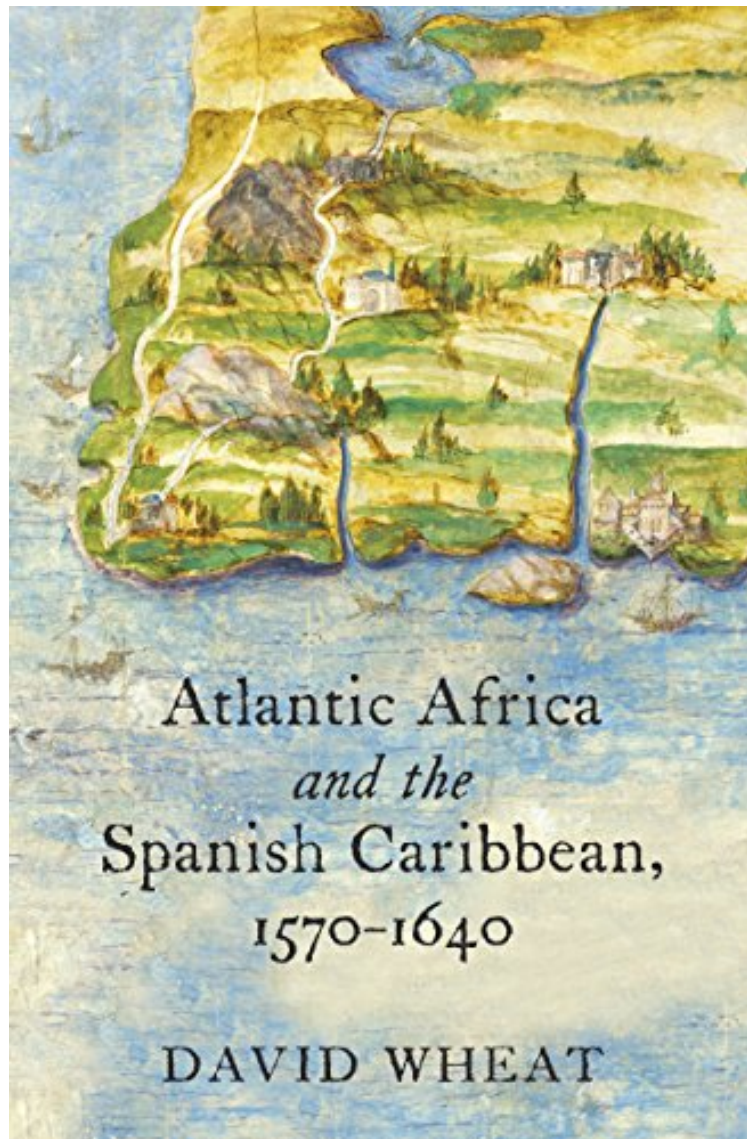


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## **Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press)**

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**David Wheat : Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press)**

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640* (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating book. By TSThis book could also be called *Atlantic Africa and the African Caribbean* because it describes the lives of the Africans who made up 70%-80% of the population of *Tierra Firme*. Very good information about the ethnic composition of the palenques in Panama. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerA truly scholarly work...makes newly found history come alive. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Phillip R. WheatGreat read for any history buff. Should be required reading for college-level students of history and political science.

This work resituates the Spanish Caribbean as an extension of the Luso-African Atlantic world from the late sixteenth to the mid-seventeenth century, when the union of the Spanish and Portuguese crowns facilitated a surge in the transatlantic slave trade. After the catastrophic decline of Amerindian populations on the islands, two major African provenance zones, first Upper Guinea and then Angola, contributed forced migrant populations with distinct experiences to the Caribbean. They played a dynamic role in the social formation of early Spanish colonial society in the fortified port cities of Cartagena de Indias, Havana, Santo Domingo, and Panama City and their semirural hinterlands. David Wheat is the first scholar to establish this early phase of the "Africanization" of the Spanish Caribbean two centuries before the rise of large-scale sugar plantations. With African migrants and their descendants comprising demographic majorities in core areas of Spanish settlement, Luso-Africans, Afro-Iberians, Latinized Africans, and free people of color acted more as colonists or settlers than as plantation slaves. These ethnically mixed and economically diversified societies constituted a region of overlapping Iberian and African worlds, while they made possible Spain's colonization of the Caribbean.

Expertly and imaginatively transcends the conventional parameters not just of 'Latin American' and of 'Atlantic' history but also of the conceptual conventions of studying 'slavery' itself, as such. Do not miss it.--Slavery AbolitionWheat's innovative and deeply-researched book contributes to a growing body of work aimed at re-conceptualizing the Atlantic World and the roles of African people within it.--AlmanackElegantly written and thoughtfully constructed. . . . Scholars interested in the early Spanish Caribbean and the Atlantic world will need to rethink how the two regions were interconnected and how free and unfree Africans created social and economic niches for themselves in their new environments.--Hispanic American Historical [A] unique view into the archives and into a key but only partially understood early colonial period in this region [that] will interest both scholars of Iberian colonization and imperialism and students learning how to trace western Africa's influence on the Spanish Caribbean.--The AmericasBecause Wheat's capacity to tell such nuanced and new stories is so meticulously buttressed by his sources that it leaves readers wanting him to go even further. . . . A vital contribution to the fields of Black/African history, Caribbean history, and early modern history more broadly.-- s in American HistoryExtremely well documented and tightly argued. . . . A signal contribution that should reframe scholarly debates about slavery in the Caribbean for some time to come.--H-Net s[An] exceptional study that explains a misunderstood period in the early history of post-contact colonies in the Spanish Caribbean. Highly recommended.--Choice Wheat makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the Atlantic slave trade and the experiences of Africans and African-descended peoples in the Caribbean. The work underscores the continuing importance of the Spanish Caribbean in the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and suggests that the 'Africanization' of the Caribbean began well before the rise of sugar economies in British, French, and Dutch colonies.--Ida Altman, University of FloridaDavid Wheat's *Atlantic Africa* boldly rewrites the early history of the Spanish Caribbean, demonstrating how Africans and their descendants became Spain's 'surrogate colonists' in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Exhaustively researched, this book reveals the indelible imprint of various groups of Africans on the history of the Spanish Caribbean.--James H. Sweet, University of Wisconsin-MadisonBrilliantly researched and elegantly written, Wheat's study of the centrality of slavery and Africans in the pre-sugar Caribbean challenges much of what we think we know about the early Caribbean, New World slavery, and the early Spanish empire. This is a must-read book for students of Atlantic, African diaspora, and colonial Latin American history.--Ada Ferrer, New York UniversityAbout the AuthorDavid Wheat is assistant professor of history at Michigan State University.