

# edmund morgan american slavery americandom

Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, Americandom: Unraveling the Complex Tapestry of America's Past

edmund morgan american slavery americandom is a phrase that summons a rich and complex discussion about one of the most significant and troubling aspects of American history. Edmund Morgan, a renowned historian, profoundly shaped our understanding of American slavery and its role in shaping the early American identity—what some might call “Americandom.” His scholarship helps us navigate the moral, social, and political intricacies that defined slavery in the colonial and early United States, influencing how we interpret the nation's founding ideals versus its realities.

## Who Was Edmund Morgan and Why Does He Matter?

Edmund S. Morgan was a distinguished historian whose work focused on early American history, especially the colonial era and the institution of slavery. His research illuminated how slavery was not merely a peripheral issue but a central force in shaping American society and governance. Morgan's insights challenge simplistic narratives, emphasizing the contradictions between the professed ideals of freedom and equality and the entrenched system of racial slavery.

## The Historian's Lens on American Slavery

Morgan's approach combined rigorous archival research with a nuanced understanding of social dynamics. He showed that slavery was deeply intertwined with the political and economic foundations of the United States. For example, in his seminal work, *American Slavery, American Freedom*, he argued that the establishment of slavery in Virginia was crucial to the rise of white landowning democracy. This paradox—that liberty for white colonists was built on the enslavement of African

people—is a cornerstone of Morgan’s interpretation.

## **Understanding Americandom Through the Lens of Slavery**

The term “Americandom” captures the unique cultural and political identity that emerged in the Americas, particularly in what would become the United States. Edmund Morgan’s scholarship helps us see how slavery was not just an economic system but a defining feature of this identity.

### **Slavery’s Role in Shaping Early American Identity**

In colonial America, the social hierarchy was rigid, and race played a central role in defining one’s status. Morgan pointed out that the legal codification of racial slavery created a stark division between white settlers and African slaves. This division was instrumental in fostering a sense of unity and identity among white colonists, who found common cause in their status as free people, distinct from enslaved Africans.

### **Liberty and Slavery: A Contradiction at the Heart of Americandom**

This contradiction—freedom for some and bondage for others—is a theme Morgan explored deeply. He argued that the rhetoric of liberty in American political thought was often intertwined with the justification of slavery. The concept of “freedom” in the colonial period was racially exclusive, and understanding this helps explain the complexities of American political development.

## **Key Themes in Edmund Morgan’s Interpretation of American**

# Slavery

Morgan's work highlights several critical themes that continue to resonate in contemporary discussions about race, history, and identity.

## The Economic Foundations of Slavery

Morgan emphasized that slavery was not merely a social institution but a vital economic engine. The cultivation of tobacco, cotton, and other cash crops depended heavily on enslaved labor. This economic dependence made slavery an entrenched system, resistant to abolitionist pressures for decades.

## The Social and Political Impact

Slavery shaped social relations and political structures. Morgan explained how laws were enacted to reinforce racial divisions and protect the interests of white slaveholders. These laws not only controlled enslaved people but also defined the rights and privileges of free whites, further embedding racial inequality into the fabric of Americandom.

## The Psychological and Cultural Dimensions

Beyond economics and politics, Morgan's work sheds light on the cultural and psychological impacts of slavery. He explored how the institution affected the identities and worldviews of both enslaved Africans and white settlers, influencing attitudes toward race, power, and community.

# Why Edmund Morgan's Work Remains Relevant Today

Understanding Morgan's perspective on American slavery and Americandom is crucial for grappling with the legacies of race and inequality in the United States.

## Informing Contemporary Debates on Race

Morgan's insights provide historical context for ongoing discussions about systemic racism, social justice, and reparations. Recognizing how slavery shaped American identity helps explain persistent racial disparities and tensions.

## Encouraging a Nuanced View of History

Morgan's balanced approach encourages readers to confront uncomfortable truths without oversimplification. His work invites us to appreciate the complexities of history, acknowledging both the ideals and the contradictions that define the American experience.

## Educational Impact and Legacy

Morgan's books and essays continue to be widely used in academic settings, shaping how new generations learn about early American history and slavery. His scholarship serves as a foundation for further research and dialogue about the nation's past.

