

The background of the slide is a sepia-toned photograph of a person, likely a slave, standing with their back to the camera. They are wearing a long, light-colored garment and have their hands cuffed behind their back. The person's legs are visible, and they appear to be standing on a wooden deck or similar surface. The overall tone is somber and historical.

FORCED IMMIGRATION

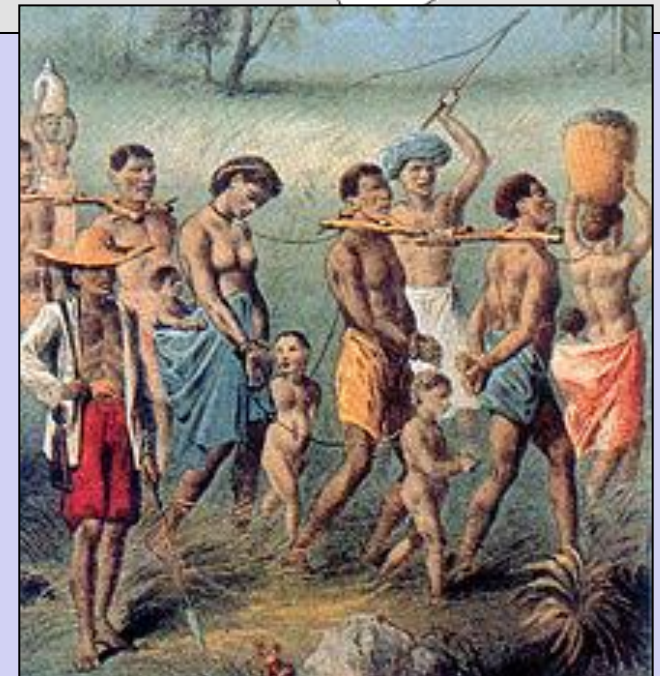
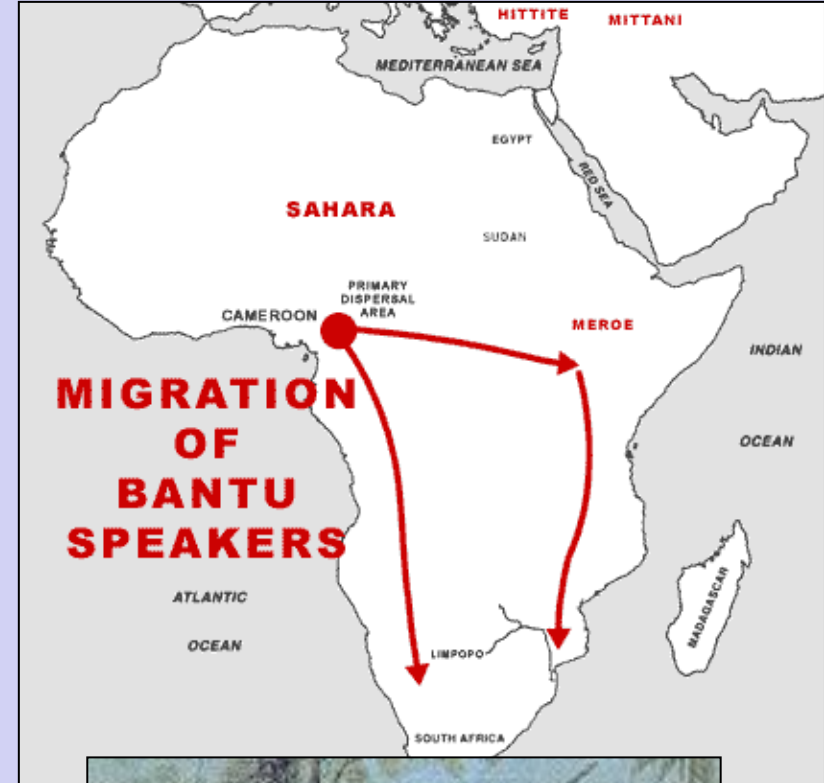
The Atlantic Slave Trade

Few human practices have provoked such deep and wide-spread outrage as the practice of one human being enslaving another. Yet, the institution of slavery is as old as civilization. Why has slavery survived for thousands of years?

Unfortunately, the Atlantic Slave Trade was a product of globalization, greatly affected Africa and the Americas, and impacted by Enlightenment ideals leading to abolition.

