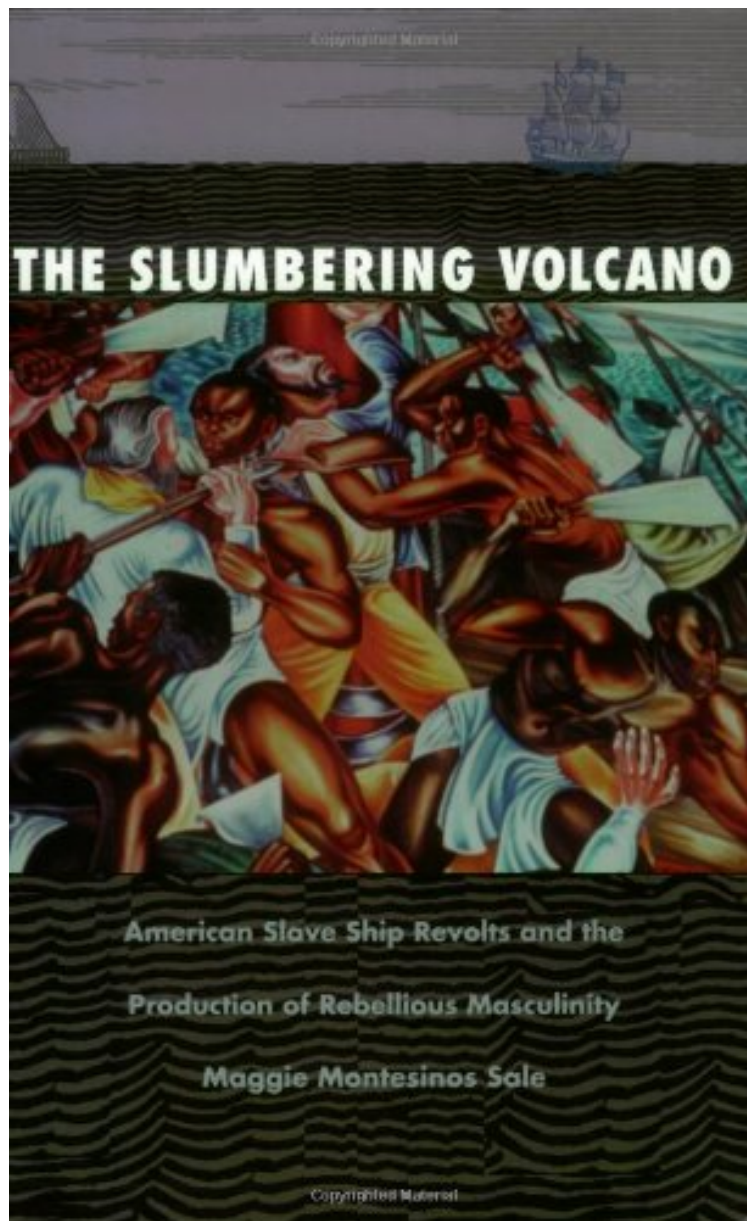


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The Slumbering Volcano: American Slave Ship Revolts and the Production of Rebellious Masculinity (New Americanists)

Maggie Montesinos Sale

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Maggie Montesinos Sale : The Slumbering Volcano: American Slave Ship Revolts and the Production of Rebellious Masculinity (New Americanists) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth

my time, and all praised *The Slumbering Volcano: American Slave Ship Revolts and the Production of Rebellious Masculinity* (New Americanists):

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An interesting accounts that details to much on the fictionalized stories concerning these slave revolts. The book seriously neglects what happen to the crews and the slaves themselves.

In *The Slumbering Volcano*, Maggie Montesinos Sale investigates depictions of nineteenth-century slave ship revolts to explore the notion of rebellion in formulations of United States national identity. Analyzing how such revolts inspired citizens to debate whether political theory directed at free men could be extended toward blacks, Sale compares the reception of fictionalized versions of ship revolts published in the 1850s—*Benito Cereno* by Herman Melville and *The Heroic Slave* by Frederick Douglass—with the previous decade’s public accounts of actual rebellions by enslaved people on the ships *Amistad* and *Creole*. This comparison of narrative response with written public reaction to the actual revolts allows Sale to investigate the precise manner in which public opinion regarding definitions of liberty evolved over this crucial period of time between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Mapping the ways in which unequally empowered groups claimed and transformed statements associated with the discourse of national identity, Sale succeeds in recovering a historically informed sense of the discursive and activist options available to people of another era. In its demonstration of how the United States has been uniquely shaped by its dual status as both an imperial and a postcolonial power, this study on the discourse of natural rights and national identity in the pre-Civil War United States will interest students and scholars of American studies, African American studies, gender studies, and American history and literature.

“*The Slumbering Volcano* theorizes the discourse of nationalism, natural rights, and race in a refreshingly undogmatic manner, making a splendid contribution to the growing body of theory on race, masculinity, and national identity formation.”—Carolyn Karcher, author of *The First Woman in the Republic: A Cultural Biography of Lydia Maria Child*, published by Duke University Press