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In **Captives: Britain, Empire, and the World, 1600-1850**, Linda Colley exposes a perspective of the Imperial Britain that goes against traditional history. Although Britain experienced expansion at an unprecedented rate during the late 1600s until the mid-1800s, it had spread itself too thin across the globe.

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By exploring these forgotten captives – and their captors – Colley reveals how Britain's emerging empire was often tentative and subject to profound insecurities and limitations. She evokes how British empire was experienced by the mass of poor whites who created it.

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**Captives: Britain, Empire and the World** is a fascinating look at the precarious nature of empire building and the hazards inherent in constructing and maintaining dominion over vast regions of land and people far from the seat of power. It is also the story of how ordinary people play a role in empire building and it shows that without the sacrifices of so many everyday lives the British would never have been able to hold sway over one fifth of the global population.

Linda Colley (2003), **Captives: Britain, Empire and the**

**Captives: Britain, Empire and the World 1600-1850** by Linda Colley 438pp, Cape, £ 20

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Some of the captives I'm looking at are British and Irish people, taken captive by the forces of the Ottoman Empire, which in the seventeenth century and for part of the eighteenth century was more powerful than the British Empire, sprawling over parts of Asia, Eastern Europe and North Africa.

**Captives and the British Empire**

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**Captives: Britain, Empire and the World 1600-1850** by Linda Colley Ranging over a quarter of a millennium and four continents, **Captives** uncovers the experiences and writings of those tens of thousands of men and women who took part in Britain's rise to imperial pre-eminence, but who got caught and caught out.

**Captives** By Linda Colley | **Used** — **Very Good**

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