



## Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves

*Kevin Bales*

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In his 1999 book, *Disposable People*, Kevin Bales brought to light the shocking fact of modern slavery and described how, nearly two hundred years after the slave trade was abolished (legal slavery would have to wait another fifty years), global slavery stubbornly persists. In *Ending Slavery*, Bales again grapples with the struggle to end this ancient evil and presents the ideas and insights that can finally lead to slavery's extinction. Recalling his own involvement in the antislavery movement, he recounts a personal journey in search of the solution and explains how governments and citizens can build a world without slavery.

## Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves Details

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## From Reader Review Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves for online ebook

### Josephine says

I think there are a lot of us out there who are surprised when we first hear that slavery still exists today — and while reading books like Bales' groundbreaking "Disposable People" is important to become aware of how there are actually 27 million people out there who are currently enslaved, it's equally important to read a book like Bales' follow-up, "Ending Slavery," where he only introduces us to modern-day abolitionists who were so horrified by what they learned and witnessed that they started to make it their life mission to help those enslaved.

But Bales doesn't stop there.

Besides having all the royalties from the book donated to Free The Slaves, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending slavery, Bales also outlines a guide for eliminating slavery.

"Money alone will not solve the problem," Bales acknowledges. "We have to change minds, laws, customs and our way of doing business to bring slavery to an end."

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### Claudia Glezz Cisneros says

Los esclavos del siglo XXI son una inmensa legión: 27 millones de personas. Tienen tres cosas en común: se les ha quitado la voluntad, se les controla con la violencia, se les explota económicamente. Y no sólo en los países en vía de desarrollo, sino también en los Estados Unidos y Japón. Bales es presidente de Free the Slave y autor de algunos otros libros sobre el tema, es un especialista en la lucha contra la esclavitud y lleva años conduciendo investigaciones para entender el fenómeno y las maneras de combatirlo. Este libro en concreto es un libro positivo, que demuestra que esa tragedia puede vencerse, si todos hacen su parte. En primer lugar se presentan algunos casos de esclavos liberados, y se analizan las figuras de los "libertadores", gente de la calle que realiza un trabajo heroico. Y a partir de los casos de éxito, se traen indicaciones prácticas para las comunidades en las que hay esclavos trabajando, para los gobiernos y los ciudadanos, para las Naciones Unidas, el Banco Mundial y la Organización Mundial del Comercio, para los consumidores y las empresas. Un libro fundamental sobre un fenómeno que solemos ignorar o creemos marginal y perteneciente a lejanas regiones del mundo.

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### Rodger says

This book won the 2011 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order, a \$100,000 prize. Disclosure: I administer the prize. As the title suggests, this book suggests and evaluates a large number of policies and practices that might be employed to bring an end to modern slavery (a problem often referenced more narrowly as "human trafficking")

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## **Rebekah Gamble says**

This is a book that's easy to recommend, despite the fact that some of the statistics provided may be slightly dated. Kevin Bales has done an excellent job of spearheading much of the modern world's abolition work and in bringing education to the people in an approachable, digestible way. This book, along with Disposable People, provides a strong foundation in understanding the modern day issues and situation around slavery in our world today from child slavery to sex slavery to labor slavery, the book covers an introduction to all of it without churning your stomach too much. It's great fuel for the work that needs done.

When I first got involved with Kevin Bale's work through Free the Slaves and the International Justice Mission in 2010, no one had heard of human trafficking. It wasn't a known problem, and little to nothing had been done about it. That's not the story today as 'modern day slavery' is spoken of on the radio, in classrooms, and among people in coffee shops and book circles. This book I believe has been a major part of that transition into a more awake public that is more capable of solving these problems.

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## **Mary Harley says**

I try to keep on top of social issues and human injustices - but I have to confess my naivete about the prevalent worldwide existence of slavery, even in our own country. Kevin Bales, president of Free the Slaves, gives detailed accounts of slavery and traces the cycle of loss of human dignity that follows it. He asserts throughout the book that slavery has existed for over five thousand years, but for many reasons there has never been a better opportunity than now to completely eradicate it. A large part of the problem is that slavery is invisible to many people, myself included. Law enforcement officers, medical workers, restaurant inspectors and others can easily walk into slavery situations, oblivious to signs of slavery. Bales makes concrete suggestions for all readers to help eradicate slavery, from lawmakers and business owners to common citizens.

It's interesting to me that Bales does not condone outright boycotts of slave-made products like chocolate or rugs; rather, he encourages consumer education to put pressure on buyers and legislators while spreading the word to help anti-slavery workers gain the resource and internal support they need to free slaves.

