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Jan. 12, 2007

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LECTURE EXPLORES IMPACT OF NATION'S ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT MISSOULA—

The next installment of the University of Montana President's Lecture Series will examine the origins, contexts and achievements of the abolitionist movement as a historical prologue to the enduring problems of race relations in America.

David Brion Davis, founder and director emeritus of Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the History of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, will present "Abolitionism in America" at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, in the University Theatre.

Earlier that day, from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Davis will present a seminar titled "The Impact of British Abolitionism on the American Sectionalism that Led to Civil War" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Both events are free and open to the public and are presented in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and the Friends of the Missoula Public Library.

Davis received degrees from Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale and Columbia universities and from the University of New Haven. He is Sterling Professor of History Emeritus at Yale, where he taught from 1970 to 2001. He also taught history for 14 years at Cornell University

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and was Harmsworth Professor at Oxford University for one year. Until 2004, he directed Yale's Gilder Lehrman Center for the History of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, which he founded in 1998.

He is the author of several books for which he has won multiple awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction in 1967 for "The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture." His book "The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823" was winner of a 1975 National Book Award and Columbia University's Bancroft Prize.

Davis also received the American Historical Association's highest book award, the Albert J. Beveridge Award, in 1975. He recently received the association's Award for Scholarly Distinction.

His most recent book, "Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World," was published by Oxford University Press last year. Davis now is working to complete the final two volumes of his "Problem of Slavery" series.

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