Britain’s History and 
Memory of Transatlantic 
Slavery

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Transatlantic slavery, just like the abolition movements, affected every 
space and community in Britain, from Cornwall to the Clyde, from 
dockyard alehouses to country estates. Today, its financial, architectural 
and societal legacies remain, scattered across the country in museums 
and memorials, philanthropic institutions and civic buildings, empty spaces 
and unmarked graves. Just as they did in the eighteenth and nineteenth 
centuries, British people continue to make sense of this ‘national sin’ by 
looking close to home, drawing on local histories and myths to negotiate 
their relationship to the distant horrors of the ‘Middle Passage’, and the 
Caribbean plantation. For the first time, this collection brings together 
localised case studies of Britain’s history and memory of its involvement 
in the transatlantic slave trade, and slavery. These essays, ranging in 
focus from eighteenth-century Liverpool to twenty-first-century rural 
Cambridgeshire, from racist ideologues to Methodist preachers, examine 
how transatlantic slavery impacted on, and continues to impact, people 
and places across Britain.

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