## Exploring Further: Recommended Readings and Resources

For those interested in delving deeper into the themes Edmund Morgan explored, here are some valuable resources:

- **American Slavery, American Freedom** by Edmund S. Morgan – The seminal work that first presented many of Morgan's groundbreaking ideas.
- **Slave Counterpoint** by Philip D. Morgan – A complementary study on slavery in the Chesapeake and Lowcountry regions.
- **The Half Has Never Been Told** by Edward E. Baptist – A modern account of slavery's economic impact in the United States.
- **Race and Reunion** by David W. Blight – An analysis of how slavery's legacy influenced post-Civil War America.

## Reflecting on the Complex Legacy of Americandom

Engaging with Edmund Morgan's scholarship on American slavery opens a window into the foundational contradictions of what it means to be American. The story of Americandom is one marked by profound ideals and deep injustices intertwined. By understanding this history with empathy and rigor, we gain a clearer view of the challenges and opportunities that continue to shape the nation's identity today.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is Edmund Morgan and what is his significance in the study of American slavery?**

Edmund Morgan was a prominent American historian known for his influential works on early American history, including the complex dynamics of American slavery. His scholarship helped to elucidate the social and racial foundations of slavery in colonial America.

### **What is the main argument of Edmund Morgan's work on American slavery?**

Morgan argued that American slavery was not just an economic system but also a social and ideological institution that shaped racial identities and social hierarchies in colonial America, linking the development of slavery to the preservation of white social status.

### **How does Edmund Morgan explain the relationship between American slavery and the concept of freedom?**

Morgan explored the paradox of American slavery, highlighting how the system of enslavement coexisted with ideas of liberty and freedom, particularly for white colonists, who maintained their freedom by denying it to enslaved Africans.

### **What role does Edmund Morgan attribute to slavery in the formation of American identity?**

Morgan contended that slavery was integral to the formation of American identity, as it created a racial caste system that helped unify white settlers and foster a distinct social and political order in the emerging American society.

## How has Edmund Morgan's analysis influenced contemporary discussions on American slavery and race?

Morgan's analysis has profoundly influenced contemporary discussions by providing a nuanced understanding of the origins and implications of slavery in America, emphasizing its foundational role in shaping racial attitudes and social structures that persist today.

## Additional Resources

Edmund Morgan and the Complex Legacy of American Slavery: An Analytical Perspective

edmund morgan american slavery americandom represents a critical intersection in the study of early American history, particularly the intricate and often painful history of slavery in the United States. Edmund S. Morgan, a preeminent historian of colonial America, profoundly influenced the scholarly understanding of American slavery through his meticulous research and nuanced interpretations. His work sheds light on how slavery was not only a social and economic institution but also a foundational element shaping the emerging American identity, or "Americandom," as it relates to the collective historical consciousness of the nation.

## Edmund Morgan's Contribution to American Slavery Studies

Edmund Morgan's scholarship is widely regarded as pivotal in re-examining the origins and evolution of slavery in colonial America. His approach combined a rigorous examination of historical documents with a deep understanding of the social and political contexts that allowed slavery to become entrenched. His 1975 book, *American Slavery, American Freedom*, stands as a landmark text in the field, exploring the paradoxical coexistence of liberty and bondage in early America.

Morgan argued that the development of slavery was intricately linked to the rise of American freedom for white colonists. This juxtaposition—freedom for some and slavery for others—helped shape the

social hierarchy that defined Americandom in its formative years. By portraying slavery as a system that was not merely about economics but also about race, power, and identity, Morgan's work challenged earlier historiographies that either downplayed or simplified the institution's complexity.

## **The Paradox of Freedom and Slavery**

One of Morgan's most profound insights is the paradox inherent in the coexistence of slavery and liberty in colonial America. He posited that the emergence of a free white society was, in part, made possible by the systematic enslavement of Africans. This created a social order that privileged white colonists, enabling them to assert political and personal freedom while simultaneously denying those same rights to enslaved Africans.

This duality is central to understanding "Americandom" — the collective identity and values that early Americans developed. The freedom celebrated in American revolutionary rhetoric was built on a foundation where racialized slavery was normalized and institutionalized. Morgan's work prompts contemporary readers to grapple with the contradictions at the heart of American history.

