Chapter 2 analyzes the economic, demographic, and geographical factors that influenced slavery, slave-trading and efforts to achieve abolition in the nineteenth century Indian Ocean World. It examines the forms of unfree and indentured labor in the region, offering reasons for their emergence. In the nineteenth century, the region became an economic macro-region, functioning as a part of the burgeoning world economy. Yet, indigenous markets flourished, affecting labor demand and existing systems of servitude. The chapter argues that these slave systems are better analyzed as hierarchies of dependence. Exploring the history of the maritime slave trade, it argues that the number of slaves traded may have exceeded the 10 to 12 million landed in the Americas. It closes by pointing out that the story in the Indian Ocean World is not just about East Africa, emphasizing the importance of indentured labor and debt bondage in that story.

This chapter discusses the different features of slavery. It discusses the persistence of slavery in the twenty-first century, hereditary debt bondage in India, and the consequences of botched emancipation as seen in the United States after the Civil War and in postapartheid South Africa.
Africa. The chapter reviews the work of investigators who are drawing attention to the dark corners of contemporary slavery, considers the question of why governments are not doing more to combat slavery, and looks at the economic costs and benefits of slavery and freedom.

Moralizing Credit
Kenneth Dyson

in States, Debt, and Power: 'Saints' and 'Sinners' in European History and Integration

Published in print: 2014 Published Online: August 2014
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Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the different discourses of ‘bad’ debt and ‘good’ debt in the history of political economy, in normative political theory, and in imaginative literature. Examples include David Hume, Adam Smith, Thomas Jefferson, Lorenz von Stein, and Adolph Wagner in political economy; Aristotle and Friedrich Nietzsche in philosophy; and Honoré de Balzac, Anton Chekhov, Charles Dickens, Benito Pérez Galdós, Thomas Mann, and William Shakespeare in imaginative literature. The chapter also looks at the insights that anthropology, historical sociology, and linguistic analysis offer into the genesis of discourses about ‘bad’ and ‘good’ debt, including its association with guilt and notions of debt bondage and odious debt. It also examines the concept of prudence from Aristotle onwards, concluding with an analysis of the impacts of cyberfinance and of Keynesian thinking.

Child slavery now
Gary Craig (ed.)

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: March 2012
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Item type: book

Most slave trades were abolished during the nineteenth century, yet there remain millions of people in slavery today, amongst them approximately 210 million children in slavery, trafficked, debt bondage, and other forms of forced labour. This book, drawing on experience worldwide, focuses on child slavery and shows how children remain locked in slavery, the ways in which they are exploited, and how they can be emancipated. It examines child labour, child trafficking, and child exploitation in various countries such as Nepal, Turkey, Uganda, South and Southeast Asia, India, Central America, and the United Kingdom.
Child slavery today
Joost Kooijmans and Hans van de Glind
in Child slavery now: A contemporary reader

This chapter examines the quantitative dimensions of child slavery. It reviews the scope of childhood slavery as encompassing forced labour, child trafficking (for forced labour or sexual exploitation), debt bondage, serfdom, children forced into armed conflict, children forced into sexual slavery, and children forced into a range of illicit activities. The chapter also assesses the current state of political and policy response, pointing to the need for clear enforceable legal frameworks, effective use of supervisory mechanisms by agencies such as the International Labour Organisation, better and more targeted research, and wider mobilisation of the public at large, businesses, trade unions, and others.

To Owe Is Not to Own
Jane R. Zavisca
in Housing the New Russia

This chapter examines why Russians oppose mortgage subsidies for young families and mortgage loans in general. Low demand for mortgages is striking given high unmet demand for housing. More than half of urban Russians age twenty-one to thirty-five were living with extended family in 2009. This chapter analyzes the lack of consumer demand for mortgages as a critical factor that undermined the emergence of the mortgage market in Russia. It first considers the cultural dimension of the transplant effect by focusing on the culture that proponents of housing markets, American style, tried to transplant. It then discusses Russians' deep aversion to mortgages, which is evident in the primary metaphor that Russians use to describe them: kabala, or “debt bondage.” It also explores the conceptual distinction between ownership and possession, along with the avoidance of mortgages in the context of crisis.
‘Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised’. So reads the legal definition of slavery agreed by the League of Nations in 1926. Further enshrined in law during international negotiations in 1956 and 1998, this definition has been interpreted in different ways by the international courts in the intervening years. What can be considered slavery? Should forced labour be considered slavery? Debt-bondage? Child soldiering? Or forced marriage? This book explores the limits of how slavery is understood in law. It shows how the definition of slavery in law and the contemporary understanding of slavery has continually evolved and continues to be contentious. It traces the evolution of concepts of slavery, from Roman law through the Middle Ages, the 18th and 19th centuries, up to the modern day manifestations, including manifestations of forced labour and trafficking in persons, and considers how the 1926 definition can distinguish slavery from lesser servitudes. The book includes a set of guidelines intended to clarify the law where slavery is concerned.

