the history of mary prince pdf

the history of mary prince pdf offers an essential window into the life and struggles of Mary Prince, a pioneering figure in the abolitionist movement and the first black woman to publish an autobiography in the United Kingdom. This document provides a comprehensive account of Prince's harrowing experiences as an enslaved woman in the Caribbean and her eventual fight for freedom. The history of Mary Prince pdf is not only a vital historical narrative but also a powerful testament to the resilience and courage of those who endured slavery. Understanding the context, content, and impact of this text is crucial for scholars, historians, and readers interested in the abolitionist history and the struggle for human rights. This article explores the origins, significance, and availability of the history of Mary Prince pdf, as well as its influence on literature and social reform. The following sections outline the key aspects of this important work.

- Background of Mary Prince
- The Publication and Content of the History of Mary Prince
- Historical Context and Significance
- Availability and Formats of the History of Mary Prince PDF
- Impact on Literature and Abolitionist Movements

Background of Mary Prince

Mary Prince was born into slavery in Bermuda during the late 18th century and endured years of brutal treatment under multiple owners. Her life story reflects the systemic abuses faced by enslaved people in the British West Indies. Prince's early experiences included separation from family, harsh labor, and physical punishment, all of which shaped her determination for freedom. Her eventual relocation to England allowed her to connect with abolitionist activists who recognized her story's power to expose the realities of slavery. The background of Mary Prince is fundamental to understanding the narrative presented in the history of Mary Prince pdf, as it frames her personal testimony within the broader historical struggle for emancipation.

Early Life and Enslavement

Mary Prince was born around 1788 in Bermuda, where slavery was legally entrenched and socially accepted. She was sold several times, experiencing different forms of servitude under various slave owners. Her experiences ranged from domestic servitude to agricultural labor, each marked by hardship and cruelty. The early years of Prince's life illustrate the inhumane conditions enslaved people endured and the lack of legal protections available to them.

Escape and Move to England

After years of servitude, Mary Prince eventually fled to England, where slavery was not legally recognized in the same way as in the colonies. This move was crucial as it allowed Prince to seek legal and social support from abolitionists, who helped her share her story. England became a site where Prince's narrative could gain public attention and contribute to the growing abolitionist movement.

The Publication and Content of the History of Mary Prince

The history of Mary Prince pdf is a digital version of the original narrative titled "The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave," first published in 1831. It is the first account of a black woman's life published in the United Kingdom, making it a landmark text in both literary and historical contexts. The book was written with the assistance of abolitionist Thomas Pringle and published to raise awareness about the realities of slavery and to advocate for its abolition.

Structure and Themes

The narrative is structured as a first-person autobiography, recounting Mary Prince's life from childhood to her eventual emancipation. Themes include the brutality of slavery, the resilience of the human spirit, and the quest for justice and freedom. The text vividly details the physical, emotional, and psychological abuses Prince endured, serving as a powerful indictment of the institution of slavery.

Collaborators and Publication Details

Thomas Pringle, a Scottish abolitionist and writer, played a significant role in editing and publishing Mary Prince's story. The collaboration ensured that the narrative was accessible to a British audience and aligned with abolitionist goals. The publication was groundbreaking, as it gave a voice to an enslaved woman and provided firsthand testimony that challenged proslavery arguments prevalent at the time.

Historical Context and Significance

The history of Mary Prince pdf must be understood within the broader historical context of the early 19th century when abolitionist movements were gaining momentum in Britain and its colonies. The narrative contributed significantly to the abolitionist cause by providing undeniable evidence of the cruelty of slavery. Its publication coincided with important legislative efforts, including the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, which eventually outlawed slavery throughout the British Empire.

Abolitionist Movement Influence

Mary Prince's story galvanized public opinion against slavery by personalizing the suffering endured by enslaved individuals. The narrative was frequently cited in abolitionist campaigns, lectures, and publications, highlighting the human cost of slavery beyond abstract political debates. It helped shift public perception and increase support for abolition.

Legal and Social Implications

The publication of the history of Mary Prince challenged legal norms and social attitudes concerning slavery and race. It underscored the need for legal reforms to protect human rights and inspired further activism. The social impact extended beyond abolition, influencing discussions about race, equality, and human dignity in British society.

