

## H.E. Becher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin

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### Abstract

When we talk about the history of the United States, we will probably know a lot about it through novels or films from America which are related to American history, one of which is a novel entitled Uncle Tom's Cabin By H.E Becher Stowe. This is a classic literature that bears witness to the history of slavery in the United States which cannot be separated from the social practices that occurred at that time. The dark history of slavery in America dates back to 1619, when the first African slaves arrived in Virginia. When the Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850, various controversies began to arise in American society, especially between the southern and northern states. If you are looking for the history of slavery in America, then this novel's appearance is recorded in 1852 and has a tremendous impact on a society that has long had sentiments against slavery, as well as caused a lot of criticism from the South American region.

**Key words :** Novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, H.E Becher Stowe

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### INTRODUCTION

In the history of slavery in the United States, maybe we can find about the journey of Christopher Columbus, as the researchers have read in the book "The Myths that Made America An Introduction to American Studies, where Columbus can enslave his people because he and his men are superior in all things (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021), (Amelia & Daud, 2020). They vehemently demonstrated the superiority they assumed: Columbus took over the islands and the natives, implying that he was authorized to do so at his will (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018), (Setri & Setiawan, 2020). Columbus into an ethnic hero following the Irish, Jewish, and Italian "waves" of immigration to the United States (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018). According to (Kuswoyo et al., 2020b), Columbus and other Europeans who came to explore the "New World" actually violated human rights, by destroying their nature, practicing slavery and killing indigenous people. Oscar Handlin's account in *The Uprooted* (1951) shows that immigrants (in this context mostly Europeans) were the main focus of American history (Fithratullah, 2021), (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020). They are "Americans," and real Americans are just there to be colonized (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020).

Alongside Columbus' letter and Bartolomé de las Casas' compendium of Columbus' notebooks, it is the first biography of Columbus (written by his son, Ferdinand) to reach wider circulation and promote the image of Columbus as a hero and 'discoverer' internationally (Kuswoyo & Rido, 2019), (Samanik, 2021). The narrative, titled *The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus by His Son Ferdinand*, was published posthumously in 1571 in Spanish, Italian, English, and Latin (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021), and had many editions in the following decades and centuries. Ferdinand had his own agenda in promoting the unequivocal exoneration of his father's achievement (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021). The bookish Ferdinand, as a member of the "Columbus Dynasty in the Caribbean", lived comfortably off his father's 'new world'

discovery as a landowner as well as an (entirely unscrupulous) slaveholder, and thus had a strong interest in securing his inheritance and the legal titles granted to his father (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), which in the meantime had been revoked by the Spanish Crown (B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019). Thus, people know America as a country of white people and there are only natives (Fithratullah, 2019), (Ngestirosa et al., 2020).

Various ways have been done to introduce it, such as festivals, social media, through history lessons at school, literature, and others (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021). One of the literary works based on true stories of Americans is the novel by H.E Becher Stowe entitled *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Which was published in 1852 (two volumes). In its history, this novel, published in 1852, is known as the most shocking work with its perspective on slavery in the United States (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020). This work caused not only emotional and social effects but also strong political effects in society (Suprayogi et al., 2021). Many literatures about the anti-slavery movement or the history of the civil war.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Although Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) wrote more than 30 books, her best-selling anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* propelled her to international fame and established her place in history. In 1851, Stowe offered a piece that would "paint a word picture of slavery" to the publisher of the abolitionist newspaper *The National Era* (Afrianto et al., 2021), (Fadilah & Kuswoyo, 2021). *Uncle Tom's Cabin* grew to more than 40 installments, exceeding Stowe's expectations of three or four. As stated by (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), the serial was made into a two-volume book in 1852. In its first week in the United States, 10,000 copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* were sold; 300,000 in the beginning; and 1.5 million copies in a single year in Great Britain (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020), (Amelia, 2021). The Bible was the only book in the 19th century that sold more copies than *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Over 160 years after its distribution, *Uncle Tom's Lodge* has been converted into in excess of 70 dialects and is known all through the world (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a), (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021).

