

(Free and download) Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South

Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South

Michael A. Gomez

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Michael A. Gomez : **Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and the individual chapters in the latter half are mostly pretty good (of special interest) By Ai This was okay? It felt really disjointed in parts and sometimes was hard to follow, but I do think this makes a really important intervention in terms of tracing shifts in identity and identity formation, and the individual chapters in the latter half are mostly pretty good (of special interest: the chapter on language and the chapter on Islam among enslaved African-born folks were both really interesting and cool!) Ultimately I didn't love this, but I do think it does important work. (I'm not an African historian, for the record, which I think really impacted my reading of it, because so much of it was so new. Also the 'conclusion' chapter was absolutely WILD.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Black History Book Ever By Artsyzeal One of the most important and thoroughly written books on black history with regards to slavery that I've ever read. Answers a lot of questions I've held for most of my life...questions I've had about where exactly do we come from and what was it like to negotiate culture, language and religion amongst ourselves as slaves from the moment of sale or capture through placements in the Americas. Extremely enlightening book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. African American Ethnic Identity Formation in the United States Persuasively Explicated By Nyasha Exchanging Our Country Marks is a must read for anyone who has ever asked, and sincerely wanted an answer to the question, "Who, exactly, are the African Americans?" This is the book that I have been missing in my studies of African American ethnic/racial identity, and I am just now finding it, more than 10 years after its publication. Among the many illuminating points, an understanding of how race became the primary means by which an emerging ethnic collectivity self-identified was one of the greatest gems gifted. After reading this book, you will come to understand that one simply cannot rightly talk about African American ethnic identity without talking about Black racial identity. Many scholars (myself included) try to disentangle ethnicity from race and operationalize each so that they become mutually exclusive social constructs. This book illustrates why, when it comes to the matter of the African Americans, this endeavor is a futile one. I highly recommend this text along with Slave Community, Slave Religion, and Slave Culture.

The transatlantic slave trade brought individuals from diverse African regions and cultures to a common destiny in the American South. In this comprehensive study, Michael Gomez establishes tangible links between the African American community and its African origins and traces the process by which African populations exchanged their distinct ethnic identities for one defined primarily by the conception of race. He examines transformations in the politics, social structures, and religions of slave populations through 1830, by which time the contours of a new African American identity had begun to emerge. After discussing specific ethnic groups in Africa, Gomez follows their movement to North America, where they tended to be amassed in recognizable concentrations within individual colonies (and, later, states). For this reason, he argues, it is possible to identify particular ethnic cultural influences and ensuing social formations that heretofore have been considered unrecoverable. Using sources pertaining to the African continent as well as runaway slave advertisements, ex-slave narratives, and folklore, Gomez reveals concrete and specific links between particular African populations and their North American progeny, thereby shedding new light on subsequent African American social formation.

.com With its legacy of brutality and of the horrific overseas passage, the transatlantic slave trade may be imagined as the kidnapping of Africans without regard to nationality or ethnicity. Based on his research, however, Michael A. Gomez suggests that Africans, upon arriving in America, were dispersed much more closely along ethnic and cultural lines than previously acknowledged. The underlying theme of his provocative work, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*, is that while blacks eventually replaced their African ethnic identities with new racial ones after arriving in the American South, they retained much of their original cultures far longer than was originally suspected. Some of his most interesting evidence of this comes in the form of runaway-slave advertisements, which identified the slaves by their ethnic roots ("Dinah, an Ebo wench that speaks very good English"). By scrutinizing ex-slave narratives, stories, music, and even the location and nature of slave rebellions, Gomez pieces together a genealogy of blacks in the American South, attempting to examine their notions of identity. Of course, much is based on significant speculation, a fact that only underscores the difficulty of such scholarship. Gomez manages to present a wide range of information clearly as he expands on a wealth of recent research regarding the slave trade and the history of blacks in America, making *Exchanging Our Country Marks* a vast and creative exploration of African identity in the United States from 1526 to 1830. Deeply researched in both African and North American sources. "International Journal of African Historical Studies" [A] rare and creative inquiry into the origins of African identity in the United States from 1526 to 1830. "Gaither Reporter" [A] conceptual "tour de force." No brief review can do justice to the nuances and complexities of Gomez's argument. "Southern Cultures" Gomez has yoked his admirable grasp of recent advances in African historiography with a subtle and sensitive reading of slavery. "American Historical" "Gomez gracefully and distinctively enlivens slaves' understandings of themselves as Igbo, Muslims, parents, children, and--eventually-- Africans and Americans." "Journal of Southern History" "A" rare and creative inquiry into the origins of African identity in the United States from 1526 to 1830. "Gaither Reporter" "A" conceptual "tour de force." No brief review can do justice to the nuances and complexities of Gomez's argument. "Southern Cultures" [A] conceptual "tour de

