



SLAVERY

A BRIEF HISTORY



Slavery in Europe

- **Existed in classical times**
- **Didn't disappear with the collapse of the Roman Empire**
- **Was common throughout the Medieval period**
- **Was very uncommon by the 11th and 12th centuries**



Slaves began to appear in Italy, Spain, Southern France & Portugal before the discovery of the New World.

- **An Arab operated slave trade flourished at this time.**
- **Many African societies had forms of slavery.**
- **These differed from each other, and from European and Arabic slavery.**



Slavery Worldwide

Slavery and the slave trade have been practiced in almost every continent in the world for centuries.



The African Continent

- **Throughout history, Africa has been a principal area of slavery, as well as a major source of slaves.**
- **Many African societies had forms of slavery, although they were markedly different.**
- **They differed between African societies, as well as differing from European and Arabic slavery.**



Means by which slaves were acquired in Africa

- **Prisoners of war were enslaved.**
- **Raiding and kidnapping people into slavery were common practices.**
- **People were given as tribute to kings and dignitaries.**
- **Pawning – people were offered as security for money borrowed.**



Rights of Slaves in Pre-colonial Africa

- **To be fed, clothed, and housed**
- **To have children while staying with their owners**
- **To marry amongst themselves**
- **To an independent income**
- **To inherit and own property**
- **To legal protection**
- **To social, political and economic mobility**



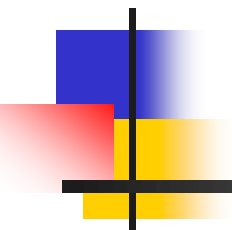
Treatment of slaves in pre-colonial Africa

- **On the whole they were treated humanely.**
- **There was, however a possibility of being sacrificed in religious rituals.**
- **They were forced to dress simply.**
- **They worked harder than free people.**
- **They needed the permission of their owner for many things.**
- **They were required to have simple burials.**

The Portuguese began the seizure, forced transportation and sale of Africans as early as 1442.

The actual number of men women and children taken from Africa and transported in slave ships across the Atlantic will never be known, but is estimated at several million.





The Portuguese were also the last European country to abolish slavery.

It is estimated that during the 4 ½ centuries of the trans Atlantic slave trade, Portugal was responsible for transporting 4.5 million Africans.

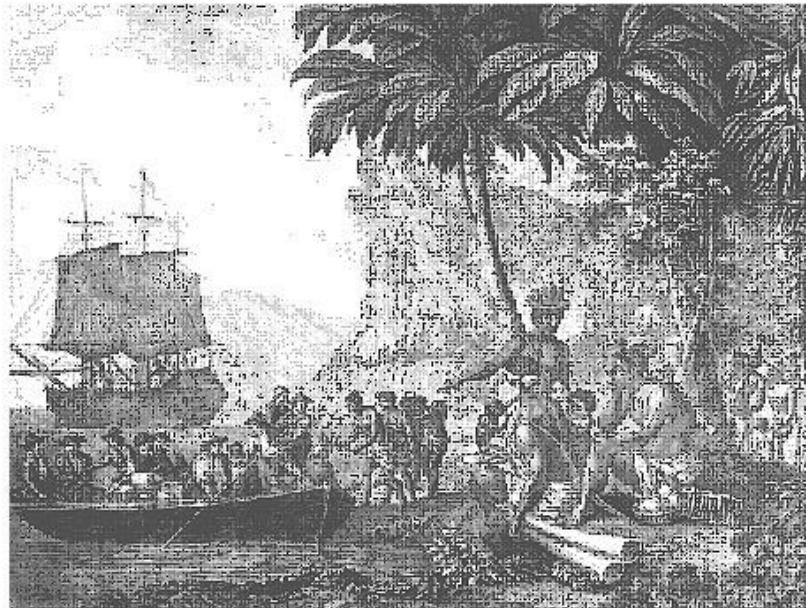
This new kind of commerce appeared to be profitable speculation, and others soon joined the Portuguese in the trade.



Portugal was soon followed by:

- **The Spanish**
- **The British**
- **The Dutch**
- **The Danes**
- **The French**
- **The Anglo-Americans**

During the 18th century the slave trade was responsible for the transport of millions of Africans.



