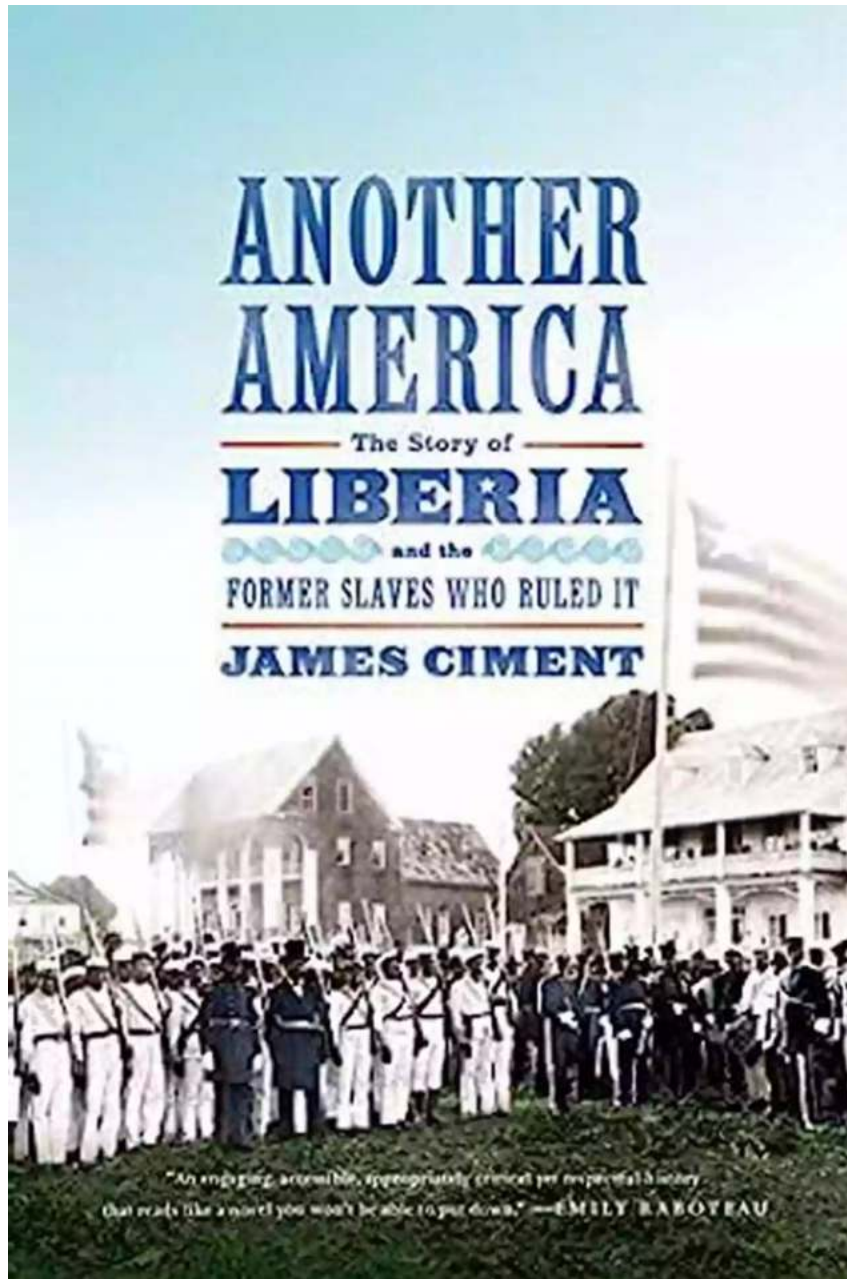


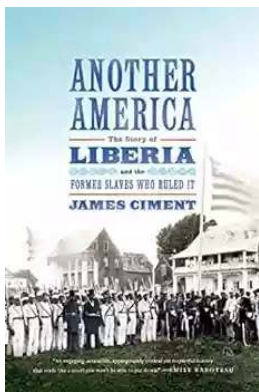
The Story Of Liberia And The Former Slaves Who Ruled It



Liberia, a small West African nation, holds a fascinating history as a torchbearer for freedom and the rights of former slaves. In the early 19th century, Liberia became a safe haven for freed African-American slaves who were seeking independence and a chance to establish a nation of their own. This remarkable

story is deeply intertwined with the struggle against slavery and colonization, and the eventual rise of self-governance in Liberia.

The roots of Liberia's history can be traced back to the establishment of the American Colonization Society (ACS) in 1816. As racial tensions grew in the United States, the ACS proposed the idea of resettling freed blacks in Africa. The organization believed that by doing so, they would promote their welfare and provide them with an opportunity to thrive in a land of their own.



Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It

by James Ciment (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2448 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 319 pages



In 1822, the ACS and in collaboration with prominent abolitionists, settled on the Pepper Coast of West Africa and established a colony called "Liberia," which translates to "Land of the Free." Thousands of former slaves, both freed and those emancipated for the purpose of colonization, were transported to Liberia under the banner of this vision.

The founding of Liberia was not without its challenges. The settlers faced hardships as they attempted to adapt to a new environment and grappled with

conflicts with indigenous tribes. Yet, driven by their determination for a brighter future, they persisted. Over time, Liberia evolved from a colony to an independent nation.

