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# Where are we? & How did we get here?: Wanted: Honest and Straight Talk about the Transatlantic Slave Trade

*Dr. Vinita Moch Ricks*

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**Where are we? & How did we get here?: Wanted: Honest and Straight Talk about the Transatlantic Slave Trade** Dr. Vinita Moch Ricks
Summary of the Book Six confusing issues and many long-standing human tensions make it difficult to talk about the Transatlantic Slave Trade (henceforth called the Trade, with capital T). Why were Africans brought to the New World as slaves? Blacks in the States are troubled. The larger groups of Africans in the Diaspora below the Gulf of Mexico (henceforth the Gulf) are ignored. Even now, despite valid DNA research, many European and White scholars insist that having Negroid features makes one inferior. We need serious research. What were the values, thoughts and lifestyles from Ancient societies in America, Africa, Asia and Europe? The differences between latitude countries and longitude continents is one area of research to understand two of today's outcomes: * Ancient World people on longitude continents are today's Third World and thus poorest countries (except two, the United States and Canada); * These two exceptions and Europe are addicted to conquest—taking the land and resources of others as their dominant goal. For eight years, the author traveled through five continents to witness the Trade's impact on contemporary life. Europe and North America have received most of the financial benefits. The United States is the lone superpower. Daily, Europe extracts tourist revenue from buildings, monuments, and landmarks built with slave money, without acknowledging it. Meanwhile, Africans in Africa and the Diaspora have not fared as well. Conflicts, tensions and adverse relationships, created by the Trade, continue. Dark-skinned people and lighter-skinned or Hispanic people are divided. Each seeks to secure the favor of Whites in the Planter Class at the others' expense. Part I addresses "Where are we?" Attention is given to manifestations of the Trade in Europe and the States. Part II addresses "How did we get here?" These historical chapters look at longitude and latitude continents to explain why Africa and Ancient America are radically different from Europe and China. Part III highlights the lessons learned and explores how these lessons from the Trade can be used to heal the unconscious wounds that are ever present, worldwide. This information is NOT in high school "history" textbooks. New economic institutions emerged. They financed, staffed, and moved ships. This enterprise of government-sponsored trading in slaves lasted almost 450 years. Billions of acres of land were stolen, along with natural resources. African labor was stolen to tame this land. The stealing of land, labor and lumber is the Stolen Trifecta. The institutions that orchestrated this trifecta exist to this day. Officially: • Government's role expanded. New port cities were established and populated. • Corporations changed their structure, and monopoly capitalism spread its wings. • The Church provided the sanctions and justifications for slavery and the abuse of people with black skin. The size and scope of the Christian church increased as she collected tithing thus excusing the wrongdoings. Under the radar: 1) governments legislate lawlessness while collecting taxes, 2) corporations sabotage massive legal and illegal wealth accumulations by Others, and 3) the church sanctions lawlessness and wealth accumulation for the few. Though hidden, they are also hallmarks and remnants from the Trade. Along with financial institutions, the Trade established mindsets, habits, lifestyles, and policies. It left a legacy of greed and corruption. We play mental games to manage the artificial divisions. What is the truth about this period in world history, when the longitude and latitude people commingled in the New World during this latest and largest forced migration of people? This book seeks to find the truth around this man-made tragedy.

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