



# Equiano, the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man

*Vincent Carretta*

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**Equiano, the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man** Vincent Carretta

**A controversial look at the most renowned person of African descent in the eighteenth century**

In this widely acclaimed biography, historian Vincent Carretta gives us the authoritative portrait of Olaudah Equiano (c.1745–1797), the former slave whose 1789 autobiography quickly became a popular polemic against the slave trade and a literary classic. Sailor, entrepreneur, and adventurer, Equiano is revealed here as never before, thanks to archival research on an unprecedented scale—some of which even indicates that Equiano may have lied about his origins to advance the antibondage struggle with which he became famously identified. A masterpiece of scholarship and writerly poise, this book redefines an extraordinary man and the turbulent age that shaped him.

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