



# Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History

By Ian Baucom

Download now

Read Online ➔

## Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom

In September 1781, the captain of the British slave ship *Zong* ordered 133 slaves thrown overboard, enabling the ship's owners to file an insurance claim for their lost "cargo." Accounts of this horrific event quickly became a staple of abolitionist discourse on both sides of the Atlantic. Ian Baucom revisits, in unprecedented detail, the *Zong* atrocity, the ensuing court cases, reactions to the event and trials, and the business and social dealings of the Liverpool merchants who owned the ship. Drawing on the work of an astonishing array of literary and social theorists, including Walter Benjamin, Giovanni Arrighi, Jacques Derrida, and many others, he argues that the tragedy is central not only to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the political and cultural archives of the black Atlantic but also to the history of modern capital and ethics. To apprehend the *Zong* tragedy, Baucom suggests, is not to come to terms with an isolated atrocity but to encounter a logic of violence key to the unfolding history of Atlantic modernity.

Baucom contends that the massacre and the trials that followed it bring to light an Atlantic cycle of capital accumulation based on speculative finance, an economic cycle that has not yet run its course. The extraordinarily abstract nature of today's finance capital is the late-eighteenth-century system intensified. Yet, as Baucom highlights, since the late 1700s, this rapacious speculative culture has had detractors. He traces the emergence and development of a counter-discourse he calls melancholy realism through abolitionist and human-rights texts, British romantic poetry, Scottish moral philosophy, and the work of late-twentieth-century literary theorists. In revealing how the *Zong* tragedy resonates within contemporary financial systems and human-rights discourses, Baucom puts forth a deeply compelling, utterly original theory of history: one that insists that an eighteenth-century atrocity is not past but present within the future we now inhabit.

↓ [Download Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slave ...pdf](#)



# Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History

*By Ian Baucom*

**Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History** By Ian Baucom

In September 1781, the captain of the British slave ship *Zong* ordered 133 slaves thrown overboard, enabling the ship's owners to file an insurance claim for their lost "cargo." Accounts of this horrific event quickly became a staple of abolitionist discourse on both sides of the Atlantic. Ian Baucom revisits, in unprecedented detail, the *Zong* atrocity, the ensuing court cases, reactions to the event and trials, and the business and social dealings of the Liverpool merchants who owned the ship. Drawing on the work of an astonishing array of literary and social theorists, including Walter Benjamin, Giovanni Arrighi, Jacques Derrida, and many others, he argues that the tragedy is central not only to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the political and cultural archives of the black Atlantic but also to the history of modern capital and ethics. To apprehend the *Zong* tragedy, Baucom suggests, is not to come to terms with an isolated atrocity but to encounter a logic of violence key to the unfolding history of Atlantic modernity.

Baucom contends that the massacre and the trials that followed it bring to light an Atlantic cycle of capital accumulation based on speculative finance, an economic cycle that has not yet run its course. The extraordinarily abstract nature of today's finance capital is the late-eighteenth-century system intensified. Yet, as Baucom highlights, since the late 1700s, this rapacious speculative culture has had detractors. He traces the emergence and development of a counter-discourse he calls melancholy realism through abolitionist and human-rights texts, British romantic poetry, Scottish moral philosophy, and the work of late-twentieth-century literary theorists. In revealing how the *Zong* tragedy resonates within contemporary financial systems and human-rights discourses, Baucom puts forth a deeply compelling, utterly original theory of history: one that insists that an eighteenth-century atrocity is not past but present within the future we now inhabit.

**Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History** By Ian Baucom  
**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #719583 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Duke University Press Books
- Published on: 2005-12-16
- Released on: 2005-12-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 1.00" w x 6.13" l, 1.36 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

 [Download Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slave ...pdf](#)



## Download and Read Free Online *Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History* By Ian Baucom

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*Specters of the Atlantic* is quite possibly the most provocative scholarly work I have read in a decade. I really cannot praise this book enough."—Mary Poovey, author of *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*

"A fantastically stimulating read, *Specters of the Atlantic* will be an extremely significant book. Its core strength is that it deals in such detail and in such an imaginative way with the primary texts associated with the case of the *Zong*. Nobody has read those texts in such a careful and stimulating way before, and nobody has used the case to construct such an ambitious historical schema."—Peter Hulme, author of *Remnants of Conquest: The Island Caribs and Their Visitors, 1877–1998*

"This work is a compelling study of the roles of slavery and abolition in the origins of finance capital in the British Atlantic empire. The work is an interdisciplinary tour de force, with superb scholarship on slavery, modernity, the Enlightenment, postmodernism and contemporary literary theory. It is one of the finest comparative studies of the philosophy of history and liberation struggles that I have read."  
(Charles C. Verharen *Interventions*)

#### From the Publisher

"*Specters of the Atlantic* is quite possibly the most provocative scholarly work I have read in a decade. I really cannot praise this book enough."—Mary Poovey, author of *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*

"A fantastically stimulating read, *Specters of the Atlantic* will be an extremely significant book. Its core strength is that it deals in such detail and in such an imaginative way with the primary texts associated with the case of the *Zong*. Nobody has read those texts in such a careful and stimulating way before, and nobody has used the case to construct such an ambitious historical schema."—Peter Hulme, author of *Remnants of Conquest: The Island Caribs and Their Visitors, 1877–1998*

#### From the Back Cover

"A fantastically stimulating read, "*Specters of the Atlantic*" will be an extremely significant book. Its core strength is that it deals in such detail and in such an imaginative way with the primary texts associated with the case of the "*Zong*." Nobody has read those texts in such a careful and stimulating way before, and nobody has used the case to construct such an ambitious historical schema."--Peter Hulme, author of "*Remnants of Conquest: The Island Caribs and Their Visitors, 1877-1998*"

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Valerie Israel:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As it is

known to us that book is very important usually. The book Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History had been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History is not only giving you considerably more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship using the book Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

#### **Derrick Minor:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a reserve your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Augusta Wilson:**

The book untitled Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History is the e-book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to a person. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

#### **Jocelyn Harper:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and and must have the time or they will get lots of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is definitely Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History.

**Download and Read Online Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom  
#VICZD32YSMH**

## **Read Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom for online ebook**

Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom books to read online.

### **Online Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom ebook PDF download**

**Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom Doc**

**Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom Mobipocket**

**Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom EPub**

**VICZD32YSMH: Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History By Ian Baucom**