Haliya and kamaiya bonded child labourers in Nepal

Birendra Raj Giri

In Nepal, there are between 300,000 and two million bonded labourers under the so-called haliya and kamaiya systems. A bonded-labour system has existed for hundreds of years in Nepal, where children are used by parents to pay off debts incurred to landlords by offering their own children's labour to the landlords. While away from their home, children – particularly girls – are open to a variety of forms of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, and struggle to maintain their work responsibilities alongside their desire to stay in education and improve their lot. Again, laws exist in Nepal to ban this system of kamaiya, yet the forms of child abuse are so extensive that they fall within the International Labour Organisation's definition of the worst forms of child labour. What had
been an adult form of debt bondage has shifted, as a result of pressures of poverty, into a system based now as much on children as adults, with the political system turning a blind eye to the practice.

Child slavery in South and South East Asia
Cecilia Flores Oebanda

in Child slavery now: A contemporary reader
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Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses child slavery in South Asia and South East Asia, focusing on the Philippines. It examines structural factors driving the existence of child slavery, and shows that child slavery is facilitated not by a lack of legislation – laws banning child labour do exist in the Philippines, for example – but by weak political will and, in many instances, poor governance or ineffectual implementation by those charged with acting on anti-slavery laws and policies. The chapter notes that internal migration and migration to other countries – the Philippines being a prominent exporter of labour – are of such a scale that child labour is seen as an almost ‘normal’ process; with agents willing to manipulate, deceive, and coerce young people, tens of thousands find themselves in situations of debt bondage or being sexually exploited (or both). It looks at the initiatives of the Visayan Forum Foundation to fight for the rights of child domestic workers in the Philippines.

Madeleine
Sue Peabody

in Madeleine's Children: Family, Freedom, Secrets, and Lies in France's Indian Ocean Colonies
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Item type: chapter

During Furcy’s lawsuit more than half a century after the fact, two receipts were offered as proof that his mother, Madeleine, had been sold as a child slave by Portuguese traders in the French trading center at Chandernagor in Bengal, India, in the 1760s. Although these receipts may be forgeries, they offer plausible details consistent with the prevalence of children in the Indian Ocean slave trade in the eighteenth century. Frequent famines caused parents to pawn their children into
debt bondage. European traders took slaves, including kidnapped children, from the Indian subcontinent to overseas colonies, thus separating families permanently. Madeleine’s mistress, Anne Despense de la Loge, was an unusual single French woman living in Chandernagor, who may have been part of an informal religious community.

Human Bondage
Berta Esperanza Hernández-Truyol and Stephen Joseph Powell

in Just Trade: A New Covenant Linking Trade and Human Rights

This chapter examines the trade in persons, also known as human trafficking, and the way that trade rules have promoted it as a modern form of slavery. It first considers trafficking within the human rights and international trade frameworks and goes on to discuss how globalization has contributed to the increase in trafficking. It then describes the reality of trafficking worldwide and cites debt bondage as a common contemporary example of involuntary servitude. It also explores the trafficking of children, women, and girls as well as trafficking in countries of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The realities and ubiquities of trafficking in Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States are analyzed.

Faulkner’s Stores: Microfinance and Economic Power in the Postbellum South
David A. Davis

in Faulkner and Money

After the Civil War, stores played a crucial role in the redevelopment of the South’s economy. Landowner-merchants used crop liens, loans against the value of a crop, as contracts to bind laborers to the land through debt and dependency. The landowner-merchants provided food, seeds, fertilizer, and all of the other items necessary to live and raise a crop for a season, but they charged exorbitant interest on the items, and the cost of the charges was deducted from the value of their share of the crop. Faulkner depicts the stores as a system of coercive microfinance in several of his novels. In Absalom, Absalom, Thomas Sutpen opens
a store when he returns from the war to rebuild his plantation. In The Hamlet, Flem Snopes uses Jody Varner's store as the vehicle for his social mobility, and in The Sound and the Fury, Jason Compson works in a store while investing in the cotton commodities market.

Introduction

John Wareing

in Indentured Migration and the Servant Trade from London to America, 1618-1718: 'There is Great Want of Servants'

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The indentured servant trade was organized and effective, but had considerable ambiguities in its operation, and a general failure to control its abuses until 1718. It was characterized by two conflicting narratives, of ambition and enterprise on the one hand, and abuse and criminality on the other. Its role in the study of bound labour has been as a preface to slavery, but it has a wider significance as the migration that prefaced the British Empire. This study is founded on the records of indentured servants, the records of the London and Middlesex courts, and contemporary legislation and commentaries on the trade that present an important social narrative. Its primary focus is on the centre of the trade in London, with reference to the ports of Bristol and Liverpool.