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By -

University of Pennsylvania Press, United States, 2016.

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United States entered the ranks of the world s most advanced

and dynamic economies. At the same time, the nation

sustained an expansive and brutal system of human bondage.

This was no mere coincidence. Slavery s Capitalism argues for

slavery s centrality to the emergence of American capitalism in the decades between the Revolution and the Civil War.

According to editors Sven Beckert and Seth Rockman, the issue

is not whether slavery itself was or was not capitalist but,

rather, the impossibility of understanding the nation s

spectacular pattern of economic development without

situating slavery front and center. American capitalism-

renowned for its celebration of market competition, private

property, and the self-made man-has its origins in an

American slavery predicated on the abhorrent notion that

human beings could be legally owned and compelled to work

under force of violence. Drawing on the expertise of sixteen

scholars who are at the forefront of rewriting the history of

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