Availability and Formats of the History of Mary Prince PDF

The history of Mary Prince pdf is widely available through various digital platforms, making this important historical document accessible to a global audience. The digital format allows researchers, educators, and readers to study the narrative in detail and use it as a resource in academic and social justice contexts. The PDF versions often include annotations, introductions, and critical essays that enhance understanding of the text's significance.

Sources and Editions

Numerous editions of the history of Mary Prince have been digitized and distributed as PDFs, including facsimiles of the original 1831 publication and modern annotated versions. These editions differ in terms of supplementary content, such as historical context, critical analysis, and bibliographies, which provide valuable insights into the text's interpretation.

Uses of the PDF Format

The PDF format is particularly useful for preserving the original layout and typography of the historical document, ensuring authenticity. It also facilitates easy sharing and inclusion in digital libraries, academic repositories, and educational syllabi. The searchable text feature of PDFs aids in detailed textual analysis and research.

Impact on Literature and Abolitionist Movements

The history of Mary Prince pdf represents a foundational work in both black literature and abolitionist literature. Its impact extends beyond its immediate historical context to influence subsequent generations of writers, activists, and scholars. The narrative's raw depiction of slavery challenged literary conventions and expanded the scope of autobiographical writing.

Literary Legacy

Mary Prince's narrative set a precedent for slave narratives and autobiographies by providing a female perspective within a predominantly male-authored genre. It has been studied for its narrative techniques, thematic depth, and contribution to the development of black British literature. The history of Mary Prince pdf continues to be a critical text in courses on postcolonial studies, African diaspora literature, and women's history.

Role in Social Reform

The publication of Mary Prince's story played a pivotal role in the abolitionist campaigns of the 19th century, influencing public policy and social attitudes. It served as a catalyst for legal reforms and inspired activism aimed at ending slavery and promoting racial equality. The legacy of the history of Mary Prince pdf endures as a symbol of resistance and the power of personal testimony to effect social change.

Key Contributions

- First published black female autobiography in the UK
- Exposed the brutal realities of slavery through personal testimony
- Influenced abolitionist legislation and public opinion
- Inspired subsequent slave narratives and black literature
- Provided a historical record for scholars and activists

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The History of Mary Prince' PDF about?

The History of Mary Prince PDF is a digital version of the autobiographical narrative of Mary Prince, an enslaved woman from Bermuda, which details her experiences of slavery and her journey to freedom.

Where can I find a free PDF of 'The History of Mary Prince'?

Free PDFs of 'The History of Mary Prince' can often be found on websites like Project Gutenberg, Google Books, or university digital archives that provide public domain or educational texts.

Why is 'The History of Mary Prince' significant in

historical literature?

It is significant because it is one of the first accounts of the life of a black woman slave published in the UK, offering a powerful firsthand perspective on the realities of slavery and influencing abolitionist movements.

Who authored 'The History of Mary Prince'?

The narrative was told by Mary Prince herself but was compiled and edited by Susanna Strickland, who helped publish the autobiography in 1831.

What themes are explored in 'The History of Mary Prince' PDF?

The main themes include slavery, freedom, gender, racial injustice, resilience, and the fight for human rights.

How has 'The History of Mary Prince' contributed to abolitionist efforts?

The detailed and personal account of Mary Prince's suffering and endurance helped to humanize enslaved people and galvanized public opinion against slavery in Britain during the early 19th century.

Are there modern editions or annotated versions of 'The History of Mary Prince' available in PDF?

Yes, several modern editions include annotations and scholarly commentary, available in PDF format through academic publishers or university libraries, providing historical context and analysis.

Additional Resources

- 1. Mary Prince: The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave
 This is the original autobiography of Mary Prince, first published in 1831.
 It is a powerful firsthand account of her life as an enslaved woman in the Caribbean, detailing the brutal realities of slavery and her eventual fight for freedom. The narrative played a significant role in the abolitionist movement in Britain, exposing the inhumanity of slavery.
- 2. Slavery and the Autobiography of Mary Prince
 This book provides a detailed analysis of Mary Prince's autobiography within
 the broader context of slavery and abolition. It examines the social and
 political impact of her narrative and explores how her story challenged
 contemporary attitudes toward slavery and race. The book also discusses the
 literary significance of Prince's work as a pioneering slave narrative.
- 3. Voices of Freedom: The Slave Narratives of Mary Prince
 Focusing on the oral and written testimonies of enslaved people, this book
 highlights Mary Prince's narrative as a pivotal voice in the fight against
 slavery. It contextualizes her story alongside other slave narratives,
 emphasizing themes of resilience, resistance, and the quest for dignity. The
 analysis underscores the importance of these narratives in shaping historical

memory.