Britain was one of the worst transgressors.



From Slavery – “A History of the Great Struggle
in Both Hemispheres”, William Goodell, 1853

“the first importation of slaves from Africa by Englishmen was in the reign of Elizabeth 1, in the year 1562. This great princess seems, on the very commencement of the trade, to have questioned its lawfulness. She seems to have entertained a religious scruple concerning it, and indeed, to have revolted at the very thought of it. She seems to have been aware of the evils to which its continuance might lead, or that, if it were sanctioned, the most unjustifiable means might be made use of to procure the persons of the natives of Africa. And in what light she would have viewed any acts of this kind, had they taken place, we may conjecture from this fact; that when Captain Sir John Hawkins returned from his voyage to Africa and Hispaniola, whither he had carried slaves, she sent for him, and as we learn from Hill’s Naval History, expressed her concern lest any of the Africans should be carried off without their free consent, declaring that ‘it would be detestable, and Call down Heaven’s vengeance upon the undertakers’.”

Britain was responsible for almost 2.5 million.



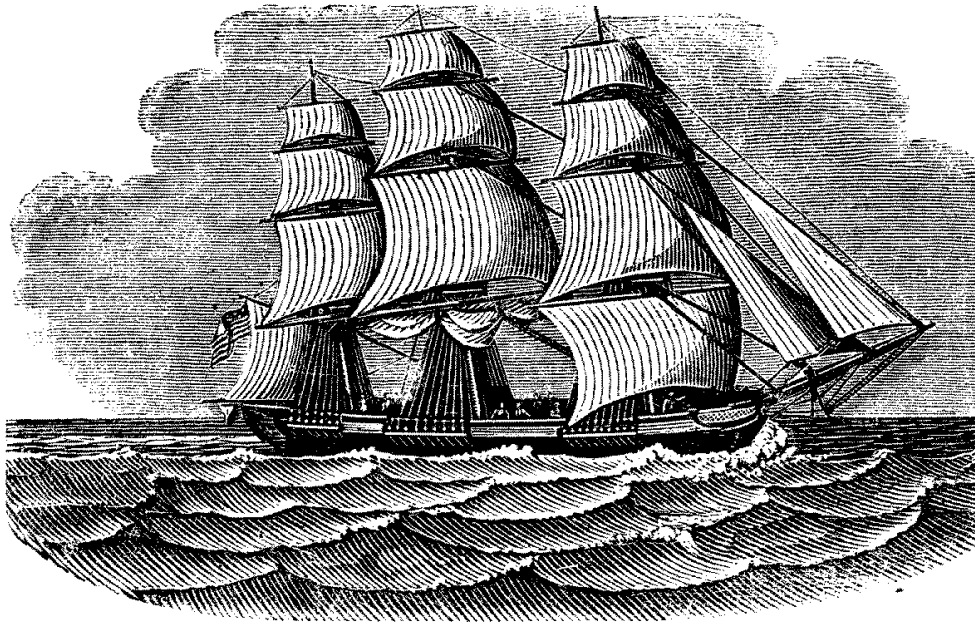
Captain Hawkins promised to comply with the injunctions of Elizabeth in this respect. But he did not keep his word, for when he went to Africa again, he seized many of the inhabitants and carried them off as slaves, which occasioned Hill, in the account he gives of his second voyage, to use these remarkable words:



“Here began the horrid practice of forcing the Africans into slavery, an injustice and barbarity which, so sure as there is vengeance in heaven for the worst of crimes, will sometime be the destruction of all who encourage it.”



“That the trade should have been suffered to continue under such a princess, and after such solemn expression as those which she has been described to have uttered, can only be attributed to the pains taken by those concerned to keep her ignorant of the truth.”