## **The Historical Context of Slavery in Colonial America**

Understanding Edmund Morgan's interpretation requires placing American slavery within its broader historical framework. Slavery in the American colonies evolved over the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, influenced by economic demands, labor shortages, and racial ideologies imported from Europe and Africa.

## **From Indentured Servitude to Racialized Slavery**

Initially, the labor system in English colonies relied heavily on indentured servitude, where European

immigrants worked for a set number of years in exchange for passage to America. However, as economic conditions changed and the demand for labor grew—especially in tobacco and later cotton plantations—the colonies increasingly turned to African slaves.

Morgan emphasized that this transition was not inevitable but was shaped by political decisions and racial attitudes that codified slavery as a lifelong, hereditary condition based on race. The institutionalization of slavery transformed social relations and solidified a racial caste system that defined Americandom for centuries.

## **The Role of Race and Law**

Morgan's analysis also highlights the role of legal frameworks in entrenching slavery. Colonial laws began to distinguish between white indentured servants and African slaves, restricting freedoms and codifying racial differences. These laws not only regulated labor but also served to justify and perpetuate racial inequality.

The legal codification of slavery contributed to a racial ideology that permeated American society, influencing attitudes and policies well beyond the colonial period. Morgan's scholarship reveals how these early legal distinctions laid the groundwork for systemic racism in the United States.

## **Impact and Legacy of Edmund Morgan's Work**

Edmund Morgan's exploration of American slavery has had a lasting impact on both academic scholarship and public understanding. His balanced and critical approach has encouraged historians to examine slavery not as an isolated institution but as a fundamental aspect of American development.

## Shaping Modern Historiography

Morgan's work helped shift the historiographical landscape by integrating the study of slavery into the broader narrative of American history. Prior to his contributions, slavery was often treated as a peripheral or morally condemned chapter. Morgan insisted on its centrality to understanding the origins of American political and social structures.

This shift has influenced subsequent generations of scholars who continue to explore the complexities of race, freedom, and identity in American history. His methodological rigor and nuanced interpretation serve as a model for historical inquiry.

## Relevance to Contemporary Discussions on Race and Identity

The themes explored by Morgan resonate strongly in contemporary debates about race, social justice, and national identity. By confronting the contradictions of freedom and enslavement in early America, Morgan's work challenges modern Americandom to acknowledge and address the enduring legacies of slavery.

His scholarship invites ongoing reflection on how historical narratives shape collective memory and influence present-day policies and attitudes towards race and equality.

## Key Features of Edmund Morgan's Analysis

- **Interconnection of Freedom and Slavery:** Morgan's analysis foregrounds the paradox that liberty for white colonists was inherently linked to the enslavement of African people.
- **Role of Race in Social Hierarchy:** He emphasized the racialization of slavery as a mechanism for

maintaining social order and white supremacy.

- **Legal and Economic Foundations:** Morgan detailed how laws and economic interests institutionalized slavery and racial inequality.
- **Historical Nuance:** His work avoids oversimplification, presenting slavery as a complex and evolving institution.

## Comparative Perspectives

Morgan's approach can be contrasted with earlier historians who either minimized slavery's importance or portrayed it solely as an economic necessity. For example:

1. **E. Franklin Frazier:** Focused more on the sociological aspects of African American life but less on colonial origins.
2. **Ulrich Bonnell Phillips:** Emphasized economic factors but downplayed the cruelty and racial dimensions.
3. **Morgan's Distinction:** Balanced economic, legal, social, and ideological factors to provide a comprehensive view.

This comprehensive methodology has made Morgan's work a foundational text for students and scholars of American history.

The continuing relevance of Edmund Morgan's insights into American slavery and the shaping of

Americandom underscores the importance of critical historical scholarship in understanding national identity. His work remains a vital resource for anyone seeking to comprehend the complexities behind the nation's founding paradoxes and their enduring impact on society.