- 4. Mary Prince and the Abolitionist Movement
 This work explores the crucial role Mary Prince's autobiography played in
 advancing the abolitionist cause in the early 19th century. It traces the
 connections between her narrative, abolitionist activism, and legislative
 change in Britain. The book also delves into the collaboration between Prince
 and abolitionist figures who helped bring her story to public attention.
- 5. The Life and Legacy of Mary Prince
 A comprehensive biography that not only recounts the known facts of Mary
 Prince's life but also investigates her legacy in literature and history.
 This book discusses the challenges of reconstructing her biography and the
 significance of her story in contemporary discussions about race, gender, and
 human rights. It also reflects on how her narrative continues to inspire
 readers today.
- 6. Women and Slavery: The Story of Mary Prince
 This book situates Mary Prince's narrative within the wider experiences of
 enslaved women, highlighting issues of gender, power, and resistance. It
 examines how Prince's story reveals the unique hardships faced by women under
 slavery and their strategies for survival and emancipation. The text also
 discusses the gendered dimensions of abolitionist literature.
- 7. Mary Prince's Narrative and the Politics of Memory
 This scholarly work analyzes how Mary Prince's autobiography has been remembered, interpreted, and used in different historical contexts. It investigates the politics of memory surrounding slavery and the ways Prince's story has been reclaimed or contested over time. The book offers insights into the construction of historical narratives about slavery and abolition.
- 8. From Bondage to Freedom: Mary Prince's Journey
 Tracing Mary Prince's path from enslavement to freedom, this book explores
 the personal and political dimensions of her life story. It highlights her
 courage and determination in overcoming systemic oppression and her role in
 documenting the harsh realities of slavery. The narrative also considers the
 broader implications of her journey for understanding emancipation.
- 9. Mary Prince and the Literary Tradition of Slave Narratives
 This book places Mary Prince's autobiography within the literary tradition of slave narratives, examining its themes, style, and impact. It discusses how her story conforms to and diverges from typical conventions of the genre, contributing to its evolution. The analysis also explores the ways Prince's narrative challenged prevailing literary and social norms.

The History Of Mary Prince Pdf

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Author: Dr. Eleanor Vance (Fictional Author for this example)

Outline:

Introduction: The significance of Mary Prince's narrative and its historical context. The challenges in accessing and preserving such historical documents. The value of a readily available PDF version. Chapter 1: A Life Enslaved: Prince's early life, family, and the brutal realities of her enslavement in Bermuda and the West Indies. Focus on the specific details documented in her narrative. Chapter 2: Resistance and Escape: Prince's courageous acts of defiance, her eventual escape from slavery, and the journey to freedom. The legal and social obstacles she encountered. Chapter 3: The Power of Testimony: The significance of The History of Mary Prince as an early example of abolitionist literature. The impact of her narrative on public opinion and the abolitionist movement. Analysis of her literary style and effectiveness.

Chapter 4: Legacy and Lasting Impact: The ongoing relevance of Mary Prince's story in contemporary discussions of slavery, race, and human rights. The continued study and interpretation of her narrative. The PDF's role in ensuring accessibility for future generations.

Conclusion: A summary of Prince's remarkable life and lasting legacy. A reflection on the importance of preserving and sharing her story through accessible formats like PDFs.

The Enduring Legacy of Mary Prince: A Deep Dive into Her Remarkable Narrative

Mary Prince's The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave, Related by Herself stands as a monumental testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the brutal realities of slavery. This groundbreaking autobiography, published in 1831, offers a raw and unflinching account of a woman's journey from enslavement to freedom, leaving an indelible mark on the abolitionist movement and continuing to resonate with readers today. The accessibility of this powerful narrative in PDF format ensures that Prince's voice, once silenced by the system of chattel slavery, continues to be heard across generations.

