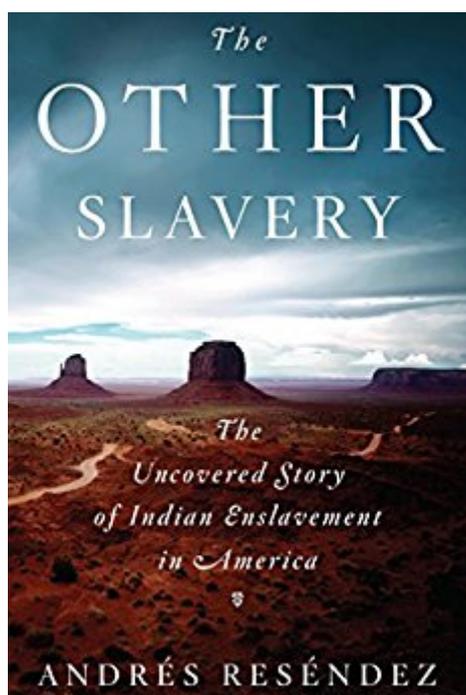


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# The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story Of Indian Enslavement In America



## Synopsis

A landmark history of the sweeping story of the enslavement of tens of thousands of Indians across America, from the time of the conquistadors up to the early 20th century. Since the time of Columbus, Indian slavery was illegal in much of the American continent. Yet, as Andrés Bello Reséndez illuminates in his myth-shattering *The Other Slavery*, it was practiced for centuries as an open secret. There was no abolitionist movement to protect the tens of thousands of natives who were kidnapped and enslaved by the conquistadors, then forced to descend into the mouth of hell of eighteenth-century silver mines or, later, made to serve as domestics for Mormon settlers and rich Anglos. Reséndez builds the incisive case that it was mass slavery, more than epidemics, that decimated Indian populations across North America. New evidence, including testimonies of courageous priests, rapacious merchants, Indian captives, and Anglo colonists, sheds light too on Indian enslavement of other Indians as what started as a European business passed into the hands of indigenous operators and spread like wildfire across vast tracts of the American Southwest. *The Other Slavery* reveals nothing less than a key missing piece of American history. For over two centuries we have fought over, abolished, and tried to come to grips with African-American slavery. It is time for the West to confront an entirely separate, equally devastating enslavement we have long failed truly to see.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The story of the Americas is a rich one. However, there is a vast difference between what the majority of us are taught in schools and the reality. America, be it the United States, Mexico, Central and South America or the Caribbean Islands were all built on slavery. The idea of slavery conjures up images of Africans forcibly and horrifically taken from their homelands in Africa and imported to be forced labor here. What is not discussed is that there were long before the import of the first African slaves to the Americas, and very long after they were emancipated, the slavery of Indigenous Peoples of various Indian Nations for the longest time. This book, from the introduction onward, is a detailed and heart-wrenching account that "Indian slavery never went away, but rather coexisted with African slavery from the sixteenth all the way through to the late nineteenth century." While we really can't compare and contrast the number of African slaves (some 12.5 million) to the estimated numbers of Indian slaves (between 2.5 to 5 million), the stain and the horror was no less. Even with the addition of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments that essentially abolished slavery in the United States, the wording made it possible to continue the enslavement of Indians through the whole of the nineteenth century and in some areas into more remote areas in the early portion of the twentieth century. The language contained within those two Amendments, according to Resendez, was made to focus more on slaves of African descent and left out those who were Indians. It allowed Indian slavery to be a well kept secret, but something that still went on.

Sixty-two years after the U.S. Supreme Court declared desegregation illegal, parts of our nation are still coming to grips with the essential inhumanity of black slavery and the silent creeping prejudice that remains. With "The Other Slavery," Andrés Resendez summons our attention to an equally shameful heritage America shares with other nations in the "New World," the four-century-long enslavement and servitude of Indians. Enslavement of these two very different groups existed side by side for three centuries, but as Resendez points out, the very legality of African slavery made it quite visible even as it was occurring and today in the historical record. By contrast, he writes, Indian slavery was largely illegal and "its victims toiled, quite literally, in dark corners and behind locked doors." Thus, these people were robbed of their freedom while they lived, and denied general acknowledgment of their suffering after they died. Resendez estimates

that 2.5 million to 5 million Indians were taken into slavery in the New World. Of these, he believes that 147,000 to 340,000 were from North America, excluding Mexico. (He posits that Indian enslavement in Mexico and Central America comprised an additional 590,000 to 1.4 million people.) I gravitated to the section of the book in which Res ndez addresses slavery and servitude after the end of the Civil War and found it both clearly substantiated and heartbreaking. The scale and scope were devastating, as were the uneven Federal attempts to eradicate it. Here, as throughout the book, Res ndez's notes provide amplification and names of resources students/readers can seek out for further information.

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