

OVERVIEW OF THE
TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
1501-1867

Key

Arrows indicate estimated number of captives



NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

ASIA

New England/
Mid-Atlantic
Chesapeake
Carolina Lowcountry
Gulf Coast
Cuba

ATLANTIC OCEAN

All Europe

AFRICA

Senegambia
Sierra Leone
Windward Coast
Gold Coast
Bight of Benin
Bight of Biafra

Amazonia
Pernambuco
Bahia
Southeast Brazil

SOUTH AMERICA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

West Central Africa

Southeast Africa

Madagascar

AUSTRALIA

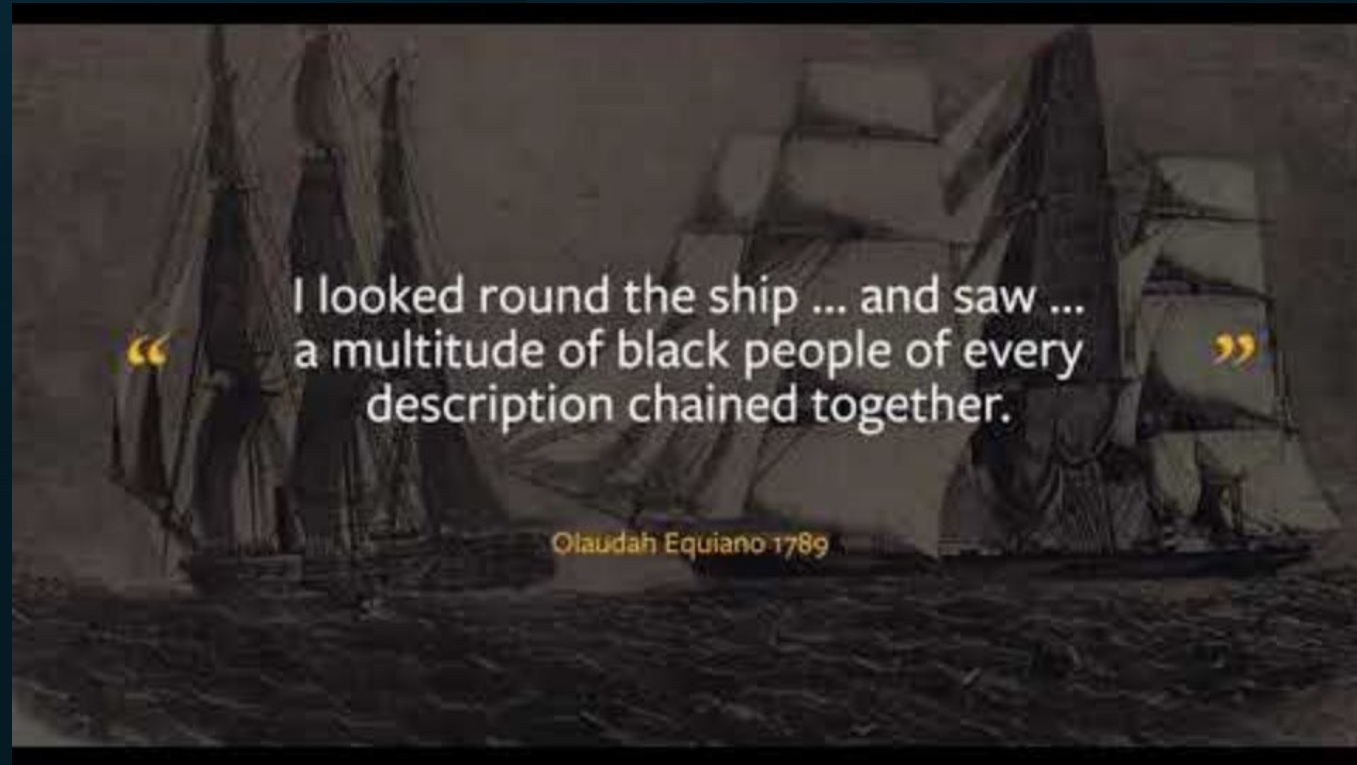
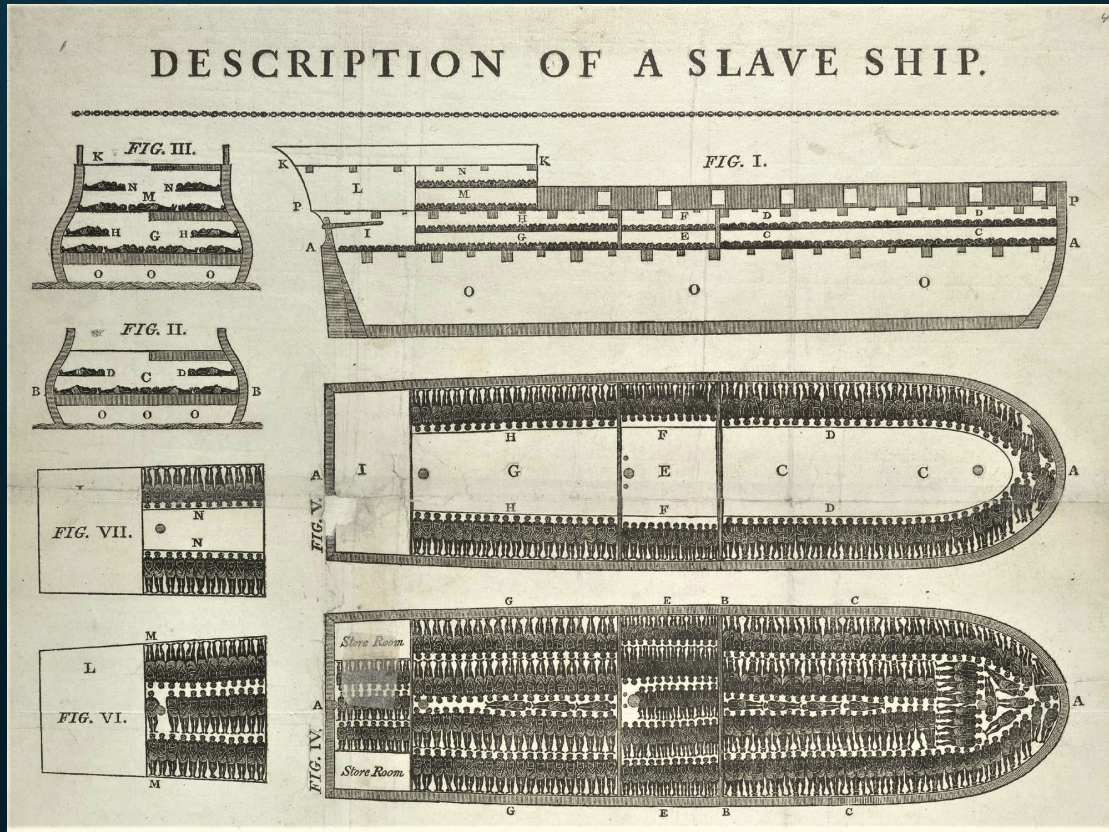
Rio de la Plata

