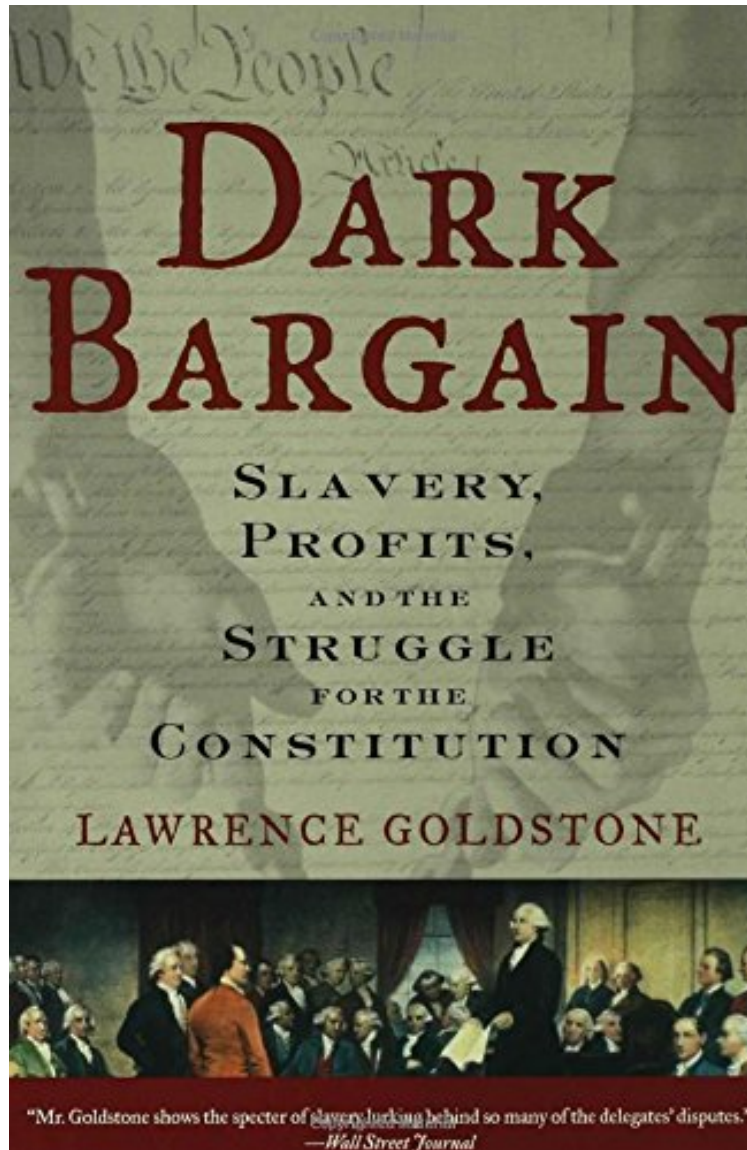


(Free) Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution

Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution

Lawrence Goldstone

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Lawrence Goldstone : Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution:

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you for the polite business. The book, is what we need to know now. We are equal all of humans.. I hope the government people should read this. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Enlightening! By Jim Altfeld I had no idea how much slavery impacted the creation of the Constitution and what the founding fathers battled through to produce the document that became the foundation for America. I also confess I never knew that rice, not tobacco, was the primary product produced in South Carolina at the time and why slaves were so necessary. Goldstone gets an A+ and a gold star for both having thoroughly done his homework and for explaining things as they happened while keeping opinion out of it. He allowed me to draw my own conclusions. What made this book exceptional is the background information he provided on each of the founding fathers he zeroed in on. Should you be looking for an unbiased, non-revisionist explanation of the challenges and difficulties these men faced in creating the Constitution, this is an excellent read. And if you are anything like me, I suggest you keep a paper and pencil handy, because you will find yourself taking a lot of notes and looking things up for yourself. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Slavery- Front and Center at the Constitutional Convention By George J. Heidemark "Regardless of how events played out, sectionalism and slavery are key to understanding the major debates and compromises in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787." This short quote sums up the basic thesis of Lawrence Goldstone in his fine volume entitled *Dark Bargain- Slavery, Profits and the Struggle for the Constitution*. This is the conclusion of most serious scholars currently working on the topic of the Constitutional Convention. Goldstone examines the central role slavery played in the Constitution with a focus on how the founders agreed on counting people for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives. In this context he deals with the infamous 3/5's compromise. He also deals with the importation of slaves as it pertained to the Constitution. In his study he mainly focuses on 4 founders and their positions on slavery before and during the construction of the Constitution. (Oliver Ellsworth, Roger Sherman, John Rutledge and George Mason) His final conclusion that slave owner John Rutledge had more of a lasting impact on the Constitution than James Madison is provocative. Because his main focus is slavery, Goldstone deals with the large state versus small state arguments and the central government versus states rights controversy through the prism of the particular institution and although this is interesting not all debates revolved around one single issue. He also paints Ben Franklin as something of an out of it cipher which is a little harsh. His ultimate conclusion is that the founders were not so much political philosophers as they were pragmatic individuals with their own agendas and their gift to us is a document that was workable and capable of being adapted to various challenges, but that document was deeply influenced by a horrible practice.