## **Edmund Morgan American Slavery Americandom**

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**edmund morgan american slavery americandom:** *Founding Mothers & Fathers* Mary Beth Norton, 2011-08-03 Much like *A Midwife's Tale* and *The Unredeemed Captive*, this novel is about power relationships in early American society, religion, and politics--with insights into the initial development and operation of government, the maintenance of social order, and the experiences of individual men and women.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom:** *Children Bound to Labor* Ruth Wallis Herndon, John E. Murray, 2011-02-23 The history of early America cannot be told without considering unfree labor. At the center of this history are African and Native American adults forced into slavery; the children born to these unfree persons usually inherited their parents' status. Immigrant indentured servants, many of whom were young people, are widely recognized as part of early American society. Less familiar is the idea of free children being taken from the homes where they were born and put into bondage. As *Children Bound to Labor* makes clear, pauper apprenticeship was an important source of labor in early America. The economic, social, and political development of the colonies and then the states cannot be told properly without taking them into account. Binding out pauper apprentices was a widespread practice throughout the colonies from Massachusetts to South Carolina--poor, illegitimate, orphaned, abandoned, or abused children were raised to adulthood in a legal condition of indentured servitude. Most of these children were without resources and often without advocates. Local officials undertook the responsibility for putting such children in family situations where the child was expected to work, while the master provided education and basic living needs. The authors of *Children Bound to Labor* show the various ways in which pauper apprentices were important to the economic, social, and political structure of early America, and how the practice shaped such key relations as master-servant, parent-child, and family-state in the young republic. In considering the practice in English, Dutch, and French communities in North America from the mid-seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, *Children Bound to Labor* even suggests that this widespread practice was notable as a positive means of maintaining social stability and encouraging economic development.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom:** *The Invention of the White Race, Volume 2* Theodore W. Allen, 2014-04-29 On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, Martin Luther King outlined a dream of an America where people would not be judged by the color of their skin. That dream has yet to be realized, but some three centuries ago it was a reality. Back then, neither social practice nor law recognized any special privileges in connection with being white. But by the early decades of the eighteenth century, that had all changed. Racial oppression became the norm in the plantation colonies, and African Americans suffered under its yoke for more than two hundred years.

In Volume II of *The Invention of the White Race*, Theodore Allen explores the transformation that turned African bond-laborers into slaves and segregated them from their fellow proletarians of European origin. In response to labor unrest, where solidarities were not determined by skin color, the plantation bourgeoisie sought to construct a buffer of poor whites, whose new racial identity would protect them from the enslavement visited upon African Americans. This was the invention of the white race, an act of cruel ingenuity that haunts America to this day. Allen's acclaimed study has become indispensable in debates on the origins of racial oppression in America. In this updated edition, scholar Jeffrey B. Perry provides a new introduction, a select bibliography and a study guide.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: The Shaping of American Ethnography** Barry Alan Joyce, 2001-01-01 In August of 1838 the United States Exploring Expedition set sail from Norfolk Navy Yard with six ships and more than seven hundred crewmen, including technicians and scientists. Over the course of four years the expedition made stops on the east and west coasts of South America; visited Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, and Tahiti; discovered the Antarctic land mass; and explored the Fiji Islands, Tonga, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Pacific Coast of North America. In *The Shaping of American Ethnography* Barry Alan Joyce illuminates the process by which the Americans on the expedition filtered their observations of the indigenous peoples they encountered through the lens of their peculiar constructions of savagery as shaped by the American experience. The native peoples were classified according to the prevailing American perceptions of Native Americans as wild and African American slaves as docile. The use of physical characteristics such as skin color as a classificatory tool was subordinated to the perceived image of the prototypical savage. Joyce argues that the nineteenth-century explorers shared the attributes that characterize the discipline of anthropology in any age—a reliance on synthetic systems that are period- and culture-dependent. By applying American images of savagery to world cultures, American scientists and explorers of this period helped construct the foundation for an American racial weltanschauung that contributed to the implementation of manifest destiny and laid the ideological foundations for American expansion and imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: Almost Chosen People** Michael Zuckerman, 1993-04-15 Few historians are bold enough to go after America's sacred cows in their very own pastures. But Michael Zuckerman is no ordinary historian, and this collection of his essays is no ordinary book. In his effort to remake the meaning of the American tradition, Zuckerman takes the entire sweep of American history for his province. The essays in this collection, including two never before published and a new autobiographical introduction, range from early New England settlements to the hallowed corridors of modern Washington. Among his subjects are Puritans and Southern gentry, Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Spock, P. T. Barnum and Ronald Reagan. Collecting scammers and scoundrels, racists and rebels, as well as the purest genius, he writes to capture the unadorned American character. Recognized for his energy, eloquence, and iconoclasm, Zuckerman is known for provoking—and sometimes almost seducing—historians into rethinking their most cherished assumptions about the American past. Now his many fans, and readers of every persuasion, can newly appreciate the distinctive talents of one of America's most powerful social critics.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: Daily Life of U.S. Soldiers** Christopher R. Mortenson, Paul J. Springer, 2019-06-14 This ground-breaking work explores the lives of average soldiers from the American Revolution through the 21st-century conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. What was life really like for U.S. soldiers during America's wars? Were they conscripted or did they volunteer? What did they eat, wear, believe, think, and do for fun? Most important, how did they deal with the rigors of combat and coming home? This comprehensive book will answer all of those questions and much more, with separate chapters on the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II in Europe, World War II in the Pacific, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Afghanistan War and War on Terror, and the Iraq War. Each chapter

