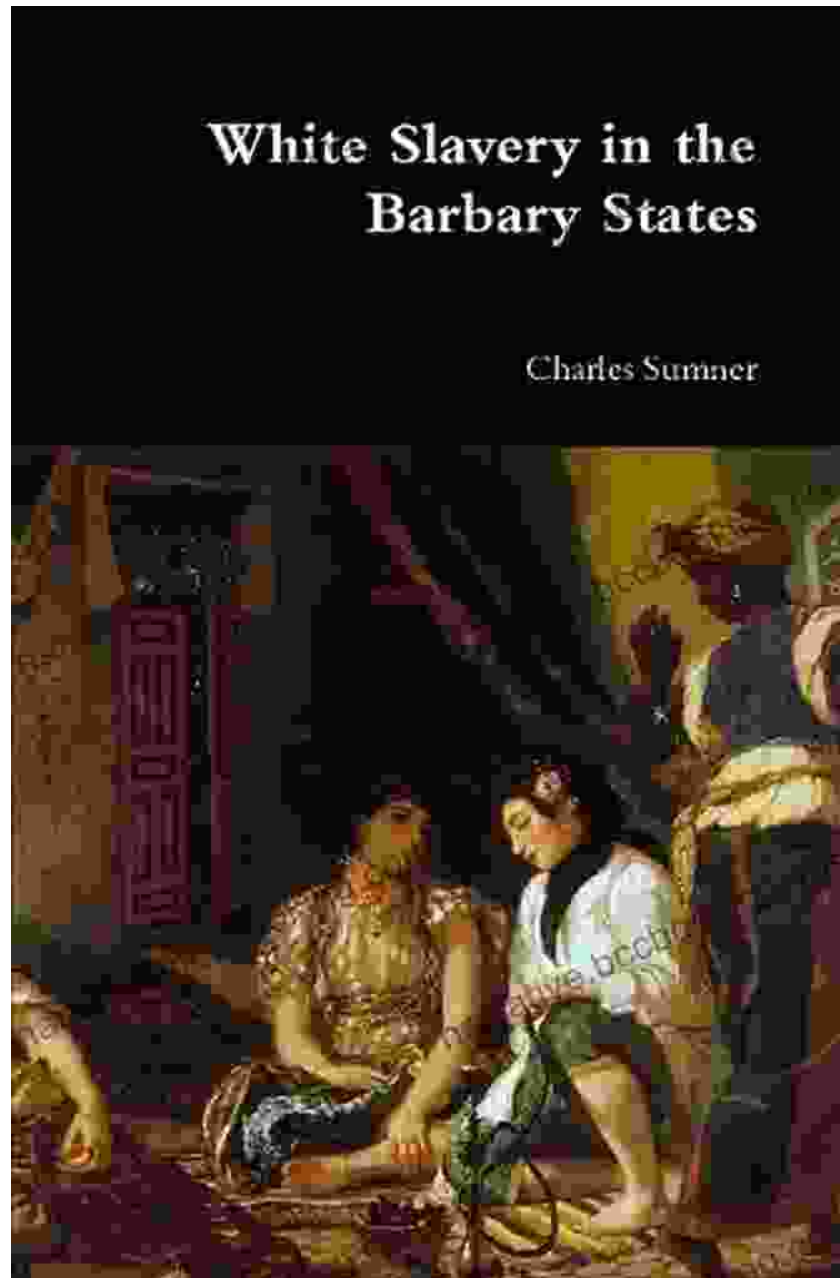
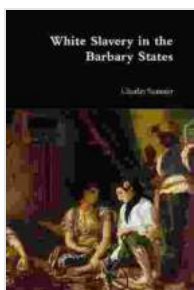


White Slavery in the Barbary States: A Forgotten Tragedy



For centuries, the Barbary States of North Africa operated as a hub of human misery and enslavement, a chapter in history often overlooked or glossed over. This article aims to shed light on the forgotten tragedy of

white slavery in these states, providing a comprehensive account of its origins, extent, and lasting impact.



White Slavery in the Barbary States by Charles Sumner

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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File size : 738 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 71 pages



Origins of White Slavery

The practice of white slavery in the Barbary States originated in the early 16th century, fueled by the rise of the Ottoman Empire and the decline of Christian naval power in the Mediterranean. Pirates from Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli preyed upon European merchant ships, capturing unsuspecting sailors and coastal inhabitants.

The capture and enslavement of white Europeans became a lucrative business for these pirates. The demand for white slaves was particularly high in the Ottoman Empire, where they were used as laborers, soldiers, and concubines.

Extent of White Slavery

The extent of white slavery in the Barbary States was staggering. Historians estimate that over a million white Europeans were captured and enslaved between the 16th and 19th centuries. These slaves came from a

wide range of countries, including France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and even England.

The cities of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli became major slave markets, where captives were sold and traded like commodities. Descriptions from contemporary accounts depict horrific conditions, with slaves crammed into overcrowded dungeons and forced to endure unimaginable hardships.

Life of a White Slave

The life of a white slave in the Barbary States was one of abject misery and degradation. Slaves were typically forced to work in grueling conditions, often in mines, on galleys, or in agricultural labor. They were subjected to constant beatings, starvation, and sexual abuse.

Many slaves died from exhaustion, disease, or mistreatment. Those who survived often suffered from physical and psychological trauma that lasted a lifetime.

European Response

The European powers initially responded to the Barbary States' piracy and slave trade with limited success. Naval expeditions and diplomatic negotiations proved ineffective in deterring the pirates' activities.

In the 19th century, however, the European powers finally launched a concerted effort to suppress the Barbary States. A series of naval bombardments and occupations forced the Algerian, Tunisian, and Tripolitan governments to end their slave trade and abolish slavery.

Legacy of White Slavery

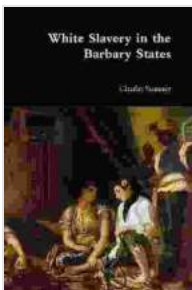
The legacy of white slavery in the Barbary States is complex and multifaceted. The trauma inflicted upon the enslaved Europeans and their families left an enduring scar on European history.

Furthermore, the experience of white slavery in the Barbary States contributed to the development of racist and xenophobic attitudes towards North Africans and Muslims.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to acknowledge and commemorate the victims of white slavery in the Barbary States. Museums and memorials have been established to honor their memory and preserve the historical record.

The history of white slavery in the Barbary States serves as a tragic reminder of the horrors that humans are capable of inflicting upon one another. The enslavement of over a million white Europeans over several centuries is a testament to the barbarity and cruelty that can thrive under certain historical conditions.

It is important to remember the victims of white slavery in the Barbary States and to learn from the lessons of the past. By understanding this forgotten tragedy, we can better prevent similar atrocities from occurring in the future.



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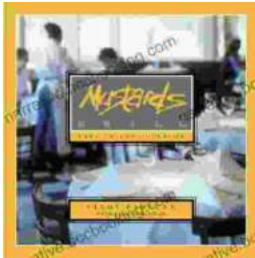
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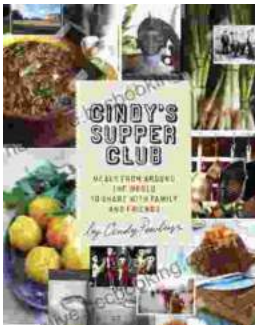
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