Bales is keenly aware that just "freeing the slaves" does not complete the job. Obviously, people locked in dark, unsanitary rooms and subjected to violence and abuse are going to require rehabilitation on many levels. Anti-slavery groups are working to train medical, psychological, and other professionals in post-slavery specialties (which are all but non-existent). Additionally, the groups he mentions focus on preventing re-enslavement - namely, reducing the life-threatening poverty which often leads to slavery in the first place. A lot of reference is made to our own country's end of legal slavery - a feat many thought would never be possible. It gives me hope that with enough people playing in the right roles, worldwide slavery can also become a thing of the past.

Slavery and poverty are tightly linked. There are many interventions being done to help reduce poverty, but ending slavery as a means to ending poverty is a relatively new phenomenon. Linking the two will create greater benefit than fighting either battle separately: In a recent series of in-depth multi-national statistical trials, "It is the amount of slavery that best explains differences in human development between countries. Other factors also play a role, but in predicting human development the amount of slavery was more important than the level of democracy, national debt, civil conflict, or corruption... obviously, slavery ruins the lives of slaves, but this research indicates that slavery is a major cause of depressed economies, low literacy levels, and shorter lifespans for all citizens in poor countries."

I'd recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in justice who would like to learn more about human injustices and educate themselves to do their part to right them.

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## May Ling says

I don't want to be too harsh as anyone attempting to tackle this issue is worthy of commendation. This particular book was difficult in that it was a little too factual and not enough of the other stuff, which likely would have been grotesque and horrible.

For anyone learning about this subject I would suggest the book on Somali Mamm also in my lists.

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## Todd Kruse says

Clearly modern day slavery is alive and well but not very transparent in our world. I found Bales' book to be informative and full of passion but his faith in the United Nations being a resource is a mystery to me given their history of gridlock, corruption, and incompetence. A much better solution would be for the world community to move the United Nations from New York City to the developing world such as India since most of Bales' book discusses slavery in that country.

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## Suzahn says

Packed with great info, but when it comes to the action centered parts of the books, his best advice is 'donate money'. I guess that this is the most some people can do. But if that is seriously his only advice, I would like the money that I payed for the book back so that I can donate it.

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## Curtis says

I believe this is the definitive guide for information on modern slavery and human trafficking. So indepth and insightful, reaching every level of involvement. Eye opening in it's look into the products we use daily and their connection to slavery. Recommended for everyone wanting to understand the problem (and possible solutions) of slavery today.

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## Dale says

### An Important Book

*Published in 2007 by University of California Press.  
274 pages.*

So, who is surprised to hear that there are still slaves in this modern world in such places as India, Burma, Brazil, Haiti, Maryland and San Diego? What - Maryland? San Diego? Sadly, yes. Approximately 27 million of them...

Read more at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2011/...>

## **Cheryl says**

The book was eye-opening. It isn't easy to read, nor is it a quick read. It is full of lots of details, statistics, stories and information. I felt overwhelmed quite often with so much information. The stories of the children and young adults who are enslaved in countries like the US and Japan is heartrendering. It is also a book of heroes. Those who don't look the other way when a neighbor has an unexplained child who cleans their house or is being used as a prostitute. Those who understand the best way to combat slavery is to ensure the poor have other choices beyond starvation or slavery.

Practical ways to help are included. More than anything, I appreciated the author's deep understanding that until we address the economic impact in tangible, do-able ways, the slaves too often are recaptured and re-victimized. It should never have been ok to exploit others so we can have luxuries.

This is a sobering book that I struggled through in small doses.

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## **Sarabeara says**

This book is an eye opening read, although some parts of it may drag because it is so information filled, it is a book well worth reading if you have any passion or care at all about your fellow human beings. I was amazed, surprised and dumbfounded at the information I read, I couldn't believe how ignorant I have been in regards to slavery, with all the free trade situations coming out into the open now this book was just such an informative, eye opening, mind blowing read. Although I am not equipped to deal with slavery I now have learnt through this book a greater way of noticing if it is occurring. I only hope that if I ever do I do the right thing and respond to the situation appropriately!

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## **Kelsey says**

Really enjoying this book so far, it is full of practical advice about how to end modern slavery, whether that be as a career or as an ordinary local. Of course there are the necessary traumatic stories, but for the most part it is very directed and gives positive outlines of action.

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## **Adrienne says**

A bit text-book-ish, but he sucks you in with heartbreaking stories, introduces you to heroes, and presents intellectual and sound ideas of ways YOU can help. Not your neighbor, not your second cousin twice-removed... how YOU can start doing something.

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## **Danielle says**

This is an amazing text! Very easy to read, which is unique for such heavy material. It really brings the problem and potential solutions into focus- clearly, as if you were sitting in the room with Bales coming to the conclusions on your own. Every idea/fact is backed up by real-life stories told in detail.

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