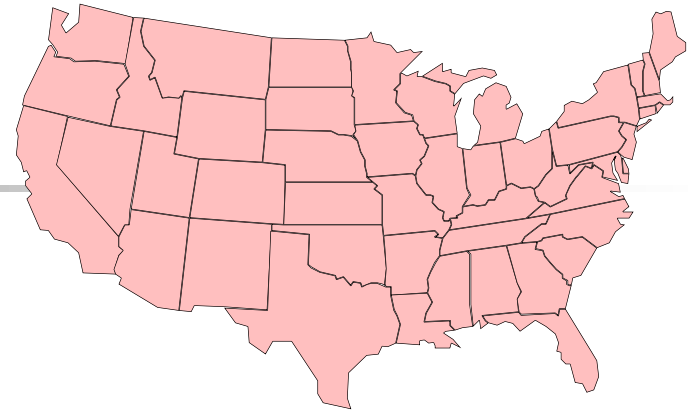
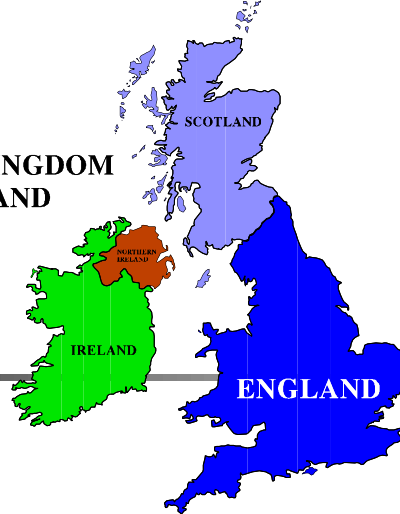
Queen Elizabeth permitted the Africans to be carried to the colonies **with their own consent, however they were taken and held by force.**



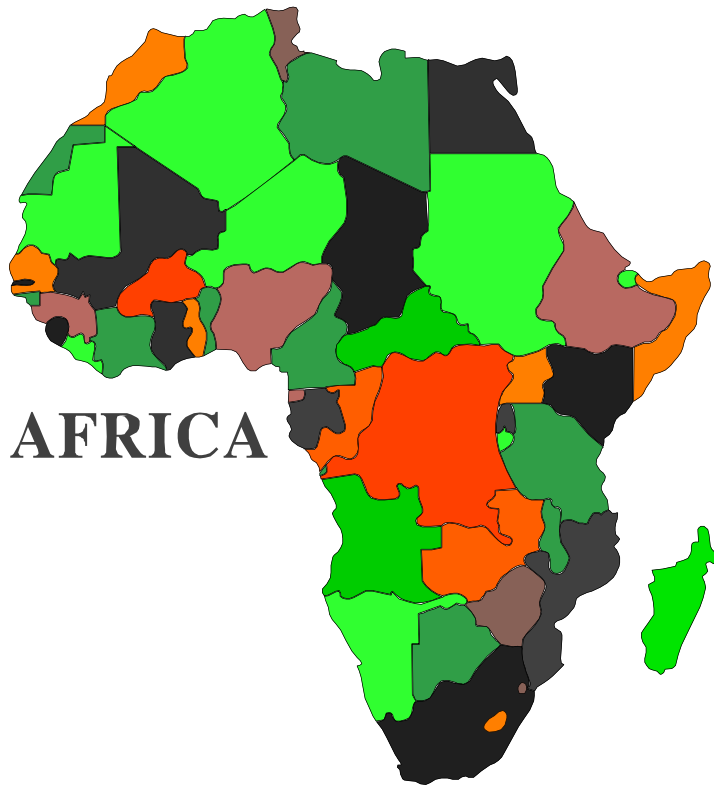
The parliament did not give the African slave trade the legal shelter of valid law. However the practice went on with their knowledge. In the words of Hon. Horace Mann, an abolitionists of Massachusetts in a speech to the House of Representatives of the United States June 30, 1848:



UNITED KINGDOM
AND IRELAND



“And so Great Britain was the mother. Her American colonies were the daughter. The mother lusted for gold. To get it, she made partnership with robbery and death. Shackles, chains and weapons for human degradation were her outfit in trade.”



**“She made Africa
her hunting
ground. She made
its people
its people her prey,
and the colonists
her marketplace.”**

“At length the accursed vessel reached the foreign shore. And there, the monsters of the land, fiercer and feller than any that roam the watery plains, rewarded the robber by purchasing his spoils.”





From 1680 to 1786 over 2,000,000 Africans were imported into all the British Colonies- including both Canada and the United States.