includes such topical sections as Conscription and Volunteers, Training, Religion, Pop Culture, Weaponry, Combat, Special Forces, Prisoners of War, Homefront, and Veteran Issues. This work also examines the role of minorities and women in each conflict as well as delves into the disciplinary problems in the military, including alcoholism, drugs, crimes, and desertion. Selected primary sources, bibliographies, and timelines complement the topical sections of each chapter.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: Robert E. Lee** Allen C. Guelzo, 2022-08-09  
A WALL STREET JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR • From the award-winning historian and best-selling author of Gettysburg comes the definitive biography of Robert E. Lee. An intimate look at the Confederate general in all his complexity—his hypocrisy and courage, his inner turmoil and outward calm, his disloyalty and his honor. An important contribution to reconciling the myths with the facts. —New York Times Book Review Robert E. Lee is one of the most confounding figures in American history. Lee betrayed his nation in order to defend his home state and uphold the slave system he claimed to oppose. He was a traitor to the country he swore to serve as an Army officer, and yet he was admired even by his enemies for his composure and leadership. He considered slavery immoral, but benefited from inherited slaves and fought to defend the institution. And behind his genteel demeanor and perfectionism lurked the insecurities of a man haunted by the legacy of a father who stained the family name by declaring bankruptcy and who disappeared when Robert was just six years old. In *Robert E. Lee*, the award-winning historian Allen Guelzo has written the definitive biography of the general, following him from his refined upbringing in Virginia high society, to his long career in the U.S. Army, his agonized decision to side with Virginia when it seceded from the Union, and his leadership during the Civil War. Above all, Guelzo captures Robert E. Lee in all his complexity—his hypocrisy and courage, his outward calm and inner turmoil, his honor and his disloyalty.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: Hannah Arendt and the Negro Question** Kathryn T. Gines, 2014-03-28 A systemic analysis of anti-Black racism in the work of political philosopher Hannah Arendt. While acknowledging Hannah Arendt's keen philosophical and political insights, Kathryn T. Gines claims that there are some problematic assertions and oversights regarding Arendt's treatment of the "Negro question." Gines focuses on Arendt's reaction to the desegregation of Little Rock schools, to laws making mixed marriages illegal, and to the growing civil rights movement in the south. Reading them alongside Arendt's writings on revolution, the human condition, violence, and responses to the Eichmann war crimes trial, Gines provides a systematic analysis of anti-black racism in Arendt's work. "Hannah Arendt: political progressive and committed anti-racist theorist? Think again. As Kathryn Gines makes inescapably clear, for Arendt the "Negro" was the problem, whether in the form of savage "primitives" inseparable from Heart-of-Darkness Africa, social climbers trying to get their kids into white schools, or unqualified black university students dragging down academic standards. [Gines's] boldly revisionist text reassesses the German thinker's categories and frameworks." —Charles W. Mills, Northwestern University "Takes on a major thinker, Hannah Arendt, on an important issue—race and racism—and challenges her on specific points while raising philosophical and methodological shortcomings." —Richard King, Nottingham University "Gines carefully moves through Arendt scholarship and Arendt's texts to argue persuasively that explicit discussions of the "Negro question" point up the limitations of her thinking." —Kelly Oliver, Vanderbilt University "Gines has delivered an intellectually challenging book, that presents one of the most important figures in Western philosophy of the 2nd half of the 20th century in a different and, perhaps, somewhat less favorable perspective." —Philosophia "Offers a wealth of research that will be valuable to scholars and graduate students interested in how racial bias operates in Arendt's major works. Gines's writing style is lucid and to the point, and her engagement with secondary sources is comprehensive." —Hypatia