Cape of Good Hope

Slavery & Freedom: The African American Experience in the 17th & 18th Centuries

Imagine being ripped from your homeland, stripped of your identity, and forced to labor for another human being's profit

This was the harsh reality of slavery in America, a system that contradicted the nation's founding ideals of freedom and equality.



Overview

- Today's lecture will focus on:
 - The harrowing origins and evolution of slavery in the Americas
 - The transatlantic slave trade within a global context
 - The brutal realities of plantation life in both North and South America
 - Resistance and cultural preservation employed by enslaved people



De Coppen Luesse ghyorden by indre
Cantw.

Op de borden Taudel Condatis by Coppen
alvoest

Jacobus Barlow

by indre woou 555
by indre woou 305
by indre woou 315

De indre woou 4

The Arrival of the First Africans

- In August 1619, the White Lion arrived in Point Comfort, Virginia, carrying "20. and odd Negroes."
- These individuals were likely captured in Angola and brought to America to work on tobacco plantations.



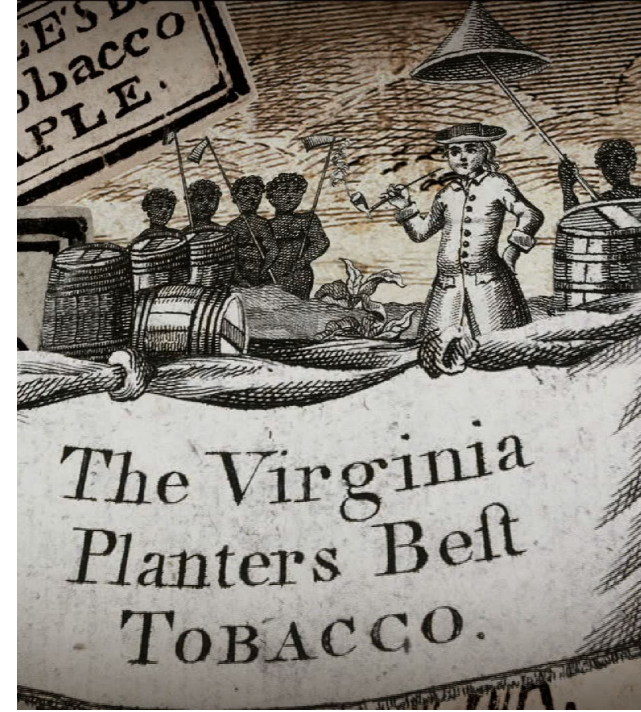
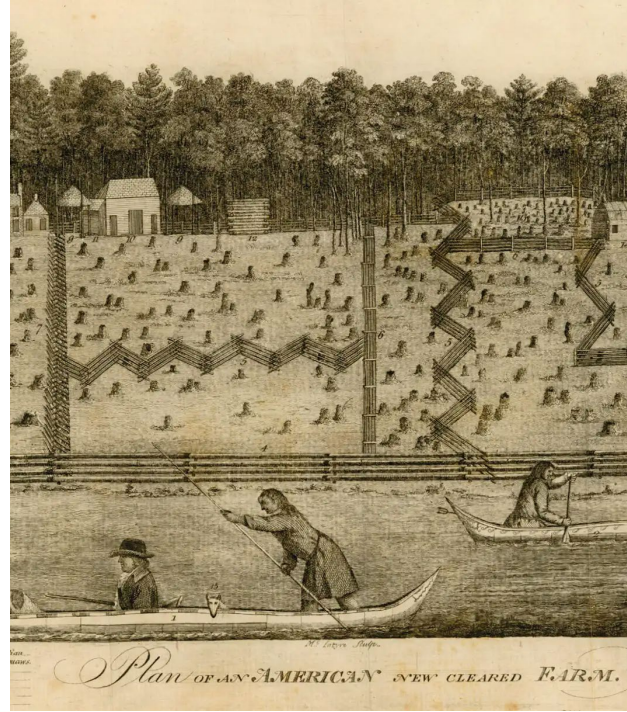
This Indenture of three parts

