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Sir,

I was amused to see you quoting Marika Sherwood on the slave trade. Although she is a qualified historian her views on slavery and on race generally leave much to be desired in the objectivity department. In 1999 she published an article about lynching in "History Today" magazine in which she inferred that the Deptford fire of 1980 and the 1993 murder of Stephen Lawrence were lynchings. In spite of repeated attempts by "anti-'racist'" groups to make political capital out of the Deptford fire, the best evidence indicated that the tragedy was probably an accident caused by someone at the party. And although deplorable, the murder of a teenager by a group of drunken thugs is hardly a lynching where summary justice is administered by a mob.

Likewise Miss Sherwood's assertion that slavery was abolished primarily by the struggle of the slaves themselves is ludicrous. The slaves who were shipped to America like cattle were illiterate, unorganised and had no concept of human rights. The abolition movement like all revolutionary movements good and bad was fermented and perpetated primarily by highly educated and dedicated men and women. The blacks who later joined this movement were freed slaves who had been educated and indoctrinated in the Western liberal tradition.

Yours Sincerely,
A Baron