

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/a-cultural-history-of-slavery-and-human-trafficking-in-the-age-of-global-conflict/>

This video outlines the author's motivations and objectives for editing a volume that explores unfree labor practices from 1900 to 1945. Initially approached to edit a different volume, the author chose this one due to a growing interest in the resurgence of slavery and exploitative labor during this period, informed by their experience teaching a related course.

Key aims of the book include challenging the traditional understanding of slavery, illustrating that many exploitative labor practices from the past persisted and transformed, rather than ended with formal abolition. The author highlights three critical factors contributing to the upsurge in unfree labor: the global conflict of World War II, the era's globalization and commercialization, and European colonization, which often relied on unpaid labor for resource extraction and infrastructure development.

The volume features contributions from a diverse range of scholars, discussing themes such as the legal definitions of slavery, economic impacts, and anti-slavery movements, while also emphasizing local examples and the global scope of the issue. The author encourages readers to conceptualize labor as a continuum, recognizing the complexity between fully free labor and its unfree counterparts. Overall, the book aims to deepen understanding of the persistence of slavery-like practices and the contradictions inherent in historical attempts to eradicate such exploitation.