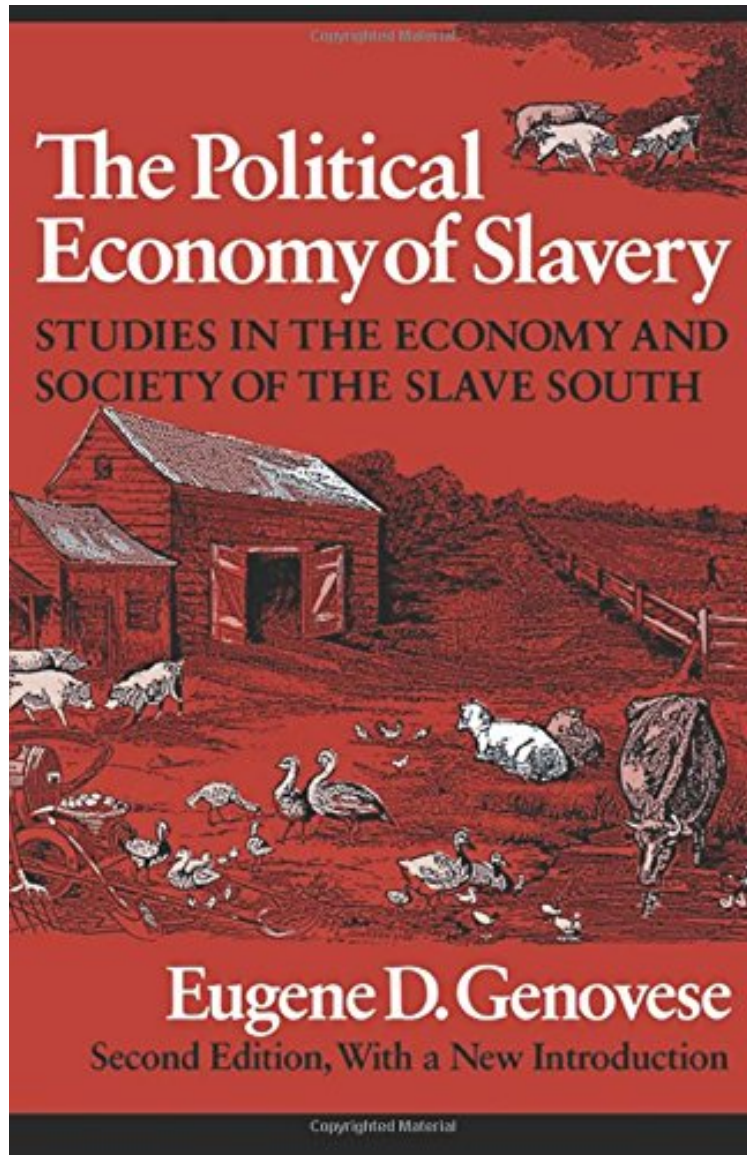


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The Political Economy of Slavery: Studies in the Economy and Society of the Slave South (Wesleyan Paperback)

Eugene D. Genovese

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Eugene D. Genovese : The Political Economy of Slavery: Studies in the Economy and Society of the Slave South (Wesleyan Paperback) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Political Economy of Slavery: Studies in the Economy and Society of the Slave South (Wesleyan Paperback):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Slavery as an Economic System: Profit or Loss for the Masters? By peorAll reviews are, however much you wish to make a scientific exercise of them, colored by your personal bias and experience. Political economical interpretations bring to mind right away a 'Marxist' interpretation, and that is the bias that I started the book with. The author, however, presents a descriptive study of the economy present in the South in the nineteenth century, based as it was, on the unpaid labor of slaves. The final judgement on the pros and cons is based on the economic terms of the system and not on its morality as some enemies of slavery frequently fall back on, although justifiedly. The slave economy seems to have been a profitable system or it would not have subsisted as long as it did. The slave economy was profitable enough to encourage slaveholders to invest their profits in land and more slaves, rather than in manufacture, as the North was doing, for fear of a free white laborer class that might rival their social level, but unwilling to permit the slaves to reach this same level, for the same reasons. In the meantime, the North with a pool of free paid labor with an incentive to join the propertied class and growing as more and more white immigrants came, left the South behind, in a condition comparable to what in the twentieth century the United States would be to the third world countries, providers of staples as the South did to the North, the West Indies and Europe, and customer of their manufactures and even depending of the North for a good portion of their food supplies. I had read about slavery in the abstract or in personal cases, but never considered it in its details as an economic system, and Professor Genovese has helped me understand this facet of the system which underlies so many of the problems that the United States still faces today.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I can not understand you can spend years in school ... By Golden Falcons LLC I can not understand you can spend years in school and never hear of this book. It delves into the intricacies of Slavery a system the imbued everyone and everything. A must read for those who really want understand what really happen. and who profited from it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book that shows how slavery was an economic anachronism ... By Robert Whitman Great book that shows how slavery was an economic anachronism in the south---it wasn't very profitable and was maintained mostly for social-relations, racial hierarchy and cultural reasons. Shows how oftentimes people perpetuate systems, not because they are the most profitable, but because they perpetuate their power and control over others.

A stimulating analysis of the society and economy in the slave south.

“What is original in Mr. Genovese’s highly stimulating volume is the analysis of the ante bellum political, economic, and social structure as a closed system with a built-in (and most un-American) resistance to change... [It] will move the discussion of the ante bellum South to a new level of sophistication.” —Anne Firor Scott, *The South Atlantic Quarterly*