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BOOK NEWS

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Disease, Resistance, and Lies

New Book Explores the Role of Disease and Resistance in the Suppression of Slave Traffic to Brazil and Cuba

Baton Rouge— In the early nineteenth century the major economic players of the Atlantic trade lanes—the United States, Brazil, and Cuba—witnessed explosive commercial growth. As a result of an increased population and concurrent economic expansion, the United States widened its trade relationship with Cuba and Brazil, importing half of Brazil’s coffee exports and 82 percent of Cuba’s total exports by 1877. In *Disease, Resistance, and Lies: The Demise of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to Brazil and Cuba*, **Dale Graden** examines the impact of these burgeoning markets on the Atlantic slave trade between these countries and engages several important historiographic debates, including the extent to which U.S. merchants and capital facilitated the slave trade to Brazil and Cuba, the role of infectious disease in ending the trade to those countries, and the effect of slave revolts in helping to bring the transatlantic slave trade to an end.

Graden situates the transatlantic slave trade within the expanding and rapidly changing international economy of the first half of the nineteenth century, offering a fresh analysis of the “Southern Triangle Trade” that linked Cuba, Brazil, and Africa. *Disease, Resistance, and Lies* challenges more conservative interpretations of the waning decades of the transatlantic slave trade by arguing that the threats of infectious disease and slave resistance both influenced policymakers to suppress slave traffic to Brazil and Cuba and also made American merchants increasingly unwilling to risk their capital in the transport of slaves.

Dale T. Graden is professor of history at the University of Idaho and the author of *From Slavery to Freedom in Brazil: Bahia, 1835–1900*.

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