Chapter 1: A Life Enslaved - The Horrors Experienced

Mary Prince's life began under the oppressive weight of slavery in Bermuda. Her narrative vividly portrays the dehumanizing conditions she endured, detailing the relentless physical and emotional abuse inflicted upon her and her family. She describes the arbitrary nature of the system, the constant fear of punishment, and the systematic stripping away of her dignity. The PDF allows readers to intimately engage with her experiences, encountering the stark reality of her daily life through her own words. Prince's descriptions of the harsh labor, meager rations, and constant threat of violence paint a grim picture of the plantation system. She recounts instances of sexual abuse, family separation, and the psychological trauma inflicted upon enslaved people, highlighting the

systematic dehumanization integral to the institution of slavery. This is not mere historical data; it's a visceral experience relayed directly by a survivor. The detail provided in her account is crucial for understanding the daily horrors faced by countless individuals during this period.

Chapter 2: Resistance and Escape - A Fight for Freedom

Despite the overwhelming oppression, Mary Prince's narrative is not solely one of suffering. It also showcases her remarkable resilience and spirit of resistance. The PDF allows readers to witness her quiet acts of defiance, her unwavering determination to retain her humanity in the face of brutal dehumanization. Her narrative documents her struggles to survive, her attempts to find ways to resist her enslavers, and her eventual escape. The journey to freedom was fraught with peril, requiring courage, resourcefulness, and a steadfast belief in the possibility of a better life. This section of her story highlights her unwavering determination to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles placed before her. Understanding her escape and the lengths she went to secure her freedom underscores the desperation that drove enslaved people to risk everything for a chance at liberty. Analyzing her choices and strategies emphasizes the agency she exercised within a system designed to suppress it completely.

Chapter 3: The Power of Testimony - A Voice for Abolition

The History of Mary Prince is more than just a personal memoir; it's a powerful piece of abolitionist literature. The PDF format allows for its easy dissemination and study, making Prince's voice easily accessible to modern audiences. Her narrative served as a potent weapon in the fight against slavery, exposing the inhumanity of the system to a wider audience than ever before. The vivid descriptions of the physical and emotional abuse she endured resonated deeply with readers, prompting many to question the morality of slavery. The impact of her narrative on public opinion was significant, contributing significantly to the growing momentum of the abolitionist movement. Analyzing her writing style, the power of her personal testimony, and the strategic choices made in the publication of her narrative are all crucial to understanding its lasting impact. She effectively humanized the enslaved, portraying them not as mere property but as individuals with families, hopes, dreams, and a fierce desire for freedom.

Chapter 4: Legacy and Lasting Impact - A Continuing Conversation

The relevance of Mary Prince's story extends far beyond the 19th century. Today, her narrative continues to serve as a powerful reminder of the devastating effects of slavery and the importance of fighting against all forms of oppression. The readily accessible PDF format ensures that her story remains relevant and accessible to contemporary readers. Her narrative speaks to contemporary

struggles for racial justice, human rights, and the ongoing fight for equality. The continued study and interpretation of her work allow for a deeper understanding of the complex legacy of slavery and its continuing impact on societies worldwide. The PDF version allows for easy inclusion in academic curricula, facilitating critical discussions and fostering a deeper understanding of this pivotal historical figure. Analyzing the ways in which her story continues to resonate with modern audiences, and the diverse interpretations it has generated over time, highlight its enduring significance.

Conclusion: A Voice That Echoes Through Time

Mary Prince's The History of Mary Prince is a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit. Her narrative, readily available in PDF format, allows her voice to resonate powerfully across time. It is a profound and moving account that continues to educate, inspire, and challenge readers to confront the painful legacy of slavery and to work towards a more just and equitable world. The ease of access afforded by the PDF ensures that her story, a crucial piece of history, will continue to be shared and studied for generations to come, prompting critical reflection and fueling the ongoing fight for social justice.

FAQs

- 1. Where can I find a free PDF of The History of Mary Prince? Many online archives and digital libraries offer free access. A search using the full title should yield results.
- 2. Is the PDF version a faithful reproduction of the original text? Reputable sources strive for accuracy; however, always check the source for any notes on potential variations.
- 3. What makes Mary Prince's narrative so significant? It's one of the earliest firsthand accounts of slavery written by an enslaved person, offering an unparalleled perspective.
- 4. How did The History of Mary Prince impact the abolitionist movement? It provided powerful evidence of slavery's brutality, swaying public opinion and bolstering the movement's efforts.
- 5. What are some of the key themes explored in the book? Resilience, resistance, the dehumanizing effects of slavery, and the fight for freedom are central themes.
- 6. Is the book suitable for all ages? Due to its graphic depictions of slavery's horrors, it's more appropriate for older readers or with parental guidance.
- 7. What other primary sources can I consult to learn more about slavery? Numerous slave narratives and abolitionist writings exist; further research will reveal many valuable sources.
- 8. How can I use this PDF in an educational setting? It's a valuable resource for discussions on slavery, human rights, and social justice.
- 9. Are there any scholarly articles or critical analyses of The History of Mary Prince? Yes, a significant body of scholarly work exists analyzing her narrative's historical and literary significance.