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism: The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature** Russ Castronovo, 2012-01-12 How do we approach the rich field of nineteenth-century American literature? How might we recalibrate the coordinates of

critical vision and open up new areas of investigation? To answer such questions, this volume brings together 23 original essays written by leading scholars in American literary studies. By examining specific novels, poems, essays, diaries and other literary examples, the authors confront head-on the implications, scope, and scale of their analysis. The chapters foreground methodological concerns to assess the challenges of transnational perspectives, disability studies, environmental criticism, affect studies, gender analysis, and other cutting-edge approaches. The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature is thus both critically incisive and sharply practical, inviting attention to how readers read, how critics critique, and how interpreters interpret. It offers forceful strategies for rethinking protest novels, women's writing, urban literature, slave narratives, and popular fiction, just to name a few of the wide array of topics and genres covered. This volume, rather than surveying established ideas in studies of nineteenth-century American literature, registers what is happening now and anticipates what will shape the field's future.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: The Politics of Belonging** Natalie Masuoka, Jane Junn, 2022-12-22 The United States is once again experiencing a major influx of immigrants. Questions about who should be admitted and what benefits should be afforded to new members of the polity are among the most divisive and controversial contemporary political issues. Using an impressive array of evidence from national surveys, *The Politics of Belonging* illuminates patterns of public opinion on immigration and explains why Americans hold the attitudes they do. Rather than simply characterizing Americans as either nativist or nonnativist, this book argues that controversies over immigration policy are best understood as questions over political membership and belonging to the nation. The relationship between citizenship, race, and immigration drive the politics of belonging in the United States and represents a dynamism central to understanding patterns of contemporary public opinion on immigration policy. Beginning with a historical analysis, this book documents why this is the case by tracing the development of immigration and naturalization law, institutional practices, and the formation of the American racial hierarchy. Then, through a comparative analysis of public opinion among white, black, Latino, and Asian Americans, it identifies and tests the critical moderating role of racial categorization and group identity on variation in public opinion on immigration.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: *Health in the City*** Tanya Hart, 2015-05-01 Shortly after the dawn of the twentieth century, the New York City Department of Health decided to address what it perceived as the racial nature of health. It delivered heavily racialized care in different neighborhoods throughout the city: syphilis treatment among African Americans, tuberculosis for Italian Americans, and so on. It was a challenging and ambitious program, dangerous for the providers, and troublingly reductive for the patients. Nevertheless, poor and working-class African American, British West Indian, and Southern Italian women all received some of the nation's best health care during this period. *Health in the City* challenges traditional ideas of early twentieth-century urban black health care by showing a program that was simultaneously racialized and cutting-edge. It reveals that even the most well-meaning public health programs may inadvertently reinforce perceptions of inferiority that they were created to fix.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: *Under the Cope of Heaven : Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America*** Patricia U. Bonomi Professor of History New York University (Emerita), 2003-07-10 In this pathbreaking study, Patricia Bonomi argues that religion was as instrumental as either politics or the economy in shaping early American life and values. Looking at the middle and southern colonies as well as at Puritan New England, Bonomi finds an abundance of religious vitality through the colonial years among clergy and churchgoers of diverse religious background. The book also explores the tightening relationship between religion and politics and illuminates the vital role religion played in the American Revolution. A perennial backlist title first published in 1986, this updated edition includes a new preface on research in the field on African Americans, Indians, women, the Great Awakening, and Atlantic history and how these impact her interpretations.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: *From Here to Equality, Second Edition***

