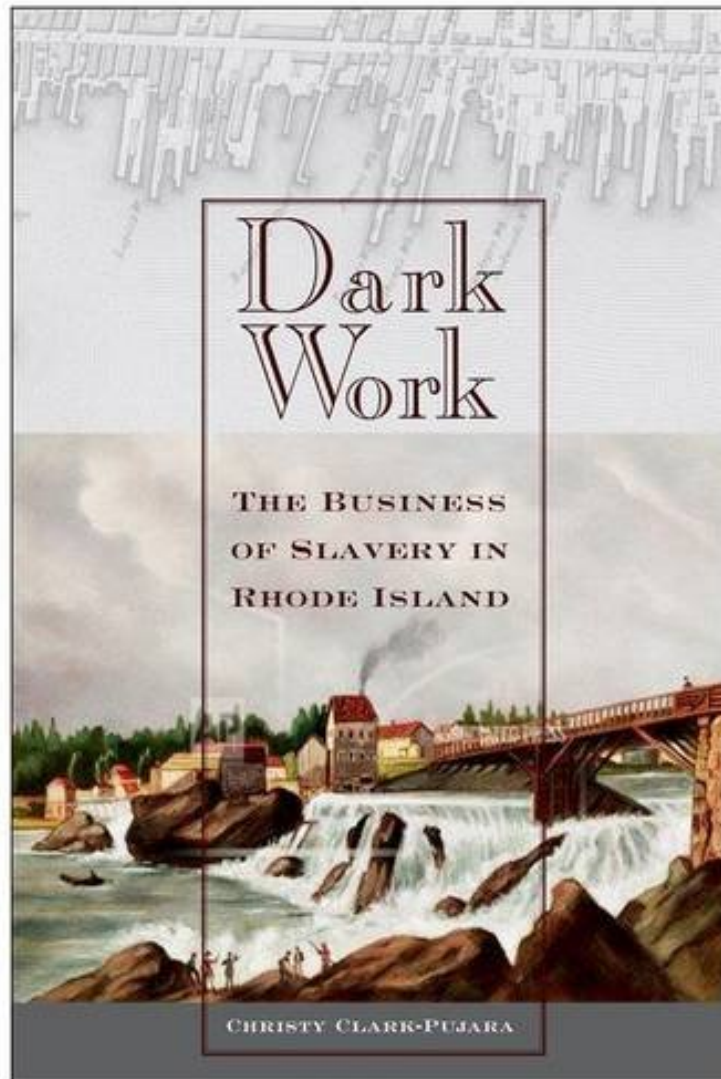


(Free and download) Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island (Early American Places)

Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island (Early American Places)

Christy Clark-Pujara

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Christy Clark-Pujara : Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island (Early American Places) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island (Early American Places):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent examination of my home state's role in the slave

...By Chris Moore This is an excellent examination of my home state's role in the slave trade and business of sustaining slavery. It has many insights I haven't seen in other RI histories, and is well worth reading for anyone interested in RI or NE history, in the history of slavery north and south, and especially in the history of people of color in the North. As a Rhode Islander who likes history I'm very grateful for this fine book.

Historians have written expansively about the slave economy and its vital role in early American economic life. In *Dark Work*, Christy Clark-Pujara tells the story of one state in particular whose role was outsized: Rhode Island. Like their northern neighbors, Rhode Islanders bought and sold slaves and supplies that sustained plantations throughout the Americas; however, nowhere else was this business so important. During the colonial period trade with West Indian planters provided Rhode Islanders with molasses, the key ingredient for their number one export: rum. More than 60 percent of all the slave ships that left North America left from Rhode Island. During the antebellum period Rhode Islanders were the leading producers of "negro cloth," a coarse wool-cotton material made especially for enslaved blacks in the American South.

"It is well-known that Rhode Island's mercantile and manufacturing economies served the larger Atlantic plantation complex, but Clark-Pujara asks an important new question: how did the black freedom struggle unfold in a place materially invested and implicated in the expansion of human bondage across in the Americas? Clark-Pujara reconstructs the lives and livelihoods of black Rhode Islanders, for whom the violence of enslavement, the prospects of emancipation, and the limits of freedom unfolded in accordance with the demands for food in the Caribbean, for slaves in the Carolinas, and for clothing in Louisiana." -Seth Rockman, Brown University "This superb work should be read by anyone interested in early American race relations or New England history." -Choice "This timely and innovative study of of slavery and African American life in Rhode Island reveals the simultaneous development of slavery and capitalism in the Age of Revolution. Especially eye-opening are the sagas of white Rhode Island families profiting from the Atlantic slave trade and internal commerce after the American Revolution. Countering the financial power of local powers of slavery were the continued struggles, fully explored through the Civil War by Christy Clark-Pujara, by African Americans to create community and expand their civil rights." -Graham Russell Gao Hodges, George Dorland Langdon, Jr. Professor of History and Africana Studies, Colgate University About the Author Christy Clark-Pujara is Associate Professor of History in the Afro-American Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin—Madison.