



Malik Ambar: Power and Slavery across the Indian Ocean (The World in a Life Series)

Omar H. Ali

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Part of **The World in a Life** series, this brief, inexpensive text provides insight into the life of slave soldier Malik Ambar. *Malik Ambar: Power and Slavery across the Indian Ocean* offers a rare look at an individual who began in obscurity in eastern Africa and reached the highest levels of South Asian political and military affairs in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Ambar's rise from slavery in East Africa to ruler in South Asia sheds light on the diverse mix of people, products, and practices that shaped the Indian Ocean world during the early modern period. Originally from Ethiopia--historically called Abyssinia--Ambar is best known for having defended the Deccan from being occupied by the Mughals during the first quarter of the seventeenth century. His ingenuity as a military leader, his diplomatic skills, and his land-reform policies contributed to his success in keeping the Deccan free of Mughal imperial rule.

We live in a global age where big concepts like "globalization" often tempt us to forget the personal side of the past. The titles in **The World in a Life** series aim to revive these meaningful lives. Each one shows us what it was like to live on a world historical stage. Brief, inexpensive, and thematic, each book can be read in a week, fit within a wide range of curricula, and shed insight into a particular place or time. Four to six short primary sources at the end of each volume sharpen the reader's view of an individual's impact on world history.

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