

The enslavement of African Americans remains a shameful chapter in America's past and presents a troubling legacy for the present-day United States. A complex system that saturated all aspects of life—political, social, legal, and religious—slavery affected all Americans, black or white. In an effort to challenge, reform, and understand the unjust practice, a powerful form of literature, the slave narrative, was born. Traversing all aspects of the genre's literary testimony—autobiographies, pamphlets, diaries, letters, illustrations, recorded interviews, and songs—*The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative* provides a potent literary history while pointing the way forward for the study of an essential part of U.S. literature.

With twenty-five original essays, this volume not only engages with well-known narratives by figures like Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Solomon Northrup, Harriet Jacobs, and Sojourner Truth but also the comparatively neglected forms of testimony found in the interviews conducted by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s, folksongs, the piano performances of "Blind Tom," and the visual culture of frontispieces and drawings that accompanied various narratives. Throughout the volume, the essays confront the vexing interpretive issues of representation and authenticity while opening up new areas of scholarly inquiry. The chapters situate the genre amid the following rich range of topics: narrative structure, sexuality, hemispheric studies, feminism, collaborative authorship, ecocriticism, geography, musical performance, and more. Ultimately, the Handbook provides a comprehensive guide that enriches our understanding of the African American slave narrative and provides a scholarly roadmap for its future.