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**Trevor Burnard: *The Atlantic in World History, 1490–1830*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020, 344 pp.**

Trevor Burnard's synthesis addresses many of the issues faced by scholars of the Atlantic world. *The Atlantic in World History* offers a fresh historiographical perspective on a well-trodden area of research: Atlantic history and its position vis-à-vis world history. In this book, Burnard situates Atlantic history as integral to world history. New frames of reference can complement rather than supplant national, hemispheric, or local histories, which helps to "problematize the issue of spatial scale instead of working at the national, colonial or imperial scale by inertia or tradition (p. 4)." And central to his understanding is not just the connections of mobile actors in the Atlantic, but also the vast majority of people who remained in place, even in inland locations. Their lives were impacted by Atlantic circulations, rivalries, and economies. He focuses on how people at the time thought about and perceived the Atlantic and their place in it.

Burnard's book is organized into four sections. The first one is on the historiogra-

phy of the Atlantic in world history. He covers major controversies and debates in the field. The second section deals with the Atlantic over time and is organized chronologically. The third section examines the Atlantic from the perspective of various places – West Africa, Western Europe, South American and the Caribbean, and North America. It further positions plantations and the plantation economy more generally as a key site and system that bound the Atlantic together. The fourth section is organized around themes: warfare and violence, the movement of things, and the "Atlantic in Global Consciousness."

His book manages to highlight histories that have often not been privileged in general histories of the Atlantic, especially some of the more recent work on African actors and societies. He therefore brings lesser-known histories and places into the synthesis and his analysis. His work can be read for both undergraduate and graduate students, but the specialist will also find that his book expands – rather than merely summarizes – the existing state of the art on the Atlantic world and its relationship to world history.

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