made the 14th day of the month of June 1680 between the said George the father by the name of one of the said parties of the first part and the said Robert the son of the said George the father of the second part and the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part

That the said Robert the son of the said George the father of the first part doth hereby acknowledge that he doth owe unto the said George the father of the second part the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for the redemption of the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part

And the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part doth hereby acknowledge that he doth owe unto the said George the father of the second part the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for the redemption of the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part

And the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part doth hereby acknowledge that he doth owe unto the said George the father of the second part the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain for the redemption of the said Robert the son of the said Robert the father of the third part

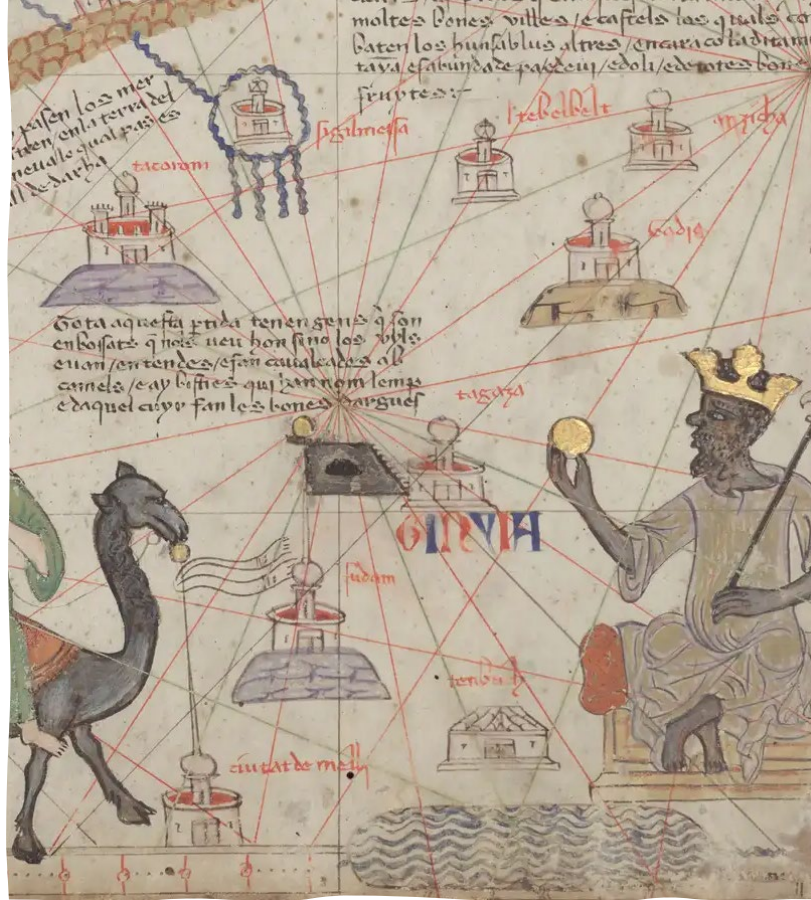


Schedule of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

Names of places in the division or separate districts	Free white Males					Free white Females					Slaves	
	Under 16 years of age	16 years and upwards	Under 16 years of age	16 years and upwards	Under 16 years of age							
Margaret Scott	26	120	268	259	77	262	111	145	77	26	121	265
John Edwards			1			2		1				1
Isaiah Newton	1			1		1	1	2	1			1
George Winburga			1	1	1		2					1
George Pope	3			1		1	1	1				1
Nancy Chesley	3					2			1			1
James Hedonell			1				1		1			1
												4
												398