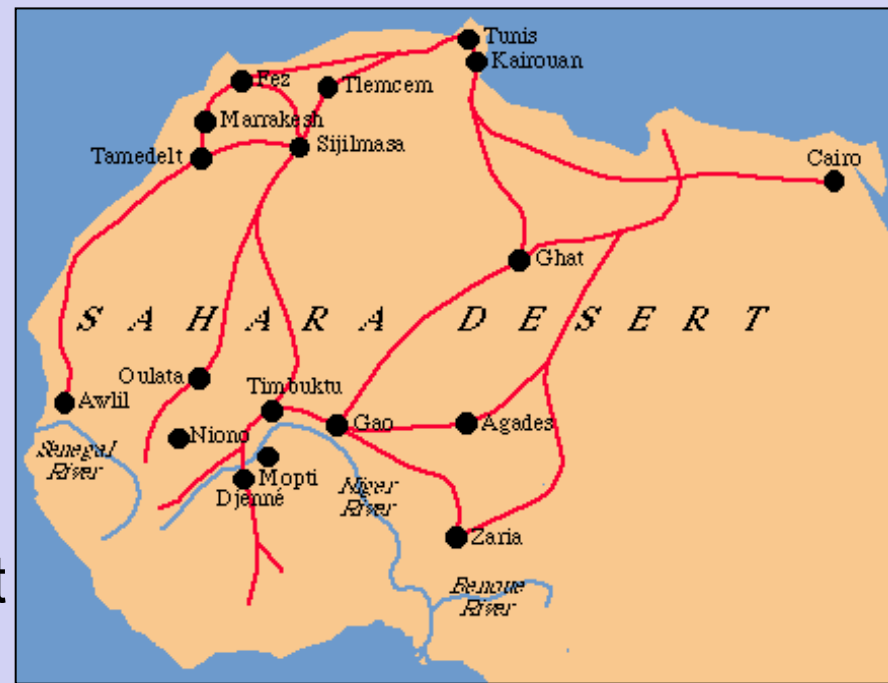
History of African Slavery

- Became common after Bantu migrations. (Most worked as cultivators)
- Had no personal or civil rights.
- Owners could order slaves to do any kind of work and punish or sell them.
- African law did not recognize individual land ownership so wealth and power in Africa came from not owning land but by owning animals and controlling the human labor that made the land productive.
- Throughout the history of Africa, slaves were a form of investment and a sign of wealth.



Islamic Slave Trade

- After the 8th century, Muslim merchants from N. Africa, Arabia, and Persia sought African slaves for trade in the Mediterranean basin, SW Asia, India, and as far away as SE Asia and China.
- In the early 19th century, caravans of 18,000 to 20,000 Africans were brought to Cairo for resale.
- The Islamic slave trade lasted into the 20th century and resulted in the deportation of as many as 10 million Africans.



Remember...

- By the time Europeans arrived in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries, the slave trade was a well-established feature in African society
- A detailed system for capturing, selling, and distributing slaves had been in place for over 500 years
- With the arrival of the Europeans and the demand for slaves in the Americas, the slave trade expanded dramatically.

Portuguese Slave Traders

Europeans and Africans
Meet to Trade



- Began capturing slaves in Africa in the 15th Century, but quickly learned it was easier to buy them from rival groups.
- In Europe, slaves usually worked as miners, porters, or domestic servants since free peasants and serfs cultivated the land.
- When the Portuguese discovered the Azores, Madeiras, Cape Verde Islands, and Sao Tome in the 15th Century, they were all uninhabited.
- The Portuguese population was too small to provide a large number of colonists and the sugar plantations required a large labor force.





Investors

- The voyage was a costly undertaking.
- It required backing of several investors. A small stake in several voyages was more prudent for the investor than a large stake in one ship.
- The problems to contend with ranged from bad weather to revolts and payment problems.
- Some merchants did well in the trade, while others went bankrupt.

European royalty, nobility and leading merchants were the principal supporters and benefactors of the slave trade. Europeans believed that national power and private wealth were best built on a closed economic system between the colonial societies and their mother country.

Infamous Investors

Prince Henry the Navigator sponsored the leading navigators. They became the 1st to voyage to the W coast of Africa. As early as 1444, cargoes of enslaved Africans were brought to work on the sugar plantations.



Carlos I of Spain (1504-1556)

Spain was the 1st to establish colonies in the Americas. In 1516, during his reign, enslaved Africans were brought to the Caribbean for the 1st time.



Elizabeth I of England (1558-1603) was a major investor. She sponsored Sir John Hawkins to bring slaves from Africa to sell to the Spanish colonies.



Louis XIV of France (1643-1715) supplied nearly one half of the finances needed by the French Guinea Company to commence its enslaved African trade system.



Europeans in the Caribbean



Remember...

