

April 2007 William Wilberforce (John Pollock)

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2007 sees the celebration of the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery in 1807. Commended by Tony Blair and William Hague, this new Bicentenary Edition of John Pollock's celebrated biography of William Wilberforce is the definitive account of the life of the man behind that turning point in the history of humanity.

William Wilberforce's 45 year fight to make slavery illegal is faithfully recorded here as one of the most courageous and vital political battles in history.

Born in Hull in 1759, William Wilberforce was destined to become one of Britain's most influential statesmen, having been influenced himself by men like Whitefield, Wesley and, most of all, Newton.

Wilberforce introduced his first anti-slave trade motion in the House of Commons in 1788 with a speech that lasted three-and-a-half-hours, appealing to the dictates of conscience, the principles of justice and the law of God.

The motion was defeated – but Wilberforce continued his campaign until the slave trade was abolished and went on to fight against slavery itself right up to his death. Just as he died on July 29, 1833, Wilberforce was informed that Parliament had finally agreed to the emancipation of slaves.

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