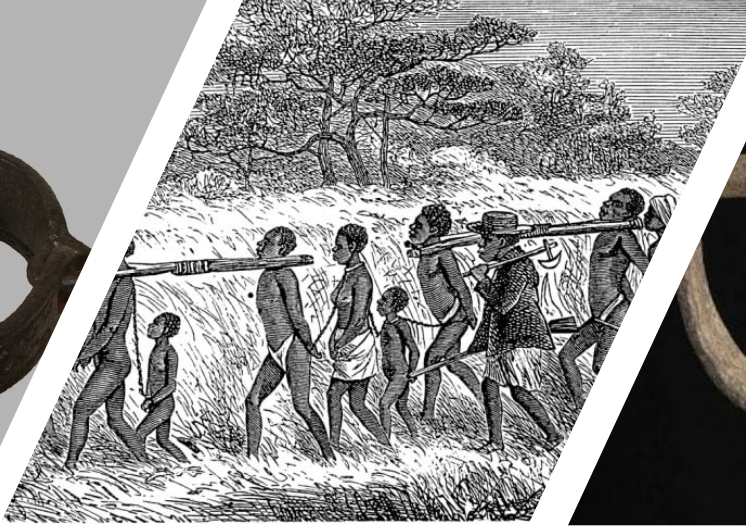
The Evolution of Slavery

- Initially, the status of these Africans was unclear.
- Over time, slavery became hereditary and racially based.
- By the late 17th century, slavery was deeply entrenched in the colonies, driven by economic interests and racial prejudice.
- Virginia Slave Codes



African Societies Before Enslavement

- Africa was rich in diverse cultures before the transatlantic slave trade.
- Kingdoms like Mali, Songhai, and Benin flourished, with complex systems of governance, trade, and artistic expression.



The Capture and the Middle Passage

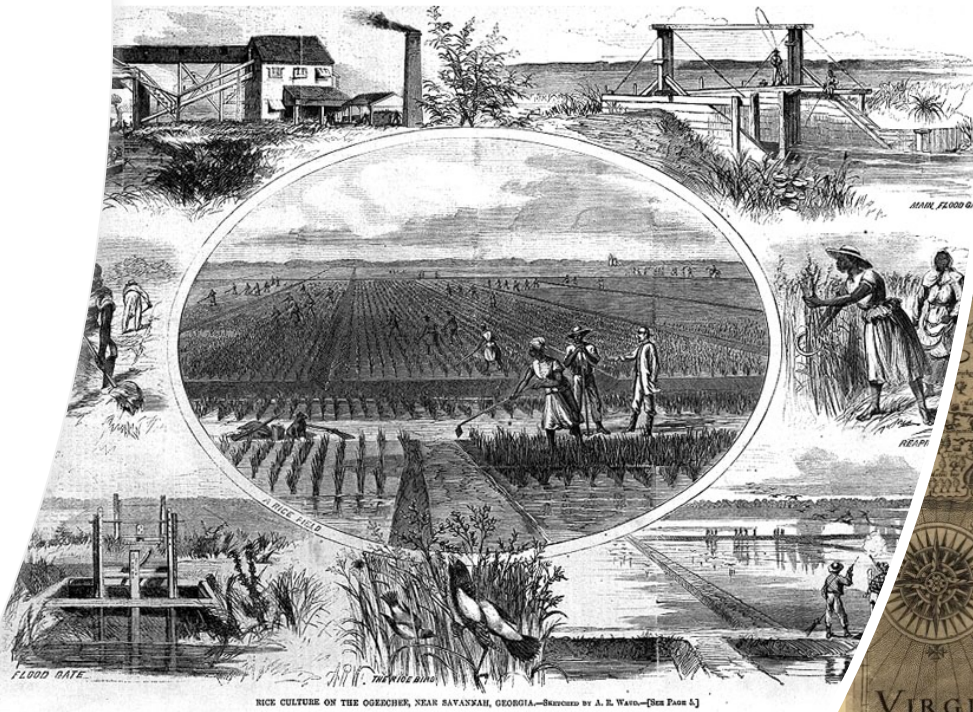
- Powerful African kingdoms like Dahomey and Ashanti participated in the slave trade.
- Enslaved Africans were marched to the coast and held in dungeons or barracoons before being loaded onto ships.
- The Middle Passage was a nightmarish voyage across the Atlantic, with horrific conditions.