As a result of the slave trade, five times more Africans arrived in the Americas than Europeans.



Slavery in Canada

- **African slaves were brought to Canada from the earliest days by all major groups of settlers.**
- **The British continued the slave trade even after winning control of North America from the French.**



1501

**Portuguese explorers
enslaved fifty Native men
and women in Labrador &
Newfoundland.**



1632

Oliver Le Jeune is the first Black to appear in records as being brought directly from Africa and sold as a slave in New France.



1791

Upper Canada was created to cope with influx of refugees from the American revolution. Americans fleeing after the war, known as Loyalists brought their slaves with them.

Loyalists

- **Free Blacks also came as Loyalists.**





1793

- **Most slaves in York, (Toronto) were owned by Senior Civil Servants.**
- **Owners also included large landowners, merchants and even some farmers.**

1793

Upper Canada's first parliament, under pressure from its first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe, passed an act to gradually abolish slavery in the Colony.



JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE



June 1793

The Anti-Slavery Trade Bill

- 1. No more slaves to be brought into Upper Canada.**
- 2. Those already in the colony prior to the act were to remain slaves for life.**
- 3. Children of female slaves already in Upper Canada to be free on 25th birthday.**



1803

Lower Canada (present day Quebec and the Maritime provinces) becomes the first jurisdiction in British North America to completely abolish slavery.



1807

British parliament passed a law abolishing the slave trade.



1818

As a result of the legal opinion of Upper Canada's Chief Justice, no slave from another jurisdiction could be returned there simply because they had sought freedom in Upper Canada.



1833

- **Upper Canada refused to extradite fugitive slaves to the United States.**
- **Britain emancipated 780,000 slaves paying 20 million pounds sterling compensation to their owners.**



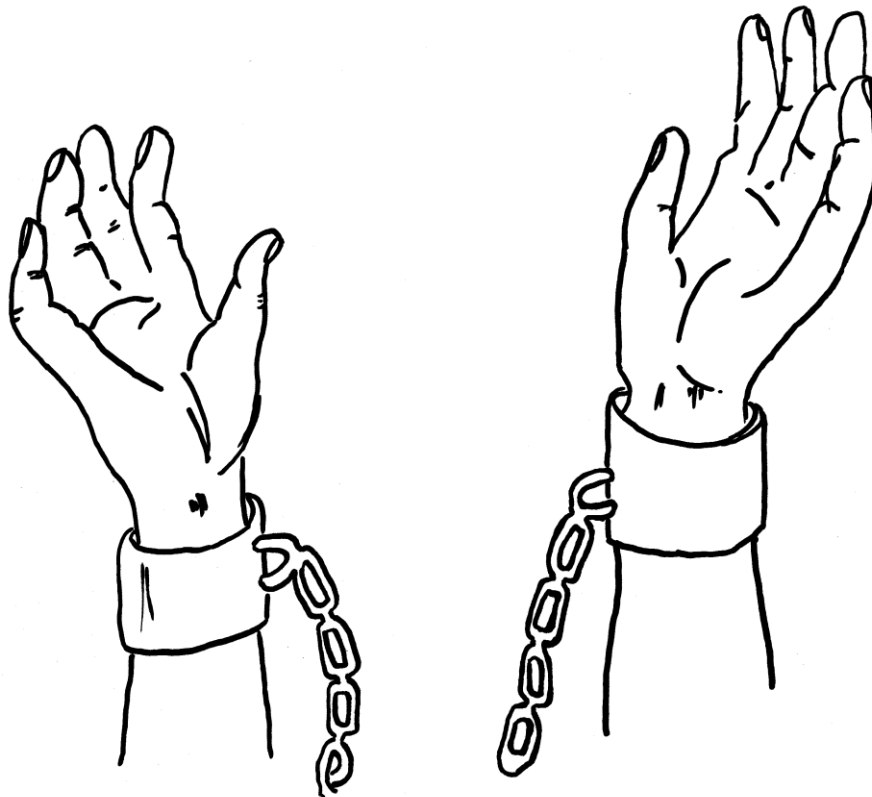
1834



The Emancipation Act passed in 1833 became effective.