The settlers established several towns and settlements throughout Liberia, and their influence gradually extended over the territory. Inspired by the democratic ideals of the United States, they created a constitutional framework that emphasized the importance of governance and individual rights. Liberia soon became the first African republic to proclaim its independence in 1847.

One of the most significant aspects of Liberia's history was the rule of the former slaves themselves. Many of the settlers who arrived in Liberia held leadership roles and exerted political power. The freed slaves had the opportunity to govern their own land, become influential figures in shaping their society, and rise to positions of prominence.

One such prominent figure was Joseph Jenkins Roberts, who became Liberia's first president after the nation proclaimed its independence. Roberts paved the way for other black leaders to rise to positions of power, making Liberia a profound symbol of empowerment for oppressed African-Americans. His presidency marked a turning point not just for Liberia but for the wider struggle against racial oppression.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Liberia faced numerous challenges. It had to navigate its way through conflicts with indigenous groups, European powers seeking territorial influence, and economic struggles. However, despite these obstacles, Liberia remained a beacon of hope for both the African diaspora and the African continent as a whole.

In the years that followed, Liberia played a significant role on the international stage, actively participating in diplomatic affairs and advocating for the rights of all Africans. The country established strong ties with the United States and became an esteemed member of the League of Nations, further solidifying its status as an independent nation.

However, Liberia also faced internal struggles. Ethnic tensions and inequality gradually worsened, leading to a series of political disputes and unrest. In 1980, a military coup resulted in the overthrow of the government, marking the end of a long period of rule by former slaves.

Despite the challenges it has faced, Liberia remains a place of historical significance and serves as a reminder of the resilience and determination of those who sought freedom. Today, the nation continues on its journey towards stability and prosperity, working towards healing the wounds of the past while striving towards a better future.

The story of Liberia and the former slaves who ruled it is one that deserves recognition and admiration. Their pioneer spirit and perseverance in the face of adversity encapsulate the indomitable human spirit. We must remember their history, learn from their experiences, and strive to build a world that upholds justice, equality, and freedom for all.



, Liberia's history is deeply intertwined with the struggles against slavery, colonization, and the fight for independence. The remarkable story of former slaves who settled in Liberia is a testament to the human spirit's resilience and the quest for freedom. Their journey from slavery to self-governance and empowerment provides inspiration and lessons that remain relevant to this day. Liberia's history reminds us of the importance of standing up against oppression and working towards a more just and inclusive world for all.

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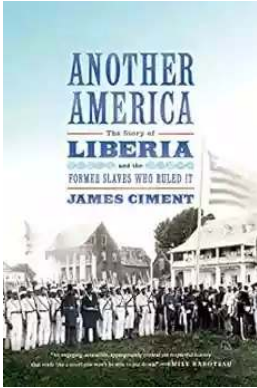
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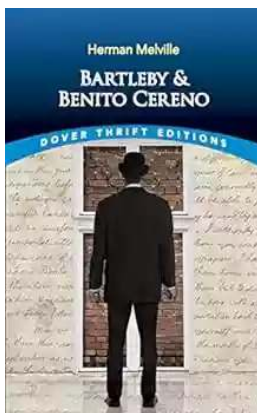
The first popular history of the former American slaves who founded, ruled, and lost Africa's first republic

In 1820, a group of about eighty African Americans reversed the course of history and sailed back to Africa, to a place they would name after liberty itself. They went under the banner of the American Colonization Society, a white philanthropic organization with a dual agenda: to rid America of its blacks, and to convert Africans to Christianity. The settlers staked out a beachhead; their numbers grew as more boats arrived; and after breaking free from their white overseers, they founded Liberia—Africa's first black republic—in 1847.

James Ciment's *Another America* is the first full account of this dramatic experiment. With empathy and a sharp eye for human foibles, Ciment reveals that the Americo-Liberians struggled to live up to their high ideals. They wrote a stirring Declaration of Independence but re-created the social order of antebellum Dixie, with themselves as the master caste. Building plantations, holding elegant soirees, and exploiting and even helping enslave the native Liberians, the persecuted became the persecutors—until a lowly native sergeant murdered their president in 1980, ending 133 years of Americo rule.

The rich cast of characters in *Another America* rivals that of any novel. We encounter Marcus Garvey, who coaxed his followers toward Liberia in the 1920s, and the rubber king Harvey Firestone, who built his empire on the backs of native Liberians. Among the Americoes themselves, we meet the brilliant intellectual Edward Blyden, one of the first black nationalists; the Baltimore-born explorer Benjamin Anderson, seeking a legendary city of gold in the Liberian hinterland; and President William Tubman, a descendant of Georgia slaves, whose economic policies brought Cadillacs to the streets of Monrovia, the Liberian capital. And then there are the natives, men like Joseph Samson, who was adopted by a prominent Americo family and later presided over the execution of his foster father during the 1980 coup.

In making Liberia, the Americoes transplanted the virtues and vices of their country of birth. The inspiring and troubled history they created is, to a remarkable degree, the mirror image of our own.



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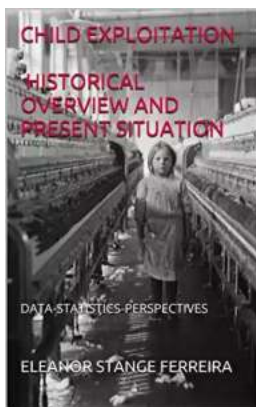
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