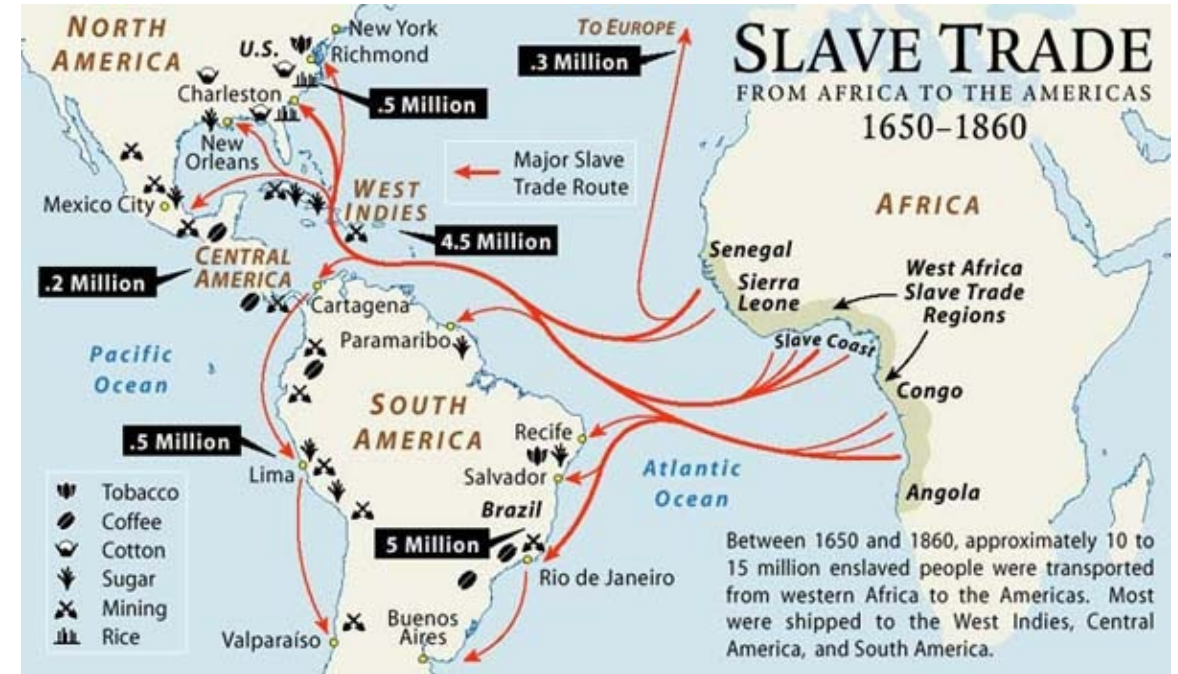


SLAVE BARRACON.

Arrival in the Americas: North America

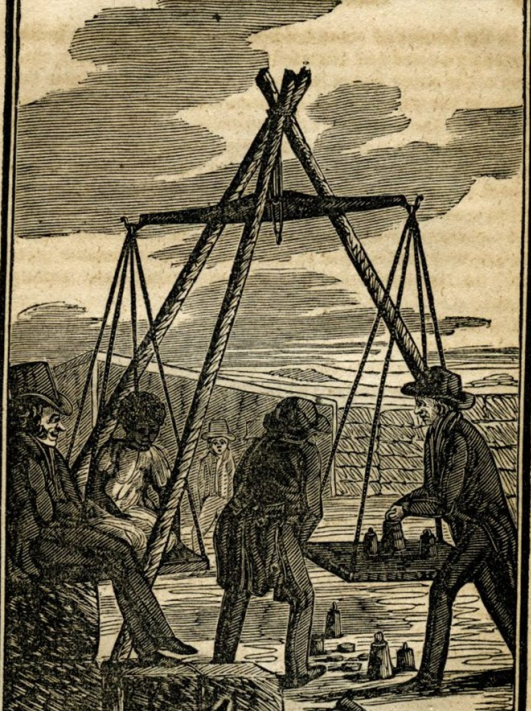
- Enslaved Africans arrived in various ports along the North American coast.
- They worked on plantations, cultivating crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo, and building colonial infrastructure.



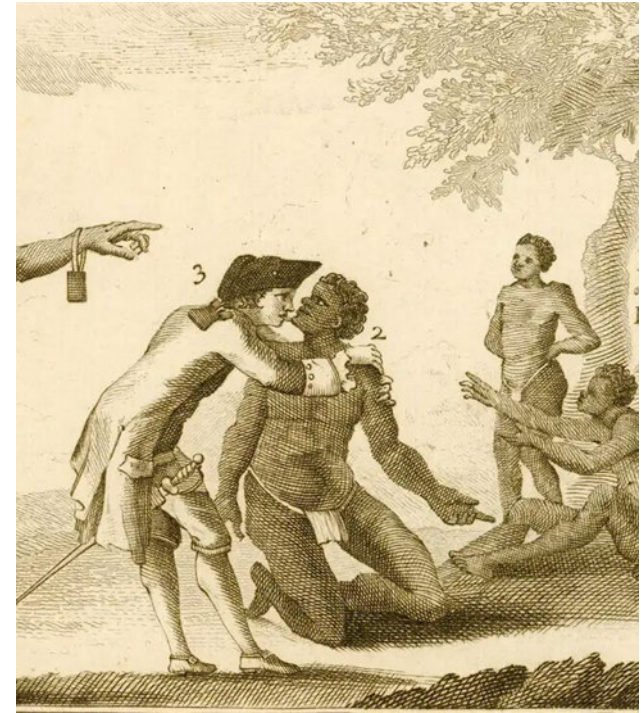
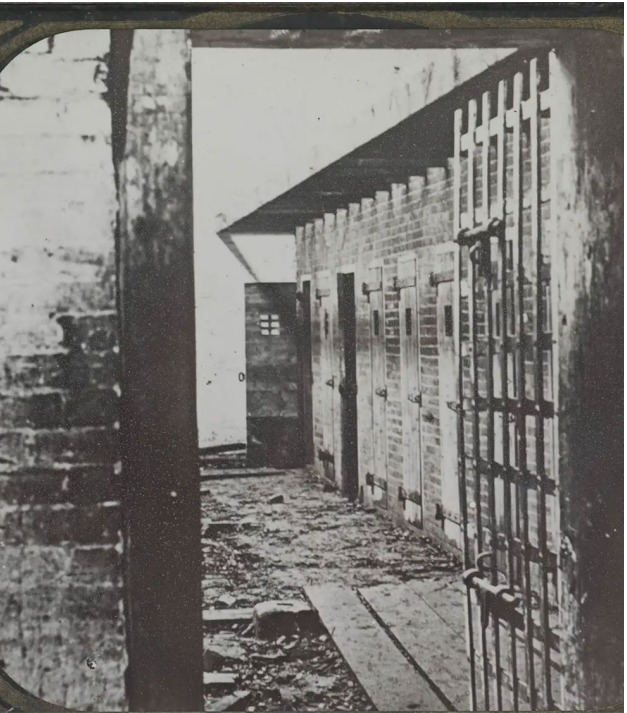


