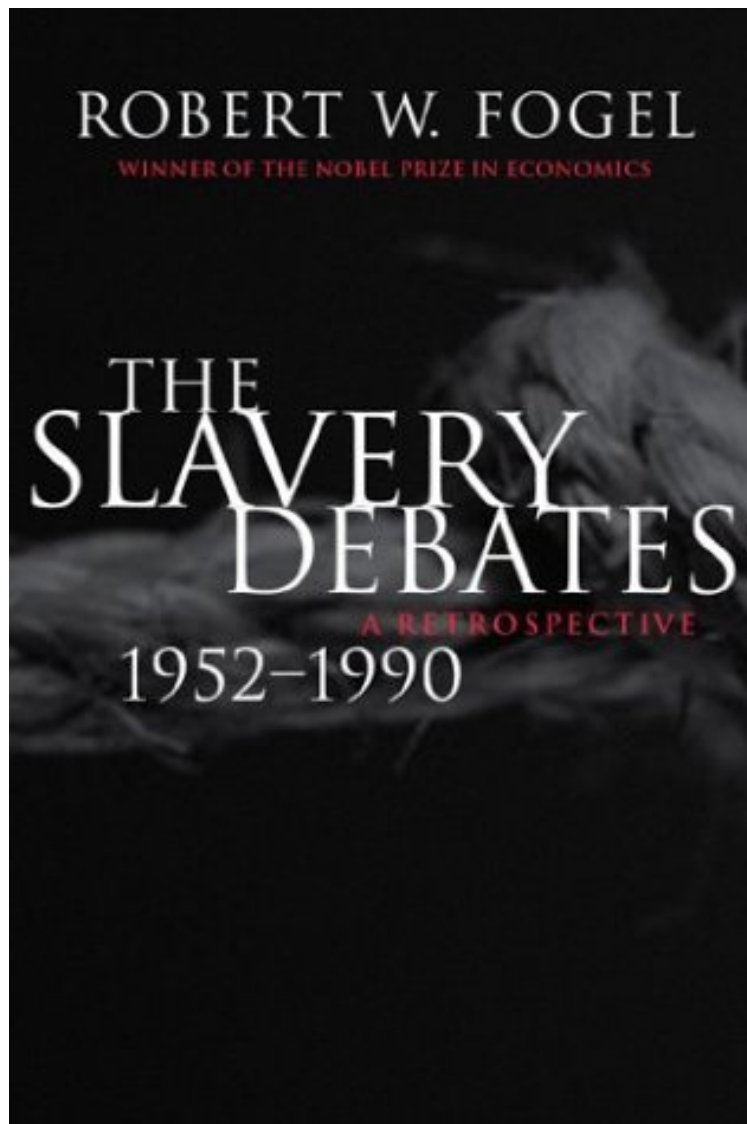


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## The Slavery Debates, 1952-1990: A Retrospective (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History)

*Robert William Fogel*

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**Robert William Fogel : The Slavery Debates, 1952-1990: A Retrospective (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Slavery Debates, 1952-1990: A Retrospective (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History):

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mankind subject.

Robert William Fogel was in the vanguard of those revisionists who in the mid--twentieth century challenged the prevailing historical canon on American slavery. The "slavery debates" encompassed a reexamination of almost every aspect of American slavery and became one front in a battle waged over the place of cliometrics -- the use of quantitative data and statistical methods to analyze historical problems. Fogel and Stanley Engerman's 1974 groundbreaking book, *Time on the Cross*, applied cliometrics to the study of slavery, revealing it to be a profitable and efficient labor system, and their book remains a fiercely debated work. Now, in an enlightening memoir, Fogel chronicles the controversies surrounding American slavery over four decades and the emergence of a new generation of intellectual and political historians who questioned the progressive synthesis. *The Slavery Debates* is an informative summary of the literature on the economics of American slavery, offering a valuable glimpse into one of the most interesting chapters of the historical profession.

From BooklistFogel, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, provides personal perspective on the heated debates triggered by the publication of his book *Time on the Cross* (1974). Fogel and coauthor Stanley Engerman used cliometrics (quantitative data to analyze historical problems) to conclude that American slavery was a profitable and efficient system, contrary to arguments used by abolitionists to appeal to those immune to solely moral arguments. Fogel recalls the controversy surrounding his work and the broader scholarly debates concerning the intersection of the morality and the profitability of American slavery. In this series of lectures, Fogel examines the prevailing scholarship from 1952 until 1990, including the irony of resistance to the development of black studies programs as a scholarly pursuit and the contributions of those programs as a testing ground for new social science methods. Although somewhat academic, Fogel's book offers great clarity and insight into a very sensitive topic, examining the benefits the nation has derived from a morally reprehensible practice and our failure to come to terms with that fact. Vernon FordCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reservedAbout the AuthorRobert William Fogel is director of the Center for Population Economics and Charles R. Walgreen Distinguished Service Professor of American Institutions at the University of Chicago. Cowinner of the Nobel Prize in economics in 1993, he is the author or coauthor of *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery*; *Without Consent or Contract: The Rise and Fall of American Slavery*; *The Fourth Great Awakening and the Future of Egalitarianism*; and many other books. Fogel is a member of the European Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities; former president of the American Economic Association; and winner of the Bancroft Prize in American History and the Gustavus Myers Award for Human Rights.Robert William Fogel is director of the Center for Population Economics and Charles R. Walgreen Distinguished Service Professor of American Institutions at the University of Chicago. Cowinner of the Nobel Prize in economics in 1993, he is the author of *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery*; *Without Consent or Contract: The Rise and Fall of American Slavery*; *The Fourth Great Awakening and the Future of Egalitarianism*; and many other books. Fogel is a member of the European Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities; former president of the American Economic Association; and winner of the Bancroft Prize in American History and the Gustavus Myers Award for Human Rights.