Lawrence Goldstone throws new light on the framing of the U. S. Constitution in this intriguing chronicle of the Constitutional debates, bringing to life the remarkable range of personalities and rivalries that forged the foundation of our country. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 is generally viewed as dominated by the likes of Madison, Mason, Gouverneur Morris, and a few others; in fact, as Goldstone shows, relative unknowns like Rutledge, Ellsworth, and Sherman took over the debate and forged its eventual outcome. He also reveals how the debate over slavery was not split along North-South lines.

From Publishers Weekly This superficial account advances the unoriginal thesis that "sectionalism and slavery are key to understanding" the Constitutional Convention. Goldstone (*The Friar and the Cipher*) recreates the convention, focusing in particular on four delegates: George Mason, a Virginia planter who ultimately refused to sign the Constitution; John Rutledge, a South Carolina lawyer and statesman; Oliver Ellsworth, a dour Connecticut attorney turned judge; and Roger Sherman, a Massachusetts native transplanted to Connecticut, who had risen from cobbler and almanac maker to respected politician. Sherman was the architect of the so-called Connecticut Compromise, which included the plan that states' representation in the House, but not the Senate, would be based on population. Goldstone rehearses the genesis of the three-fifths compromise (that for purposes of taxation and legislative apportionment, slaves would count as 3/5 of a person), the debate over the office of the president and the other key convention controversies. On the whole, Goldstone tells us nothing new. He insists that the framers were acting out of self-interest, not principle; an argument first advanced, with much more nuance, by the great historian Charles Beard in 1913. In short, this is the type of thin and derivative book that gives "popular history" a bad name. 30 bw illus. not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In the nineteenth century, as the debate over slavery intensified, one wag asserted that the institution was the "sleeping serpent" under the table at the Constitutional Convention; that is, most delegates, while of course aware of the institution, regarded it as of marginal importance in their deliberations. Most nineteenth-century scholars supported that view. Goldstone convincingly maintains that the issue of slavery was actually a fundamental and divisive concern for the delegates. As recent economic studies have confirmed, slavery played an integral role in the northern as well as southern economies. Although debates over federal power and the status of trans-Appalachian territories were important, Goldstone shows that slavery was the issue that evoked the most intense passions and was the most resistant to compromise. He effectively uses primary sources, including James Madison's notes and the records of debates within individual states' ratification conventions; but he places the spoken and written words of

participants within the context of their cultural and economic milieu. This is a well-argued contribution to our evolving understanding of the role of slavery in our nation's origins. Jay Freeman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "[A] thoughtful new study of the framing of the Constitution and of the compromise over the role of slavery in the composition of the new government." --Philadelphia Inquirer "Mr. Goldstone shows the specter of slavery lurking behind so many of the delegates' disputes. He describes the lengths to which these wily debaters would go to make their motives sound nobler than they were and the men themselves freer of the racism of their day than in fact they were. And the delegates were imperfect soothsayers: Some of the key assumptions that persuaded them to insist on the three-fifths clause proved incorrect. The method of apportionment played no role in taxation, for instance, since Congress never did vote to impose a direct tax on the states. Of course, had the delegates known that the nation would later erupt in a ghastly civil war over slavery, they might have acted differently, too."--Wall Street Journal