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*Mutiny on the Rising Sun: A Tragic Tale of Slavery, Smuggling and Chocolate.* Jared Ross Hardesty. New York: New York University Press. 2021.

Eighteenth century smuggling in North America and the wider Atlantic world was ubiquitous. Comprising, as Hardesty notes, at least half of all trade. Focusing on a Boston based smuggling ring and a case study of a single ship, the *Rising Sun*, involved in smuggling between British Caribbean and North American colonies and Dutch Suriname in the mid-eighteenth century, Hardesty provides a means of envisaging the sheer scale and complexity of illegal trading. Central to the success of illegal trade and the rise of luxury commodities such as the chocolate traded by ships like, the *Rising Sun*, was slavery, as the author expertly illustrates. In doing so Hardesty employs a meticulous transnational approach to build on the substantial literature on smuggling in colonial America. The book demonstrates why smuggling was able to thrive and how small concessions to inter-imperial trade were seized and exploited.

In *Mutiny on the Rising Sun*, Hardesty investigates several crimes of transnational proportions. The voyage of the *Rising Sun* in 1743 was unusual because a mutiny took place on board in which three hired sailors killed the captain and other sailors and took control of the ship. The mutineers were ultimately captured and brought to trial, inadvertently providing a rich historical record that enables a deeper examination of the lives of those engaged in this kind of trade. By spotlighting the gruesome and extraordinary events that took place on the ship and providing a micro-historical analysis of the ship's mainly British crew, geographically disparate trade community and African captives, Hardesty is able to bring to life the routine activity of eighteenth-century smuggling, and to make important observations about how smuggling and slavery were mutually reinforcing. The ship regularly made voyages between Barbados and the Dutch colony of Suriname as part of the intra-American slave trade. Selling the enslaved provided the capital to engage in trading of luxury commodities profitable only because they were produced by enslaved labour. Hardesty argues that these realities ultimately echo and place in stark relief the importance of racial capitalism and slavery to the development of modern America.

The book brings together an impressive level of detailed research from archives in the Netherlands, New England, Great Britain, Barbados and Suriname. It opens with a vivid, violent, depiction of the night of the mutiny, which segways into chapters on the captain, the cartel, cargo and crew. The background to the smuggling ring is developed, including the importance of Boston Old North church to the formation of the network, as well as a detailed examination of shipboard hierarchies. Hardesty draws attention to the fact that the three mutineers were foreign, described as of 'Portuguese' origin originally, one in fact was Venetian, and that two of them, at least, were of African descent. Here, it would make sense to examine the peculiarities of the case a little more closely in relation to the literature on Atlantic creoles, which would have enriched the discussion and helped explain the agility of these mariners in terms of how they might have presented themselves. The racial categorization of the mutineers was a factor that were made particularly salient in some of the reporting of the incident that made its way to England and the United States producing narratives that clearly sought to justify the brutal punishments meted out to them.

In the final chapters entitled 'endings' and 'aftermath' the wake of the mutiny is examined as well as the repercussions for the mutineers, the sailors (both those who survived and the families of the murdered) and also, importantly, the lives of the captive Africans on board the ship. The epilogue explains the prominence of the captain in the book, as it was through sources related to Captain Jackson and Old North Church that the author unearthed the finer details of the story. This eventually led to working with heritage institutions to recontextualise a chocolate shop named after the captain of the *Rising Sun* as part of Boston's historical city Freedom Trail and centre the hidden history of slavery and smuggling. The nature of uncovering the history of marginalised and enslaved people necessarily means engaging with gaps in the historical record and the lack of sources and limitations of the perspective presented in the sources is something that Hardesty acknowledges as problematic as he develops uneven parts of an attempted holistic story. With the help of tiny clues, suppositions and plausible similar examples, Hardesty is able to weave the narrative together and to recuperate essential and deeply disconcerting aspects of the voyage and its wider implications. Most notable is the discovery of an inventory that listed that enslaved people had been part of the voyage.

Overall, the book demonstrates the value of this type of micro historical approach in shedding light on broad-based phenomena and revealing transnational interconnectivity. Hardesty generously provides a look behind the scenes into the process of the research and writing of the book, including an appendix with sources that would be valuable for undergraduate seminars. The book will appeal to students, scholars, and the general public alike, and provides a powerful example of how a close reading of the available sources can enable recuperation of hidden histories with impact for the heritage sector, academia and beyond.