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- 9. Digital Humanities and the Accessibility of Slave Narratives: A discussion of the role of digital technologies in making historical documents like Mary Prince's narrative more accessible to a wider audience.

the history of mary prince pdf: The History of Mary Prince Mary Prince, 2012-04-26 Prince — a slave in the British colonies — vividly recalls her life in the West Indies, her rebellion against physical and psychological degradation, and her eventual escape in 1828 in England.

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the history of mary prince pdf: Changing the Subject Merinda Simmons, 2014 In Changing the Subject: Writing Women across the African Diaspora, K. Merinda Simmons argues that, in first-person narratives about women of color, contexts of migration illuminate constructions of gender and labor. These constructions and migrations suggest that the oft-employed notion of authenticity is not as useful a classification as many feminist and postcolonial scholars have assumed. Instead of relying on so-called authentic feminist journeys and heroines for her analysis, Simmons calls for a self-reflexive scholarship that takes seriously the scholar's own role in constructing the subject. The starting point for this study is the nineteenth-century Caribbean narrative The History of Mary Prince (1831). Simmons puts Prince's narrative in conversation with three twentieth-century novels: Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God, Gloria Naylor's Mama Day, and Maryse Condé's I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem. She incorporates autobiography theory to shift the critical focus from the object of study--slave histories--to the ways people talk about those histories and to the guiding interests of such discourses. In its reframing of women's migration narratives, Simmons's study unsettles theoretical certainties and disturbs the very notion of a cohesive diaspora.

the history of mary prince pdf: *The Classic Slave Narratives* Henry Louis Gates (Jr.), 2002 This collection of four first-hand accounts of slavery were chosen from the experiences of more than

6,000 ex-slaves, who by 1944 had written moving stories of their captivity. This volume includes portraits of the lives of Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Mary Prince, and Harriet Jacobs.

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the history of mary prince pdf: Slavery and the Culture of Taste Simon Gikandi, 2011-08-21 It would be easy to assume that, in the eighteenth century, slavery and the culture of taste--the world of politeness, manners, and aesthetics--existed as separate and unequal domains, unrelated in the spheres of social life. But to the contrary, Slavery and the Culture of Taste demonstrates that these two areas of modernity were surprisingly entwined. Ranging across Britain, the antebellum South, and the West Indies, and examining vast archives, including portraits, period paintings, personal narratives, and diaries, Simon Gikandi illustrates how the violence and ugliness of enslavement actually shaped theories of taste, notions of beauty, and practices of high culture, and how slavery's impurity informed and haunted the rarified customs of the time. Gikandi focuses on the ways that the enslavement of Africans and the profits derived from this exploitation enabled the moment of taste in European--mainly British--life, leading to a transformation of bourgeois ideas regarding freedom and selfhood. He explores how these connections played out in the immense fortunes made in the West Indies sugar colonies, supporting the lavish lives of English barons and altering the ideals that defined middle-class subjects. Discussing how the ownership of slaves turned the American planter class into a new aristocracy, Gikandi engages with the slaves' own response to the strange interplay of modern notions of freedom and the realities of bondage, and he emphasizes the aesthetic and cultural processes developed by slaves to create spaces of freedom outside the regimen of enforced labor and truncated leisure. Through a close look at the eighteenth century's many remarkable documents and artworks, Slavery and the Culture of Taste sets forth the tensions and contradictions entangling a brutal practice and the distinctions of civility.

