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Drabinski, John E. **Glissant and the Middle Passage: philosophy, beginning, abyss**. Minnesota, 2019. 243p index ISBN 9781517905972, \$108.00; ISBN 9781517905989 pbk, \$27.00; ISBN 9781452959993 ebook, contact publisher for price.

This edifying study looks at the archipelagic thought of Édouard Glissant (1928–2011) in fiction and criticism. Drabinski (black studies, Amherst College) discusses Glissant as a reader of local thinkers (Fanon, Césaire, Senghor, Lamming, Chamoiseau, Peck, Walcott, et al.) in their deliberations on the Caribbean subjectivity facing the traumatic experience of the Middle Passage and slavery, against the trail of Atlantic thought (Heidegger, Levinas, Derrida, Lacan, Foucault, Deleuze, Guattari). Fleshing out the main intellectual itinerary that Glissant's work establishes outside conventional Western confines, Drabinski highlights human experiences such as history, representation, memory, de/relocation, and specificities of the Caribbean islands. Against the claim of the irretrievability of memory, the author underscores the ambiguous centrality of the Middle Passage as a sign of loss and presence of memory. The imperative of the geography gives the right to opacity, relation, abyss beginning, and creolization as a transformative process of negative occurrences. Opacity replaces clarity that history and memory were supposed to restore. Abyss beginning derives from the traumatic memories of the Middle Passage and the hardships of re/delocation. Creolization as impossibility of subjectivity retrieval invites reconceiving the models inherited and steers toward the future. A must-read for anyone interested in modern theories of the Caribbeans.

--K. M. Kapanga, *University of Richmond*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.