This act abolished slavery throughout the British empire, including Canada.

Slavery in The United States





GEORGE WASHINGTON

"I wish from my soul that the legislature could see a policy of gradual abolition of slavery."

In 1797, two years after he wrote this, Washington revised his will, providing for his slaves to be freed after his death. 122 of the 314 slaves at Mount Vernon were freed. The others were his wife Martha's and by law owned by her heirs.



THOMAS JEFFERSON

"The whole commerce between master and slave, is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions: the most unremitting despotisms, on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other... I tremble for my country, when I reflect, that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."

This quote comes from Thomas Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia". Thomas Jefferson was one of the framers of the constitution of the U.S. (which did not deal with slavery), and one of the early presidents of the U.S.. He himself was a slave owner.



JOHN WESLEY

"American slavery is the vilest that ever saw the sun."

This is a quote comes from John Wesley, the founder of Methodist faith, who had witnessed the working of slavery in North American colonies and in the West Indies.





The first slaves brought to America generally served for a period of 4-7 years and then became free tradesmen and property owners.

1607- First Settlement at Jamestown

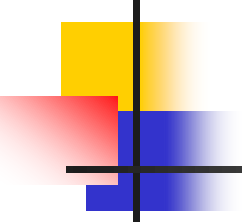
1619- the use of indentured servants brought the first Africans to America at Jamestown Virginia

1620 –Landing of founders of New England at Plymouth



1620

- **In the month of August 1620 a Dutch man of war entered James River and landed twenty negroes for sale. This was the commencement of negro slavery in the Colonies.**
- **It is interesting to note that at this time there were very few women in the colony . "Ninety women of reputable character" were soon after sent over, and the colonists purchased them for wives, the price of a wife rising from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco.**
- **The incident of purchasing wives shows that the mere act of purchasing human beings does not, necessarily, involve the ideas of chattelhood or of forced servitude.**



1643-1770

- **Laws were passed in the various colonies legalizing slavery long after it had been introduced and practiced.**
- **With the legalization of slavery, conditions for the African worker changed, and they became Chattel slaves who could be bought and sold and solely owned by their masters.**



1790's

- **By the time of the American Revolution, the population of the US was about 4 million.**
- **60,000 free blacks.**
- **400,000 slaves.**
- **20% of the overall population in the 13 colonies was of African descent.**

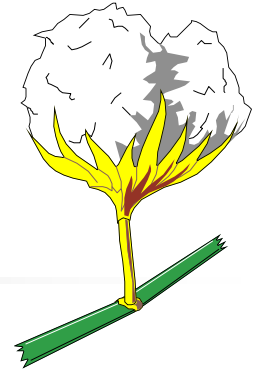


1793

- **Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.**
- **This drastically changed the face of slavery in the southern states.**



The Cotton Gin



- **This machine which separated the seeds from the cotton made the production of cotton easier and its sale price much lower. Before the invention of the cotton gin it took a slave a day to clean a pound of cotton, but with the gin slaves could clean up to 50 pounds a day.**
- **This increased the demand for slaves in the south.**

Between 1790 and 1860

- **About 1 million slaves were moved west.**
- **This was almost twice the number of Africans shipped to the U.S. during the whole period of the transatlantic slave trade.**





1793

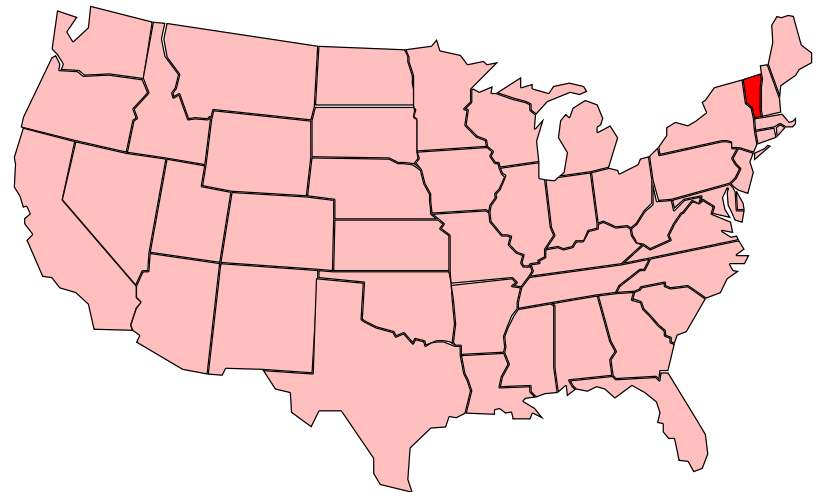
- **It became illegal to impede the capture of runaway slaves.**
- **This was known as the First Fugitive Slave Act.**
- **This act made it a crime to harbor an escaped slave or interfere with his or her arrest.**