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the history of mary prince pdf: <u>History of the Colony of New Haven, Before and After the Union with Connecticut</u> Edward Rodolphus Lambert, 1838

the history of mary prince pdf: *Cabin, Quarter, Plantation* Clifton Ellis, Rebecca Ginsburg, 2010 This important work brings together the best writing in the field, including classic pieces on slave landscapes by W.E.B. DuBois and Dell Upton, alongside new essays on such topics as the

building methods that Africans brought to the American South and information about slave family units and spiritual practices that can be gathered from archaeological remains. Through deep analysis of the built environment the authors invite us to reconsider antebellum buildings, landscapes, cabins, yards, and garden plots, and what these sites can teach us about the real conditions of enslavement. The starting point in any study of slavery and the built environment, this anthology makes an essential contribution to the cultural history of the United States. --Résumé de l'éditeur.

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the history of mary prince pdf: A Patriot's History of the United States Larry Schweikart, Michael Patrick Allen, 2004-12-29 For the past three decades, many history professors have allowed their biases to distort the way America's past is taught. These intellectuals have searched for instances of racism, sexism, and bigotry in our history while downplaying the greatness of America's patriots and the achievements of "dead white men." As a result, more emphasis is placed on Harriet Tubman than on George Washington; more about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II than about D-Day or Iwo Jima; more on the dangers we faced from Joseph McCarthy than those we faced from Josef Stalin. A Patriot's History of the United States corrects those doctrinaire biases. In this groundbreaking book, America's discovery, founding, and development are reexamined with an appreciation for the elements of public virtue, personal liberty, and private property that make this nation uniquely successful. This book offers a long-overdue acknowledgment of America's true and proud history.

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enslaved West Indian women in the struggle for freedom The forgotten history of women slaves and their struggle for liberation. Enslaved West Indian women had few opportunities to record their stories for posterity. In this riveting work of historical reclamation, Stella Dadzie recovers the lives of women who played a vital role in developing a culture of slave resistance across the Caribbean. Dadzie follows a savage trail from Elmina Castle in Ghana and the horrors of the Middle Passage, as slaves were transported across the Atlantic, to the sugar plantations of Jamaica and beyond. She reveals women who were central to slave rebellions and liberation. There are African gueens, such as Amina, who led a 20,000-strong army. There is Mary Prince, sold at twelve years old, never to see her sisters or mother again. Asante Nanny the Maroon, the legendary obeah sorceress, who guided the rebel forces in the Blue Mountains during the First Maroon War. Whether responding to the horrendous conditions of plantation life, the sadistic vagaries of their captors or the "peculiar burdens of their sex," their collective sanity relied on a highly subversive adaptation of the values and cultures they smuggled from their lost homes. By sustaining or adapting remembered cultural practices, they ensured that the lives of chattel slaves retained both meaning and purpose. A Kick in the Belly makes clear that subtle acts of insubordination and conscious acts of rebellion came to undermine the very fabric of West Indian slavery.

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matter. However, Warner died before a decision was reached and his narrative was published.

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the metropolis. At various times a descendant of the Aztec nobility was translating a Baroque play into Nahuatl to the delight of an Amerindian and mixed audience in the market of Tlatelolco; an Andalusian Dominican priest was writing the first Western grammar of the Chinese language in Fuzhou, a Chinese city that enjoyed a trade monopoly with the Spanish Philippines; a Franciscan friar was composing a piece of polyphonic music with lyrics in Quechua to be played in a church decorated with Moorish-style ceilings in a Peruvian valley; or a multi-ethnic team of Amerindian and Spanish naturalists was describing in Latin, Spanish and local vernacular languages thousands of medicinal plants, animals and minerals previously unknown to the West. And, most probably, at the same time that one of those exchanges were happening, the members of the School of Salamanca were laying the foundations of modern international law or formulating some of the first modern theories of price, value and money, Cervantes was writing Don Quixote, Velázquez was painting Las Meninas, or Goya was exposing both the dark and bright sides of the European Enlightenment. Actually, whenever we contemplate the galleries devoted to Velázquez, El Greco, Zurbarán, Murillo or Goya in the Prado Museum in Madrid; when we visit the National Palace in Mexico City, a mission in California, a Jesuit church in Rome or the Intramuros quarter in Manila; or when we hear Spanish being spoken in a myriad of accents in the streets of San Francisco, New Orleans or Manhattan we are experiencing some of the past and present fruits of an always vibrant and still expanding cultural community. As the reader can infer by now, this book is about how Spain and the larger Hispanic world have contributed to world history and in particular to the history of civilisation, not only at the zenith of the Hispanic Monarchy but throughout a much longer span of time.

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