



PRIMARY SOURCE

BOX 1.3 Bradley, K. 1992. “‘The Regular, Daily Traffic in Slaves’: Roman History and Contemporary History.” *The Classical Journal* 87 (2): 136.

The kinds of impact on slaves made by the traffic in human merchandise . . . are symptomatic of what in contemporary affairs we should now call violations of fundamental human rights. If the current sensitivity to that concept sharpens perception and understanding of the past, then that to my mind marks a true historical advance. It does not follow that what is admirable from the past is any the less admirable; it simply means that the price of the admirable—an incalculable degree of human misery and suffering—is given its full historical due. It is in this sense, accordingly, that one might assert that the best history is very much contemporary history.