1777 - 1804

**Beginning with Vermont,
Northern states abolish
slavery through state
constitutions.**





1800

**In the southern states,
Africans and their
descendants outnumbered
Europeans.**



1808

- **Slave importation was outlawed, but smuggling of slaves continued.**
- **Between 1809-1861, it is estimated 1 million slaves were illegally imported into the United States.**



1850

- The U.S. Congress enacts the **Compromise of 1850**.
- The provisions of the **Compromise** relating to **slavery** included the passage of a new, tougher **fugitive slave law** to replace the poorly enforced act of 1793.





Fugitive Slave Act of 1850

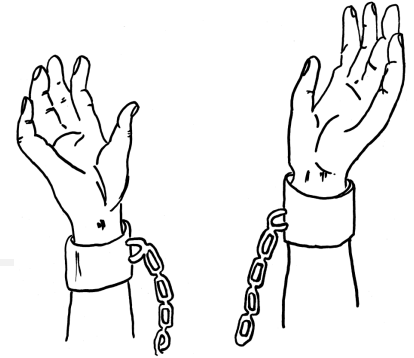
It provided a penalty of six months imprisonment and a fine of \$1000 for anyone caught helping an escaped slave.

This law put fugitives who had escaped and remained in the north in grave danger. It was no longer safe for escaped slaves to remain in the northern states. It also jeopardized the position of free blacks because they could be arrested, taken to court, and put into slavery without being allowed to testify on their own behalf.



This law more than anything else increased the migration of Blacks into Canada. Within three months of the passage of this law it is estimated that as many as 3,000 Blacks entered Canada, coming mostly from the Northern and New England States.

1860 Slave Ownership



Mississippi	49%	Louisiana	29%	Kentucky	23%
South Carolina	46%	Texas	28%	Arkansas	20%
Georgia	37%	North Carolina	28%	Missouri	13%
Alabama	35%	Virginia	26%	Maryland	12%
Florida	34%	Tennessee	25%	Delaware	3%



Slaves in the south in 1861

Region	# of Slaves	% of total population
Lower South	2,312,352	47%
Upper South	1,208,758	29%
Border States	432,586	13%



Free States at the time of the U.S. Civil War

- **California**
- **Connecticut**
- **Illinois**
- **Indiana**
- **Iowa**
- **Maine**
- **Massachusetts**
- **New Hampshire**
- **Michigan**
- **Ohio**
- **Oregon**
- **Pennsylvania**
- **Rhode Island**
- **Vermont**
- **Wisconsin**
- **New York**
- **New Jersey**
- **Minnesota**



1862

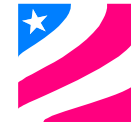
- **During the Civil War President Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862. It became law in January 1863. This declared slavery illegal in all states at war with the Union.**
- ***This did not in fact free any slaves.***



1865



The Civil War Ends

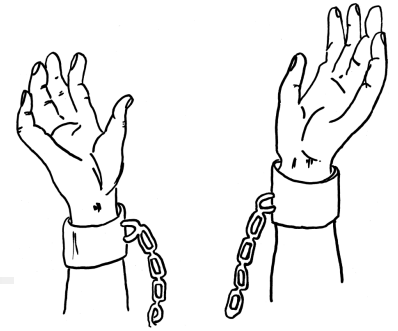


**Victory for the Union
(northern states)**

**Defeat for the Confederate States
(southern states)**



1865



- **January 31 –13th Amendment to the Constitution proposed.**
- **Ratified December 1865.**

This amendment states: “*neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*”