Arrival in the Americas: South America & the Caribbean

- The majority of enslaved Africans were transported to South America and the Caribbean.
- In these regions, they worked on sugar plantations, coffee plantations, and in mines under even harsher conditions.

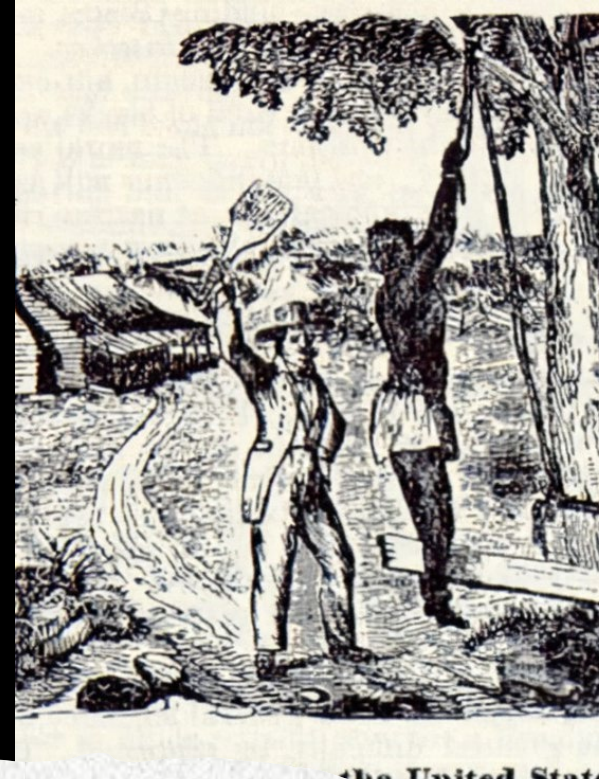


NEGROES
ft arrived from th
Windward & Rice Coa
-The utmost care h
ready been taken, a
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anger of being infecte
POX, no boat havin

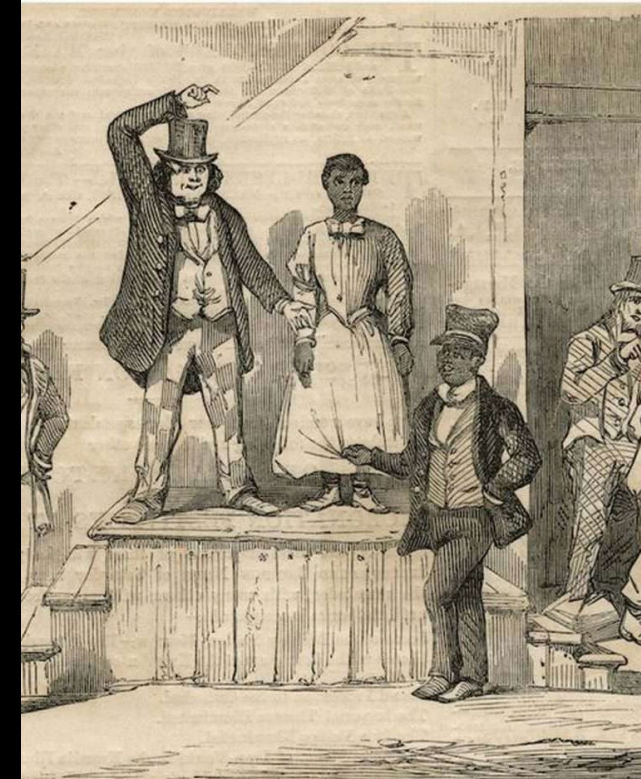


The Auction Block

- Enslaved Africans faced dehumanizing experiences of being sold at auction.
- They were stripped naked, inspected, and separated from their families.



The United States



Life in Bondage: Oppression, Resistance & Cultural Survival in the 17th & 18th Centuries

- Enslaved people performed backbreaking labor from dawn till dusk. Physical and sexual abuse were commonplace, and the threat of family separation loomed constantly.

