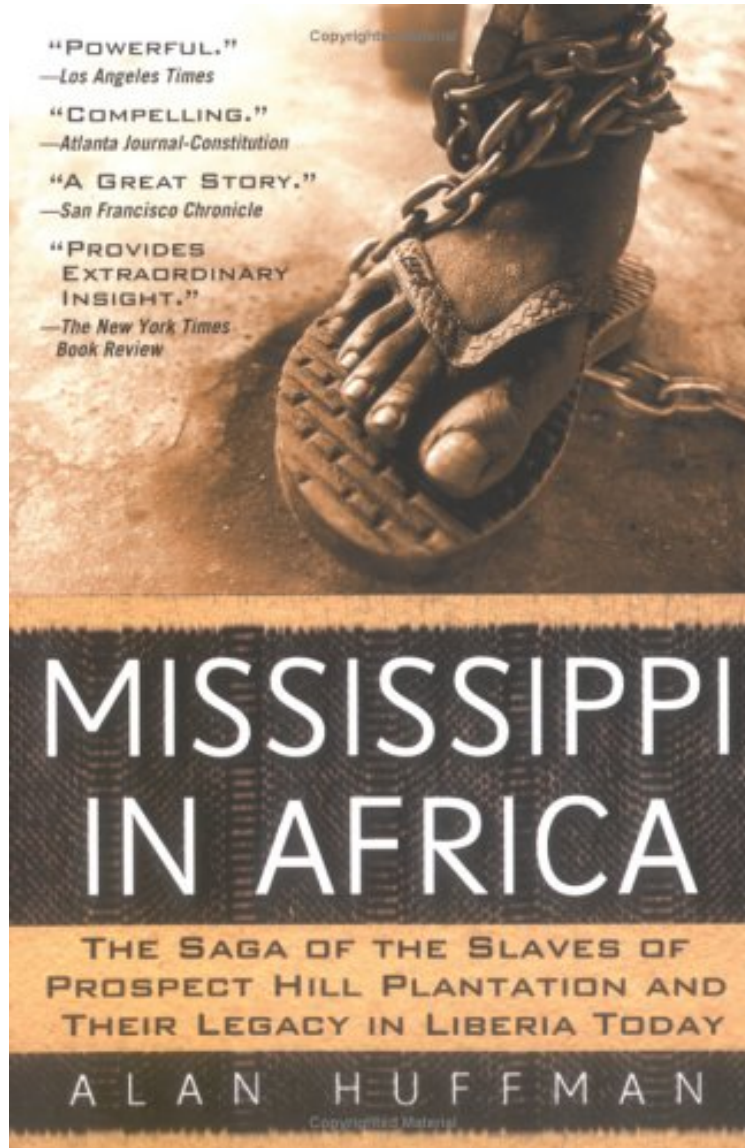


Mississippi in Africa

Alan Huffman

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The gripping story of two hundred freed Mississippi slaves who sailed to Liberia to build a new colonywhere the colonists repression of the native tribes would beget a tragic cycle of violence When a wealthy Mississippi cotton planter named Isaac Ross died in 1836, his will decreed that his plantation, Prospect Hill, should be liquidated and the proceeds from the sale be used to pay for his slaves passage to the newly established colony of Liberia in western Africa. Rosss heirs contested the will for more than a decade in the state courts and legislatureprompting a deadly revolt in which a group of slaves burned Rosss mansion to the groundbut the will was ultimately upheld. The slaves then emigrated to their new home, where they battled the local tribes and built vast plantations with Greek Revivalstyle mansions in a region the Americo- Africans renamed "Mississippi in Africa." The seeds of resentment sown over a century of cultural conflict between the colonists and tribal peoples exploded in the late twentieth century, begetting a civil war that rages in Liberia to this day. Tracking down Prospect Hills living descendants, deciphering a history ruled by rumor, and delivering the complete chronicle in riveting prose, journalist Alan Huffman has rescued a lost chapter of American history whose aftermath is far from over.

Huffman is a patient, confident storyteller who lingers over the details until they come to life -- The Boston GlobeMoving . . . Vividly illuminates that old American conflicts still matter very much indeed. -- Los Angeles TimesProvides extraordinary insight in the matter of race in the modern world. -- New York Times Book About the AuthorA former staff writer for the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, Alan Huffman has written for numerous publications, including the Los Angeles Times, The Atlanta Journal- Constitution, Outside, and The Oxford American.