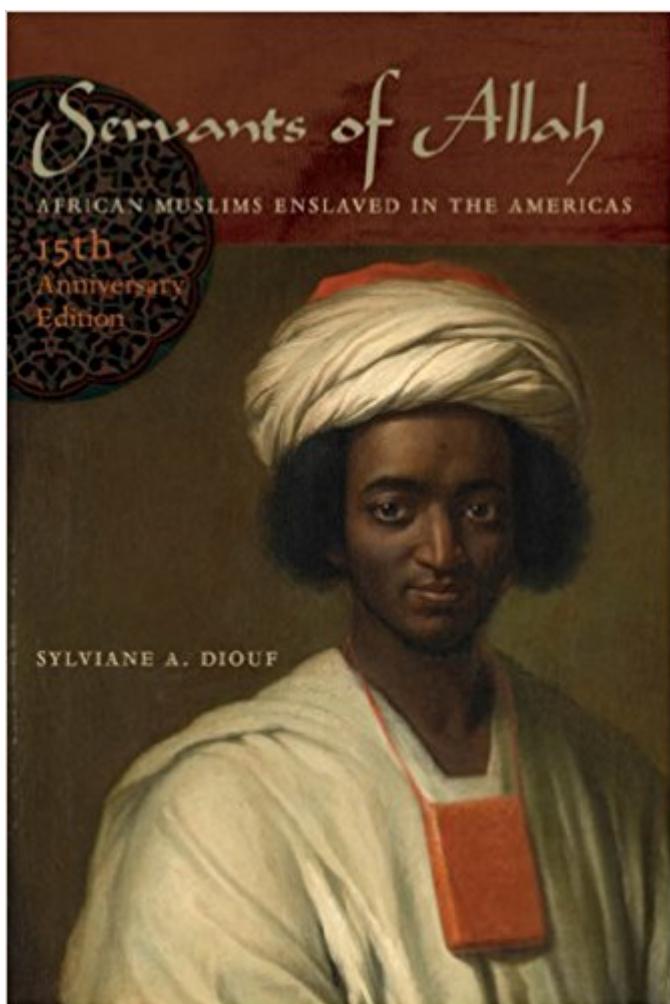


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# **Servants Of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved In The Americas, 15th Anniversary Edition**



## Synopsis

Servants of Allah presents a history of African Muslims, following them from West Africa to the Americas. Although many assume that what Muslim faith they brought with them to the Americas was quickly absorbed into the new Christian milieu, as Sylviane A. Diouf demonstrates in this meticulously-researched, groundbreaking volume, Islam flourished during slavery on a large scale. She details how, even while enslaved, many Muslims managed to follow most of the precepts of their religion. Literate, urban, and well-traveled, they drew on their organization, solidarity and the strength of their beliefs to play a major part in the most well-known slave uprisings. But for all their accomplishments and contributions to the history and cultures of the African Diaspora, the Muslims have been largely ignored. *Servants of Allah* illuminates the role of Islam in the lives of both individual practitioners and communities, and shows that though the religion did not survive in the Americas in its orthodox form, its mark can be found in certain religions, traditions, and artistic creations of people of African descent. This 15th anniversary edition has been updated to include new materials and analysis, a review of developments in the field, prospects for new research, and new illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"For scholars and non-scholars, *Servants of Allah* provides a sweeping but accessible introduction to the history of Islam across the Western Hemisphere and over the entire four-hundred year history of enslavement."-Journal of Islamic Studies  
"A must read for anyone interested in the early history of Islam in the African American community. Diouf goes beyond generalities and

sheds light on the lives of transplanted Muslims who have become an important block in the rewriting of the history of Islam in the United States, providing heroic examples of adjustment and survival in a hostile environment.â• Yvonne Haddad, Georgetown University "Servants of Allah remains an important scholarly work, significant in retrieving historical memory and as a testament of religious endurance under dislocation, separation, and enslavement. Beyond the familiar assumptions of struggle, survival, and liberation, the book points to the vigorous intellectual life of Islam in which New World Muslim Africans participated. Diouf has put her finger on a critical impulse when she draws out the transnational dimensions of Islamic scholarship that sustained learning and practice among the besieged Muslim Africans, which makes the irony of the decline of Muslim life during slavery in the Americas all the more striking." -Lamin Sanneh, Yale University

*Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas* was named 1999 Outstanding Academic Book by the American Library Association, and received Honorable mention for the Outstanding Books Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Un "must read " pas seulement pour les personnes intéressées par l'histoire de l'esclavage mais pour toutes personnes désireuses de connaître son histoire tant cet ouvrage revêt le rôle quel point l'histoire du monde s'entremèle. Sylviane A. Diouf rappelle d'emble la différence de perception de ce qu'est être esclave en Afrique de l'Ouest en Europe et aux Amériques. Différence perçue et relayée par des européens surpris de ne pas distinguer le maître de l'esclave. Cette explication est crucial pour comprendre l'attitude des musulmans esclaves aux Amériques mais pas seulement; c'est l'identité religieuse et tout ce qu'elle implique comme être lettré qui mon sens est au cœur de cette ouvrage. Ma grande découverte reste l'héritage de ces africains musulmans encore visible aujourd'hui du Portugal aux Églises noires des îles unis en passant par la musique blues. Mon seul regret est que ce livre ne soit pas accessible également en français.

I bought this book when it was new long ago. It is one of the best books I have ever read. Sometimes people use this comment's section to attack people or ideas and I can't say I am innocent of doing this on occasion myself. It is very wrong that it has happened a tad here. Some of us are not very fastidious. This is a book about African American history. Now I must have missed it.

Our ancestors did not come from East Africa and so they were not sold to the whites who brought us here through "Arabs." This book takes courage. I am a Muslim and I was Muslim when I read it so it was no big deal for me. But if you are not an African American Muslim, if you have spent your life clapping in church and holding on to the religion given in the slave quarters, then this book will not be a pleasant experience. It's that simple. Some of us, when confronted with the unpleasantness of how we were not free, of how we literally had a religion stolen from us and another forced on us, turn and defend master by using the old red herring. Arabs were not the traders or merchants who shipped black people from West Africa to the New World. Ms Diouf, I never researched her. I just quietly have been in awe of this name for about 20 years. She tells us our history, in a scientific factual manner. Twenty years ago, this book was the only one out there to go into the great depth she did in her research. Today there are quite a few, but I am sentimental and this is still my favorite. When you see someone on this section attacking Arabs, please remember that black American slaves learned from their masters and the main thing white American slave masters taught was racism and lumping people together. As a black man, I am tired. This group this and that group that. See people as individuals. It's what Martin Luther King died for. No, the struggle is not over, but King proved that there are good whites and good Christians...and bad weak minded ones too. When you think outside of the hood, you realize there are even good and bad Arabs. Our ancestors were literate and strong and strong minded...and bad news for the Arab haters....The black people brought here from West Africa were Muslim. Literate and by choice.

Excellent!! A must read for any black American seeking to reclaim knowledge their lost history.

Fascinating study of African slave trade focusing on the Moslem African slaves. Servants of Allah offers excellent survey of the African cultural and geopolitical situation prior to and during the years of the slave trade. It is through this foundation that we understand the various ethnic and religious roots of the African slaves. Wisely the book has not focused on the middle passages covered in many other works but instead focused on the lives of Moslem slaves, in particular, in US, Caribbean and Brazil. The tremendous research and analysis has produced a true groundbreaking work in beginning to understand this very sad chapter of history. I learnt a great deal from this book, I had no idea of the extent of suffering Moslems and other slaves endured, I didn't know about the use of Arabic in US & rest of Americas as a way for enslaved Africans to communicate and even to keep plantation books. I had no idea of the suppression of Islam practiced as early as 1501 and the brutality of the Spanish Inquisition in the new World all the way through early 20th century. I was

amazed to learn how in US the clearly well educated enslaved blacks were denied their Africaness by their masters and relabeled Arabs or Moors and in doing so the White Masters could continue to make sense of the inferior status of the black Africans. At times Diouf may have been a touch too romantic about the behavior of Moslems and at times attributed culturally narrow definitions to Islamic traditions, this does not detract from the excellent contribution of this most enlightening work on a very rarely addressed subject.

the writer makes a profound description about the slaves, their process of slaving and muslim. many annotations, historical references and content displayed in a clear language.

Excellent book of history. This should be taught during black history month

I've given a review of these book before and someone decided to remove it I had said If I had a lot of money I would purchase it and mail and give it to as many Africans in Diaspora in America I could find I'm muslim and its good they people in the West are now being informed that at least 1 or 2 out every slave kidnapped and brought against their will and that being said why so many Africans descendant of those African people refuse to embrace Islam or at least be curious about instead of being lazy and remain Christian as a cop out because they want to live their life they way they want to instead what will please Allahu Subhana wa ta'ala ( Glorious and Exalted). Muhammad Rashid Aliyu!P.S> I hope it never goes out of print!

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