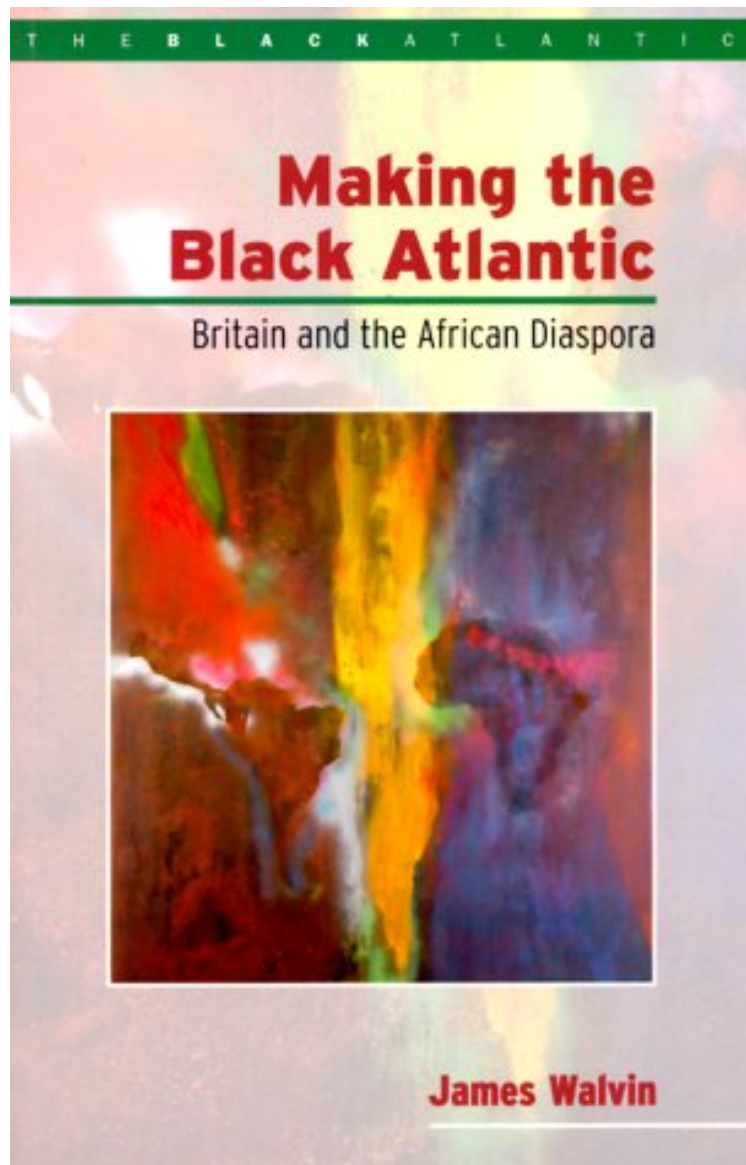


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## Making the Black Atlantic: Britain and the African Diaspora

*James Walvin*

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4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent survey of recent researchBy Damon JaspersonWalvin's book is an excellent summary of the most recent round of scholarship concerning the British end of the Atlantic slave trade. The book is short and to the point, but is very readable and laced with anecdotes. Walvin moves Africans to

center stage as players in the drama equal in importance to the Europeans. Walvin's book would be an excellent choice for an undergraduate text or for someone just wanting to understand what the Atlantic slave trade was all about. Scholars will be familiar with most of the material that Walvin reports, but may find a few unfamiliar odds and ends. All in all, highly recommended.

The British role in the shaping and direction of the African diaspora was central, since the British carried more Africans across the Atlantic than any other nation, and British colonial settlements absorbed vast numbers of Africans. The crops produced by those slaves helped to lay the foundations for western material well-being, and their associated cultural habits helped to shape key areas of western sociability which survive to the present day. The shadow of slavery lingered long after the institution itself had died, and this racism survived into the 20th century, reinforced and periodically reinvented by powerful cultural forces - commercialism, schooling, popular journalism and a host of visual images. Recently the story of migration has been marked by a wave of migration, since 1945, from the former slave colonies and other parts of the empire to Britain, with long-reaching consequences for British domestic life. This book presents the story of the African exile, its origins, its progress and its transformation from bondage to freedom.

"...uneeringly precise and clear....No scholar could have approached this work with a firmer grasp of the African diaspora." -- Albion  
About the Author James Walvin is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of York, UK.