great-grandfather John Bird Wilkins was born into slavery and went on to become a teacher, inventor, newspaperman, renegade Baptist minister, and a bigamist who abandoned five children. And when she discovers that her grandfather J. Ernest Wilkins may have been forced to resign from his labor department post by members of the Eisenhower administration, Carolyn must confront the bittersweet fruits of her family's generations-long quest for status and approval. *Damn Near White* is an insider's portrait of an unusual American family. Readers will be drawn into Carolyn's journey as she struggles to redefine herself in light of the long-buried secrets she uncovers. Tackling issues of class, color, and caste, Wilkins reflects on the changes of African American life in U.S. history through her dedicated search to discover her family's powerful story.

### The People Could Fly Icon Books

Pope John Paul stood at this door and apologized to millions of Africans in diaspora for the role that the Catholic church played in facilitating the African slave trade. Nelson Mandela huddled in a small cell designed for the most recalcitrant slaves and emerged 20 minutes later visibly shaken. President Clinton, Hilary and Chelsea Clinton and a large delegation of the Black Caucus visited this place where the President stopped short of apologizing to African-Americans for the pain that slavery inflicted upon them. Other African-American dignitaries have journeyed to this sacred place and left scathing



indictments of anger or wrenching words of profound sorrow: Mohammed Ali, Dick Gregory, Jessie Jackson, Rev Al Sharpton, and hundreds of others. "The Door Of No Return" is the door of the slave house on Goree Island located in Senegal (west Africa) where millions of African slaves looked back to get their last glimpse of "The Motherland" before being loaded onto slave ships headed to America. They were then stacked human length to human length onto European ships and sold to the Americas and Carribean Islands to work as free laborers making the western world the great civilization that it is today. Robbed of all ancestral ties, Africans in America were treated like chattel and were housed on this small island of Goree where they were subjected to deplorable conditions and sold to America, the land of the free and the home of the brave. These African slaves were sold to one of the greatest powers of the western world which was built on the backs of the slave. These contradictions of freedom built on the backs of slaves still haunt privileged American and the heirs of the slaves whose ancestors were sacrificed to make this nation great. Misdirected anger in the African-American community has led to a surge of Black on Black crime, gang warfare, drug addiction, massive imprisonment of Africa-American males, tremendous rise in the incidence of AIDS, and infectious self loathing. It is this very sense of hopelessness and helplessness that led me to seek comfort in the arms of "Mother Africa" and in doing so I have discovered a new sense of purpose and direction. My book, "The Door of No Return", A Spiritual pilgrimage For Africans in America" is 250 pages long and it catapults the reader along with 3 African-American female physicians to Dakar, Senegal

after I am involved in a drive-by shooting. It is a fictionalized non-fiction work which uses real life characters and events some of which have been altered to protect the privacy of individuals or institutions. Starting from a small crime ridden town in California, I seek refuge with my girlfriends on this small slave island of Goree where inadvertently I claim the pain of my slave ancestors. There on this small island I am reunited with my soul when we visit the slave castle as tourists. "The Door of No Return" is steeped in African history and famous African-American quotations which are interspersed throughout the text are meant to inspire those who choose to take this pilgrimage to "The Door of No Return".

#### The Black Intellectual Tradition

University of Washington Press

DIVFrom a highly respected thinker on race, gender, and American politics, a new consideration of black women and how distorted stereotypes affect their political beliefs/div

**Slavery** Random House Trade Paperbacks

A rich portrait of Black life in South Carolina's Upstate Encyclopedic in scope, yet intimate in detail, African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780-1900, delves into the richness of community life in a setting where Black residents were relatively few, notably disadvantaged, but remarkably cohesive. W. J. Megginson shifts the conventional study of African Americans in South Carolina from the much-examined Lowcountry to a part of the state that offered a quite different existence for people of color. In Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties—occupying the state's northwest corner—he finds an independent, brave, and stable

subculture that persevered for more than a century in the face of political and economic inequities. Drawing on little-used state and county denominational records, privately held research materials, and sources available only in local repositories, Megginson brings to life African American society before,

during, and after the Civil War. Orville Vernon Burton, Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr. Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University and University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Emeritus at the University of Illinois, provides a new foreword.