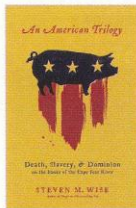


*Landmark Trial that led to the End of Human Slavery; Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals; and Drawing the Line: Science and the Case for Animal Rights.* He finds the philosophical basis for exploitation in interpretations of the Bible. For example, Moses' curse of his son, Ham, to be the servant of servants was believed to give Christians permission to enslave both Africans and Native Americans.

Furthermore, Genesis 1:26–28 was interpreted to mean that humankind had dominion over the earth and everything that swam, flew, or crawled on its surface. Without that theoretical claim, Wise argues that the extermination of the American Indians, black slavery, and extreme animal exploitation, described vividly in his chapters on the workings of the pork slaughterhouses and industrial farms, would never have occurred. “Unlike America’s Indians, who recognized reciprocity in the relationship between human and nonhuman animals, the English saw only domination, with many having little regard for the suffering of any animal.” Recent statements among some Christian sects have reinvented the idea of “dominion” into one of “stewardship” of God’s earth and creatures.

The bulk of the book concentrates on the pork industry as it is practiced in North Carolina and around the country. Wise traces the land in Bladen County, shot through by the Cape Fear River and home to the world’s largest slaughterhouse. The systematic abuse of hogs as they are bred, killed, and eviscerated is widespread and documented by many sources throughout the book. Disturbing and enraging, Wise’s book exposes both the facts and the ideological underpinnings of the brutal world of modern meat production. (March) *Deirdre Sinnott*

## HISTORY



### **An American Trilogy: Death, Slavery, and Dominion on the Banks of the Cape Fear River**

**Steven M. Wise**  
Da Capo Press  
Hardcover \$26.00 (304pp)  
978-0-306-81475-4

Death, domination, and oppression are an old story in North Carolina. Queen Elizabeth authorized Sir Walter Raleigh to colonize the Carolinas in 1584. That began a series of events that have soaked the land with blood and sorrow: the displacement of the indigenous inhabitants via violence and disease, the brutal era of chattel slavery, and the present epoch of massive abat-tors dispatching 38,000 hogs a day.

Wise has lectured for years on animal rights and has taught at Harvard Law School. He is the author of *Though the Heavens May Fall: The*