United States. They give but a faint view of the cruel oppression to which the slaves are subject, but a strong one enough, it is thought, to fill every honest heart with a deep abhorrence of the atrocious system. Most of the important provisions here cited, though placed under the name of only one state, prevail in nearly all the States, with slight variations in language, and come diversity in the penalties. The extracts have been made in part from Stroud's Sketch of the Slave Laws, but chiefly from authorized editions of the Statute books referred to, found in the Philadelphia Law Library. As the compiler has not had access to many of the latter enactments of the several states, nearly all he has cited are acts of an earlier date than that of the present anti-slavery movement, so that their severity cannot be ascribed to its influence.

The cardinal principle of slavery, that the slave is not to be ranked among *sentient beings*, but among *things*—is an article of property—a chattel personal, obtains as undoubted law in all the Slave States.*—*Stroud's Sketch*, p. 22.

The dominion of the master is as unlimited, as is that which is tolerated by the laws of any civilized country, in relation to brute animals—to *quadrupeds*; to use the word of the civil law.—*Ib.* 24.

Slaves cannot even contract matrimony.†—*Ib.* 61.

LOUISIANA.—A slave is one who is in the power of his master, to whom he belongs. The master may sell him, dispose of his person, his industry and his labor; he can do nothing, possess nothing, nor acquire any thing but what must belong to his master.—*Civil Code*, Art. 35.

Slaves are incapable of inheriting or transmitting property.—*Civil Code*, Art. 945; also Art. 175. and *Code of Practice*, Art. 103.

Martin's Digest, act of June 7, 1806. Slaves shall always be reputed and considered real estate shall be as such subject to be mortgaged, according to the rules prescribed by law, and they shall be seized and sold as real estate.—*Vol. I.* p. 612.

Dig. Stat. Sec. 13.—No owner of slaves shall hire his slaves to themselves, under a penalty of \$100 for each offence.—*Vol. I.* p. 102.

Sec. 15.—No slave can possess any thing in his own right or dispose of the produce of his industry, without the consent of his master.—p. 103.

Sec. 16.—No slave can be party in a civil suit, or witness in a civil or criminal matter, against a white person, p. 103. See also *Civil Code*, Art. 117, p. 28.

Sec. 18.—A slave's subordination to his master is susceptible of no restriction, (except in cases of crime,) and he owes to him and all his family, respect without bounds, and absolute obedience.—p. 103.

Sec. 25.—Every slave found on horseback, without a written permission from his master, shall receive twenty-five lashes.—p. 105.

Sec. 32.—Any freeholder may seize and correct any slave found absent from his usual place of work or residence, without some white person, and if the slave resist or try to escape, he may use force of arms, and if the slave *assault* and strike him, he may *kill* the slave.—p. 108.

Sec. 35.—It is lawful to fire upon runaway negroes who are armed, and upon those who are pursued, refuse to surrender.—p. 109.

Sec. 38.—No slave may buy, sell or exchange any kind of goods, or hold any boat, or bring any thing to his own use any horses or cattle, under a penalty of forfeiting the whole.—p. 110.

Sec. 7.—Slaves or free colored persons are punished with *death* for wilfully burning or destroying any stack of produce or any building.—p. 115.

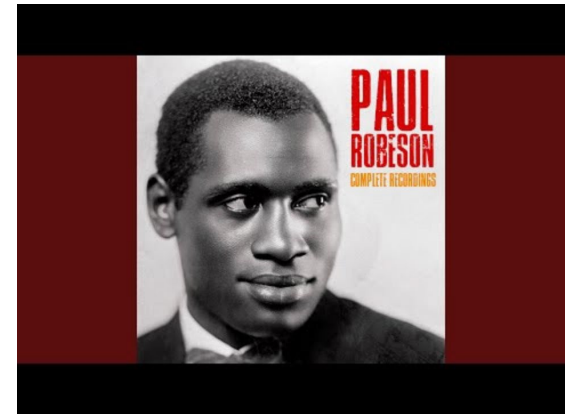
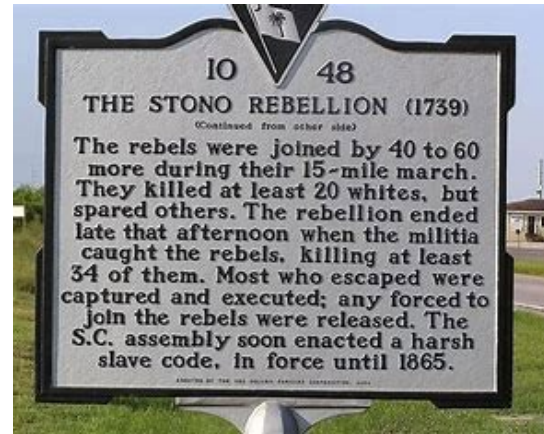
Sec. 15.—The punishment of a slave for striking a white person, shall be for the first and second offences at the discretion of the court,§ but not extending to life or limb, and for the third offence *death*; but for grievously wounding or mutilating a white person, *death* for the first offence.

The Slave Codes

- As slavery became more entrenched, colonies enacted slave codes.
- Enslaved people were denied basic human rights and were considered property.