force," No brief review can do justice to the nuances and complexities of Gomez's argument. "Southern Cultures"[A] conceptual "tour de force". No brief review can do justice to the nuances and complexities of Gomez's argument. "Southern Cultures" Gomez gracefully and distinctively enlivens slaves' understandings of themselves as Igbo, Muslims, parents, children, and--eventually-- Africans and Americans. "Journal of Southern History" Exchanging Our Country Marks will be an important addition to the literature on how Africans brought to this country developed into African Americans in their crucial first generations on American soil. Gomez's use of folktales is imaginative and a vital contribution to understanding the intellectual environment in which African American society was formed. His strong and extensive background in African history makes Gomez a fine candidate to write this book.--John K. Thornton, Millersville University of Pennsylvania Deeply researched in both African and North American sources. . . . His work is carefully organized, with many landmarks for the reader. Well balanced and written, it is a significant contribution to the African experience in America.--International Journal of African Historical Studies Advances significantly a dominant trend in recent slavery historiography emphasizing the agency of enslaved African Americans in shaping their world. . . . Gomez has yoked his admirable grasp of recent advances in African historiography with a subtle and sensitive reading of slavery and slave trade documents to craft an extraordinarily rich narrative.--American Historical Gomez is the first trained historian of Africa to draw on the maturing field of African history to try and sense how Africans brought here as slaves, and the children they raised in slavery, became Americans. . . . Gomez gracefully and distinctively enlivens slaves' understandings of themselves as Igbo, Muslims, parents, children, and--eventually--'Africans' and Americans.--Journal of Southern History Rich and forceful interpretation of the process by which the many ethnicities of Africa became a race in the American South.--William Mary Quarterly An exemplary contribution to both American and African American history. "North Carolina Historical A well-researched, carefully delineated study.--Choice Exchanging Our Country Marks offers a rare and creative inquiry into the origins of African identity in the United States from 1526 to 1830.--Gaither Reporter A substantial attempt to bridge the persisting disjunction between the history of Africa and of its trans-Atlantic diaspora.--Journal of African History By far the most ambitious, thorough, and sophisticated attempt yet made at describing the impact of variations in West African and West Central African cultures upon the societies that later became the United States.--The Journal of American History A fascinating treatment of the early history of African-American identity, one that should engage Americans of all races and ethnicities, and not just those who can claim this genealogy as an ancestral possession.--K. Anthony Appiah, New York Times Book Every so often an essentially synthetic work appears that is more than a synthesis. Exchanging Our Country Marks by Michael A. Gomez is such a book. Although it relies heavily on secondary sources reinforced by extensive research in runaway slave advertisements in southern newspapers and WPA interviews from the 1930s, Exchanging Our Country Marks is a conceptual tour de force. No brief review can do justice to the nuances and complexities of Gomez's argument. . . . A fully satisfying work that engages the heart as well as the mind.--Southern Cultures This very important book deepens our knowledge about the major African ethnic groups important to the cultural formation of the United States over time and place and reframes the discourse on African American cultures.--Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, Rutgers University