William A. Darity Jr., Andrea Kirsten Mullen, 2022-07-27 Racism and discrimination have choked economic opportunity for African Americans at nearly every turn. At several historic moments, the trajectory of racial inequality could have been altered dramatically. But neither Reconstruction nor the New Deal nor the civil rights struggle led to an economically just and fair nation. Today, systematic inequality persists in the form of housing discrimination, unequal education, police brutality, mass incarceration, employment discrimination, and massive wealth and opportunity gaps. Economic data indicates that for every dollar the average white household holds in wealth the average black household possesses a mere ten cents. This compelling and sharply argued book addresses economic injustices head-on and make the most comprehensive case to date for economic reparations for U.S. descendants of slavery. Using innovative methods that link monetary values to historical wrongs, William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen assess the literal and figurative costs of justice denied in the 155 years since the end of the Civil War and offer a detailed roadmap for an effective reparations program, including a substantial payment to each documented U.S. black descendant of slavery. This new edition features a new foreword addressing the latest developments on the local, state, and federal level and considering current prospects for a comprehensive reparations program.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: Citizen Bachelors** John Gilbert McCurdy, 2011-03-15 In 1755 Benjamin Franklin observed a man without a wife is but half a man and since then historians have taken Franklin at his word. In Citizen Bachelors, John Gilbert McCurdy demonstrates that Franklin's comment was only one side of a much larger conversation. Early Americans vigorously debated the status of unmarried men and this debate was instrumental in the creation of American citizenship. In a sweeping examination of the bachelor in early America, McCurdy fleshes out a largely unexamined aspect of the history of gender. Single men were instrumental to the settlement of the United States and for most of the seventeenth century their presence was not particularly problematic. However, as the colonies matured, Americans began to worry about those who stood outside the family. Lawmakers began to limit the freedoms of single men with laws requiring bachelors to pay higher taxes and face harsher penalties for crimes than married men, while moralists began to decry the sexual immorality of unmarried men. But many resisted these new tactics, including single men who reveled in their hedonistic reputations by delighting in sexual horseplay without marital consequences. At the time of the Revolution, these conflicting views were confronted head-on. As the incipient American state needed men to stand at the forefront of the fight for independence, the bachelor came to be seen as possessing just the sort of political, social, and economic agency associated with citizenship in a democratic society. When the war was won, these men demanded an end to their unequal treatment, sometimes grudgingly, and the citizen bachelor was welcomed into American society. Drawing on sources as varied as laws, diaries, political manifestos, and newspapers, McCurdy shows that in the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the bachelor was a simultaneously suspicious and desirable figure: suspicious because he was not tethered to family and household obligations yet desirable because he was free to study, devote himself to political office, and fight and die in battle. He suggests that this dichotomy remains with us to this day and thus it is in early America that we find the origins of the modern-day identity of the bachelor as a symbol of masculine independence. McCurdy also observes that by extending citizenship to bachelors, the founders affirmed their commitment to individual freedom, a commitment that has subsequently come to define the very essence of American citizenship.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: Inside Out, Inside In** R. Gregg, 1999-09-20 Inside Out, Outside In takes familiar historical narratives and provides alternative readings for them. It endeavours to expand the parameters of comparative history by focusing on the economic, social, political and historiographical connections among societies, and by observing these intertwined histories from different vantage points. Iconoclastic, provocative, even quirky, Inside Out, Outside In takes us beyond culture and society into the imperial webs of association found inside and outside the discipline of history.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism:** The Long Road Home Debra Thompson, 2022-09-06 INSTANT BESTSELLER FINALIST FOR THE HILARY WESTON WRITERS' TRUST PRIZE FOR NONFICTION From a leading scholar on the politics of race comes a work of family history, memoir, and insight gained from a unique journey across the continent, on what it is to be Black in North America. When Debra Thompson moved to the United States in 2010, she felt like she was returning to the land of her ancestors, those who had escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. But her decade-long journey across Canada and the US transformed her relationship to both countries, and to the very idea of home. In *The Long Road Home*, Thompson follows the roots of Black identities in North America and the routes taken by those who have crisscrossed the world's longest undefended border in search of freedom and belonging. She begins in Shrewsbury, Ontario, one of the termini of the Underground Railroad and the place where members of her own family found freedom. More than a century later, Thompson still feels the echoes and intergenerational trauma of North American slavery. She was often the Only One—the only Black person in so many white spaces—in a country that perpetuates the national mythology of multiculturalism. Then she revisits her four American homes, each of which reveals something peculiar about the relationship between American racism and democracy: Boston, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the American Revolution; Athens, Ohio, where the white working class and the white liberal meet; Chicago, Illinois, the great Black metropolis; and Eugene, Oregon, the western frontier. She then moves across the border and settles in Montreal, a unique city with a long history of transnational Black activism, but one that does not easily accept the unfamiliar and the foreign into the fold. *The Long Road Home* is a moving personal story and a vital examination of the nuances of racism in the United States and Canada. Above all, it is about the power of freedom and the dreams that link and inspire Black people across borders from the perspective of one who has deep ties to, critiques of, and hope for both countries.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism:** Michael Paul Rogin Alyson Cole, George Shulman, 2019-02-18 Michael Paul Rogin's scholarship profoundly altered the scope, content, and disposition of political theory. He reconstituted the field by opening it to an array of texts, performances, and methods previously considered beyond the purview of the discipline. His work addressed the relationship between dimensions of politics typically split apart – institutional power and cultural forms, material interests and symbolic meanings, class projects and identity politics, the public and the private. Rogin's scholarship enlarges our sense of the borders and genres defining political theory as a field and enriches our capacity to think critically and creatively about the political. The editors have focused on three categories of substantive innovation: Demonology and Countersubversion Rogin used the concepts "countersubversive tradition" and "political demonology" to theorize how constitutive exclusions and charged images of otherness generated imagined national community. He exposed not only the dynamics of suppressing and delegitimizing political opposition, but also how politics itself is devalued and displaced. *The Psychic Life of Liberal Society* Rogin addressed the essential contradiction in liberalism as both an ideology and a regime – how a polity professing equality, liberty, and pluralist toleration engages in genocide, slavery, and imperial war. *Political Mediation: Institutions and Culture* Rogin demonstrated how cultural forms – pervasive myths, literary and cinematic works – mediate political life, and how political institutions mediate cultural energies and aspirations.

