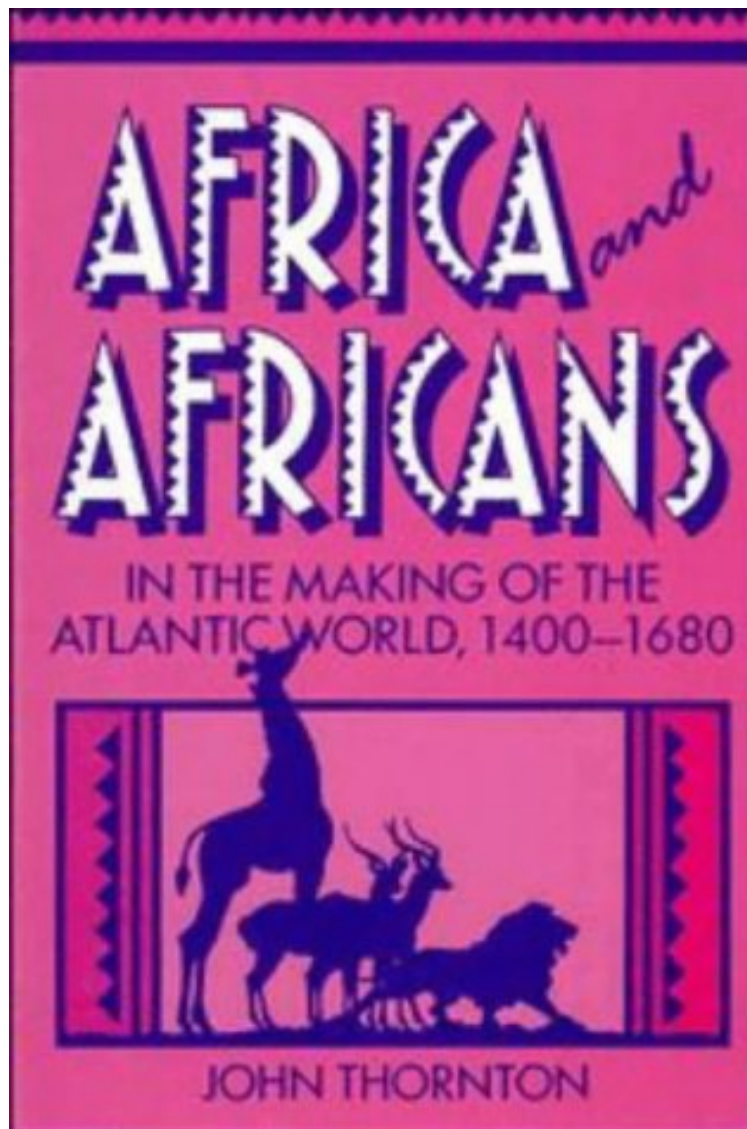


(Free pdf) Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680 (Studies in Comparative World History)

Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680 (Studies in Comparative World History)

John Thornton

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1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Africa and African in the making of the Atlantic world"By Chandra

RunnerA very educational history book. The information was very useful in my history class. I hope that John Thornton keeps up the good work and writes more books on this subject.

This book shows how important the African role was in shaping the Atlantic world that developed after the navigational breakthroughs of the fifteenth century. The degree of African initiative displayed in this period is stressed, both by African elites in dealing with the new visitors and trading partners and, even by African slaves in the New World. Evenly divided into sections on Africa and Africans in the New World, this study stresses cultural and institutional backgrounds to Africa and African slaves. Although the book is intended to help Africanists understand how Africans fared in the Americas, its main purpose is to give readers familiar with Afro-American history a fuller and more dynamic vision of Africa, so they can see the African slave as an African and not just as a laborer.

"No one has yet given a fuller account of the transit of African civilization to the New World in the first three centuries, and no one has provided a fuller theory to understand that great migration....African and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World is a work of great significance for what it accomplishes as well as for what it suggests needs to be accomplished....Thornton has created a new starting point for the study of African-American life in the Americas. John Thornton has made a signal contribution toward understanding how Africa and Africans helped to make the Atlantic world." Ira Berlin, *William and Mary Quarterly* "Thornton imaginatively underscores unities around the Atlantic and reduces the dichotomies separating continents, racial and religious groups, masters and slaves." *American Historical* "An ambitious and far-reaching reinterpretation of early modern global history, this book emphasizes the autonomous role of Africans in both Africa and the Americas through the seventeenth century. The research base of this study is impressive, building upon a variety of well-chosen original sources in six languages....this very significant, far-reaching, impressive work is essential reading for American historians. It places slavery, race relations, and culture formation in the Americas within the broad Atlantic context crucial to our understanding of these vital and very complex questions." *The Journal of American History* "Thornton's book is going to provoke extended debate about slavery and the Atlantic civilization that African slavery helped to build....This product of 20 years research in Portuguese and Spanish archives establishes the intellectual foundation for an Africanist interpretation of the history and culture of the Atlantic world. It should be in every college library." *Choice* "One of the immediate pleasures of encountering this book is its vast originality. It is not a derivative text...The book offers a flood of new insights, big and small and even microscopic...Scholars reading this work will be embarking on a journey of rediscovery of a territory they thought was familiar." Kennel A. Jackson, *Journal of World History* "...a major contribution to the study of the history of slavery and the slave trade....Thornton's analysis is probably the strongest and most articulate statement that Africa and Africans were not passive agents in a European-dominated trade." Paul E. Lovejoy, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* "Drawing on information from an array of primary and secondary sources, Thornton arrives at several conclusions that reflect the main thrust of contemporary slave studies. He also provides an impressive analysis of the rise, operation, and maintenance of slavery in West Africa." Patrick Carroll, *Latin American Research*