The character of Uncle Tom, an enslaved individual, is depicted as saintly, dignified, noble, and steadfast in his beliefs in the film *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Asia & Samanik, 2018). Tom saves Little Eva, an angelic and forgiving young girl, while he is being transported by boat to an auction in New Orleans (Suprayogi, 2021). Her grateful father then purchases Tom. Tom and Eva quickly become close friends. Eva's health, always fragile, is rapidly deteriorating, and on her deathbed, she begs her father to free all of his slaves. Tom's brutal new owner, Simon Legree, whips him to death after he refuses to reveal the whereabouts of some escaped slaves. He makes plans to do so, but he is killed instead (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019), (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021). Stowe gives Tom's death echoes of Christ's, and Tom maintains a steadfast Christian attitude toward his own suffering. The main villain in the story is Simon Legree, a man who chose sin over reform and stands for greed and brutality (Candra & Qodriani, 2019), (Fakhrurozi et al., 2021). Slaves are forced to play various roles in Legree's life. He forces a woman by the name of Cassy to live with him. In addition to purchasing Tom, Legree purchases Emmeline, a 15-year-old girl, whom he intends to keep as a replacement for Cassy (Kuswoyo et al., 2020a). Legree transforms Quimbo and Sambo into his companions and enforcers through punishment and reward. At Legree's direction, the two men are coerced into beating other slaves (Nurmalasari & Samanik, 2018), (Qodriani, 2021). Tom is killed

by a whip from Quimbo and Sambo; They express remorse and shame as Tom lay dying. Before he passes away, Tom forgives them.

## **METHOD**

In this study, the writers utilized library research techniques and subjective depiction. This study utilized a subjective methodology zeroing in on story understanding, portrayal, and examination. Subjective means examination dependent principally upon a constructivist viewpoint with respect to a singular's encounter that has been by and large or socially built. The information hotspot for this study was a novel entitled *Uncle Tom's Cabin* By H.E Becher Stowe. Information assortment strategies were performed by exploring or perusing sources in books, the web, as well as in past exploration reports, and others. Most understudies can find their assets in the library, information on the main libraries, experience with the chapter by chapter guide and other reference works, about complex is surely a fundamental apparatus for pretty much every understudy of writing. The information examination procedure utilized in this study is clear investigation. To help this information, the specialists looked for important information from different sources. Information investigation is the methodical course of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and concluding what is significant and which should be contemplated. also, make determinations that are straightforward.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Abolitionists in the North enthusiastically adopted *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, while the author and the book were vehemently denounced in the South, where reading or possessing the book became extremely risky. However, in the year that followed the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, approximately 300,000 copies were sold in the United States, and sales were also strong in England. On a trip to England in 1853, Stowe was warmly received, and she made friends with a lot of important writers there. Since 1852, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* has been adapted for the stage multiple times;The novel's transition to the stage was simple because it made use of the themes and techniques of theatrical melodrama that were popular at the time. In the United States, these adaptations attracted large crowds and contributed to the North's already significant popularity of Stowe's novel and the South's hostility toward it. Through the remainder of the 19th century and into the 20th, they became a fixture in touring companies. Later, during the early 20th century's silent film era, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was made into a movie. Because the story was so popular at the time, it was easier for people to understand. Protests against race-based discrimination prevented subsequent English-language film productions, but it was eventually adapted into an 1980s television drama. The story was also made into a movie in other languages, including German, and was retold in a number of animated films, including Walt Disney and Warner Brothers cartoons.

The issue of slavery and how humans are treated as property are major themes in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which Stowe balanced against Christianity's morality. Stowe's Christianity and her immersion in abolitionist writings informed her novel's depiction of slavery. She also used personal experiences she had in the 1830s and 1940s when she lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, which was a popular destination for people trying to escape slavery in Kentucky and other Southern states. She made her case against slavery in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by listing the suffering that enslaved people went through and demonstrating that

their owners were morally corrupt. A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin (1853), a collection of documents and testimony that Stowe used to back up her novel's depiction of slavery, was also published.

## CONCLUSION

Some claim that Uncle Tom's Cabin was a significant factor in the outbreak of the Civil War because it successfully melded elements of contemporary comedic writing with sentimental fiction. The phrase "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!" serves as the foundation for the idea that Uncle Tom's Cabin was a factor in the outbreak of the American Civil War. that is falsely attributed to President Isaac Lincoln. Scholar Daniel R. Volaro says that this remark, which Lincoln is said to have made to Stowe in December 1862, came from Stowe family tradition and didn't appear in print until 1896 (though it was written as "Is this the little woman who made the great war?"). Despite the fact that Lincoln almost certainly did not utter these words, they have nonetheless been cited numerous times as the legacy of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Female virtue is another prominent theme in Uncle Tom's Cabin, which features unconventional characters and women in stereotypical domestic roles. Emily Shelby, the wife of an enslaver who has moral influence over her husband's enslaved people, is one of the female characters in the story who demonstrates ethical and moral dignity. Eliza, the young maid for Mrs. Shelby, is a brave character whose actions are driven by fear and maternal love. Eliza and her son successfully escape slavery, fleeing to the North and eventually arriving in Liberia with her husband and son. Eva is a young, innocent girl who represents moral purity. In Uncle Tom's Cabin, despite being regarded as cliché at times, Stowe's empowerment of women brought attention to women's influence and the significance of women's rights.

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