Forms of Resistance

- Enslaved people resisted through defiance, escape, and rebellion.
- The Stono Rebellion of 1739 is one of the many examples of enslaved people risking their lives for freedom.



Preserving Cultural Identity



- **Music and Dance**

- Despite oppression, enslaved people clung to their cultural traditions through music and dance.
- The ring shout, a circular dance with rhythmic clapping and singing, became a powerful form of expression.

Preserving Cultural Identity

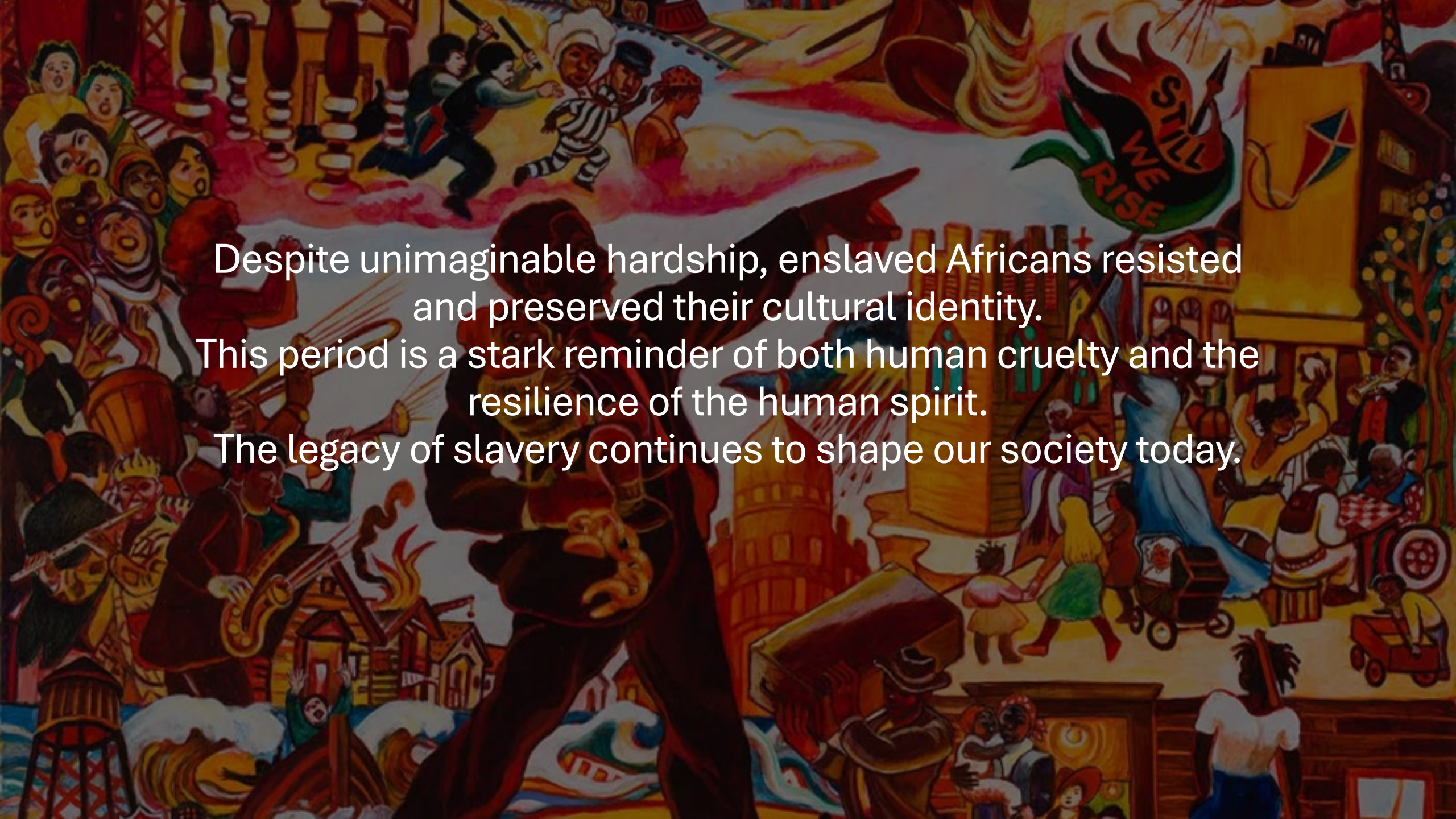
- Religion
 - Religion, often a blend of African traditions and Christianity, offered hope and community.
 - Enslaved people reinterpreted Christian teachings to fit their experiences, emphasizing themes of liberation and justice.



Preserving Cultural Identity

- **Storytelling and Foodways**
 - Storytelling and foodways played a major role in preserving cultural identity.
 - Folktales like [Br'er Rabbit](#) helped pass down knowledge, while African crops and culinary techniques influenced American food.





Despite unimaginable hardship, enslaved Africans resisted and preserved their cultural identity. This period is a stark reminder of both human cruelty and the resilience of the human spirit. The legacy of slavery continues to shape our society today.