While a new wave of social welfare legislation and programs began in the 1960s and early 1970s it was no longer a result of a mass trade union or workers' class struggle. Moreover, trade union collaboration with the capitalist regional war policies led to the killing and maiming of hundreds of thousands of workers in two wars—the Korean and Vietnamese wars. With the election of President Carter, social welfare in the US began its long decline. The next series of regional wars were accompanied by even greater attacks on welfare via the Volker Plan—freezing workers' wages as a means to combat inflation. On the contrary, they facilitated contracts dictated by management, which reduced wages, job security, benefits and social welfare. This is a book that deserves a wider readership than its title might suggest. More than a narrow history concerning health and pension benefits received by one union, it touches on nearly every issue that has been raised concerning health care and social-security reform. Richard Mulcahy accomplishes this feat through a clearly written narrative history that seldom strays from its basic story line. The story involves the founding, development and demise of medical coverage provided by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Welfare and Retirement Fund. The United Mine Workers of America epitomized the New Deal concept of "junior partner" in the corporate economy, whereby unions made some concessions to management in return for better salaries and benefits. This book tells how that union's welfare and retirement fund blazed a trail in industrial benefits and served as a barometer of labor relations in the post-World War II era—and how union leaders and changes in the industry eventually undermined the program. While the Fund's creation anticipated the rise of the social order implicit in the New Deal, the demise of its medical program anticipated both the end of that order and the labor movement's general decline during the 1980s. Printed in the United States of America. The text of this book is composed in Bodoni with display type set in Beton Medium Agency and Bold Condensed. Composition and manufacturing by The Haddon Craftsmen, Inc. Book design by Charlotte Staub. Three companion volumes to Without Consent or Contract are available for those who are concerned with its technical foundations. The first, subtitled Evidence and Methods, contains an array of research reports on the evidence and procedures that underlie the primary volume. The discovery that slaves were effective workers who had developed a much stronger family life, a more varied set of occupational skills, and a richer, more distinct culture than previously recognized created an agonizing dilemma.