**edmund morgan american slavery americanism:** The Family in America Joseph M. Hawes, Elizabeth F. Shores, 2002-05-22 An incisive, multidisciplinary look at the American family over the past 200 years, written by respected scholars and researchers. *Family in America* offers two powerful antidotes to popular misconceptions about American family life: historical perspective and scientific objectivity. When we look back at our early history, we discover that the idealized 1950s family—characterized by a rising birthrate, a stable divorce rate, and a declining age of marriage—was a historical aberration, out of line with long-term historical trends. Working mothers, we learn, are not a 20th century invention; most families throughout American history have needed more than one breadwinner. In the exciting new scholarship described here, readers will learn

precisely what is new in American family life and what is not, and acquire the perspective they need to appreciate both the genuine improvements and the losses that come with change.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: *The Klansman's Son*** R. Derek Black, 2024-05-14 From the former heir-apparent to white nationalism, *The Klansman's Son* is an astonishing memoir of a childhood built on fear, of breaking from a community of hate. When coded language and creeping authoritarianism spread the ideas of white nationalists, this is an essential book with a powerful voice. Derek Black was raised to take over the white nationalist movement in the United States. Their father, Don Black, was a former Grand Wizard in the Ku Klux Klan and started Stormfront, the internet's first white supremacist website—Derek built the kids' page. David Duke, was also their close family friend and mentor. Racist hatred, though often wrapped up in respectability, was all Derek knew. Then, while in college in 2013, Derek publicly renounced white nationalism and apologized for their actions and the suffering that they had caused. The majority of their family stopped speaking to them, and they disappeared into academia, convinced that they had done so much harm that there was no place for them in public life. But in 2016, as they watched the rise of Donald Trump, they immediately recognized what they were hearing—the spread and mainstreaming of the hate they had helped cultivate—and they knew that they couldn't stay silent. This is a thoughtful, insightful, and moving account of a singular life, with important lessons for our troubled times. Derek can trace a uniquely insider account of the rise of white nationalism, and how a child indoctrinated with hate can become an anti-racist adult. Few understand the ideology, motivations, or tactics of the white nationalist movement like Derek, and few have ever made so profound a change.

**edmund morgan american slavery americandom: *A Companion to Colonial America*** Daniel Vickers, 2008-04-15 *A Companion to Colonial America* consists of twenty-three original essays by expert historians on the key issues and topics in American colonial history. Each essay surveys the scholarship and prevailing interpretations in these key areas, discussing the differing arguments and assessing their merits. Coverage includes politics, religion, migration, gender, ecology, and many others.

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