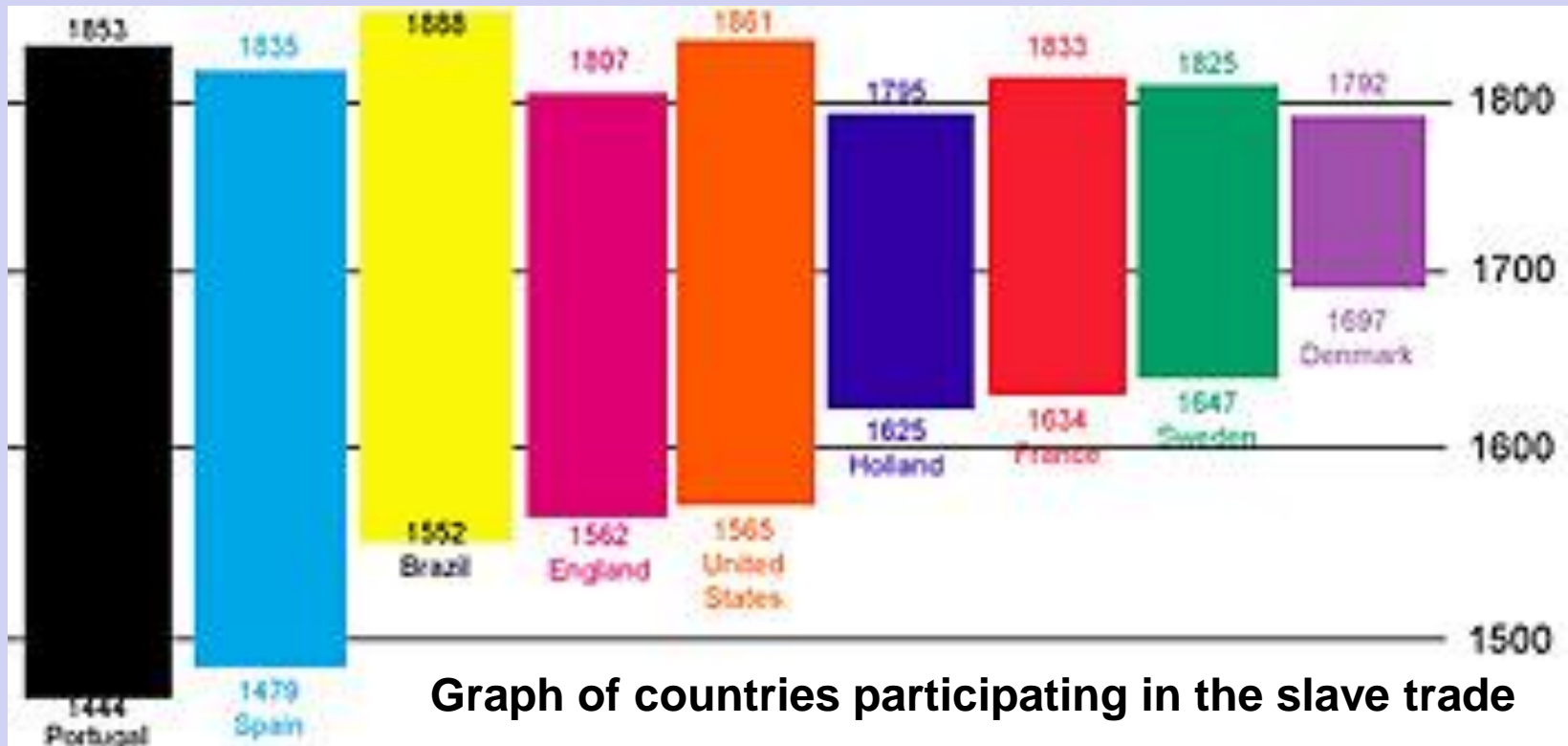
- **Native Indian populations in the Americas were forced into slavery, mining gold and later working on sugar plantations.**
- **Battles, hard labor and European diseases destroyed enormous numbers of native peoples.**

Timucuan Native Americans searching for gold in Florida. Eventually, Africans mine and wash gold and deliver it to a Spanish overseer.

- Africans proved to have resistance to European diseases and were considered to be stronger workers than the Native Americans.
- 75,000 - 90,000 enslaved Africans were sent to Spanish America as early as 1600.
- In 1518, the first shipment of slaves went directly from west Africa to the Caribbean where the slaves worked on sugar plantations.
- In the 1520s, the Spanish had introduced slaves to Mexico, Peru, and Central America where they worked as cultivators and miners.
- By the early 17th Century, the British had introduced slaves to North America.

Investors in the Slave Trade

By 1650, most of the coastal states in Europe had possessions in the Americas.



1. Around what year was the Slave Trade at its peak?
2. Which country continued the Slave Trade the longest? Why?

Volume of the Slave Trade

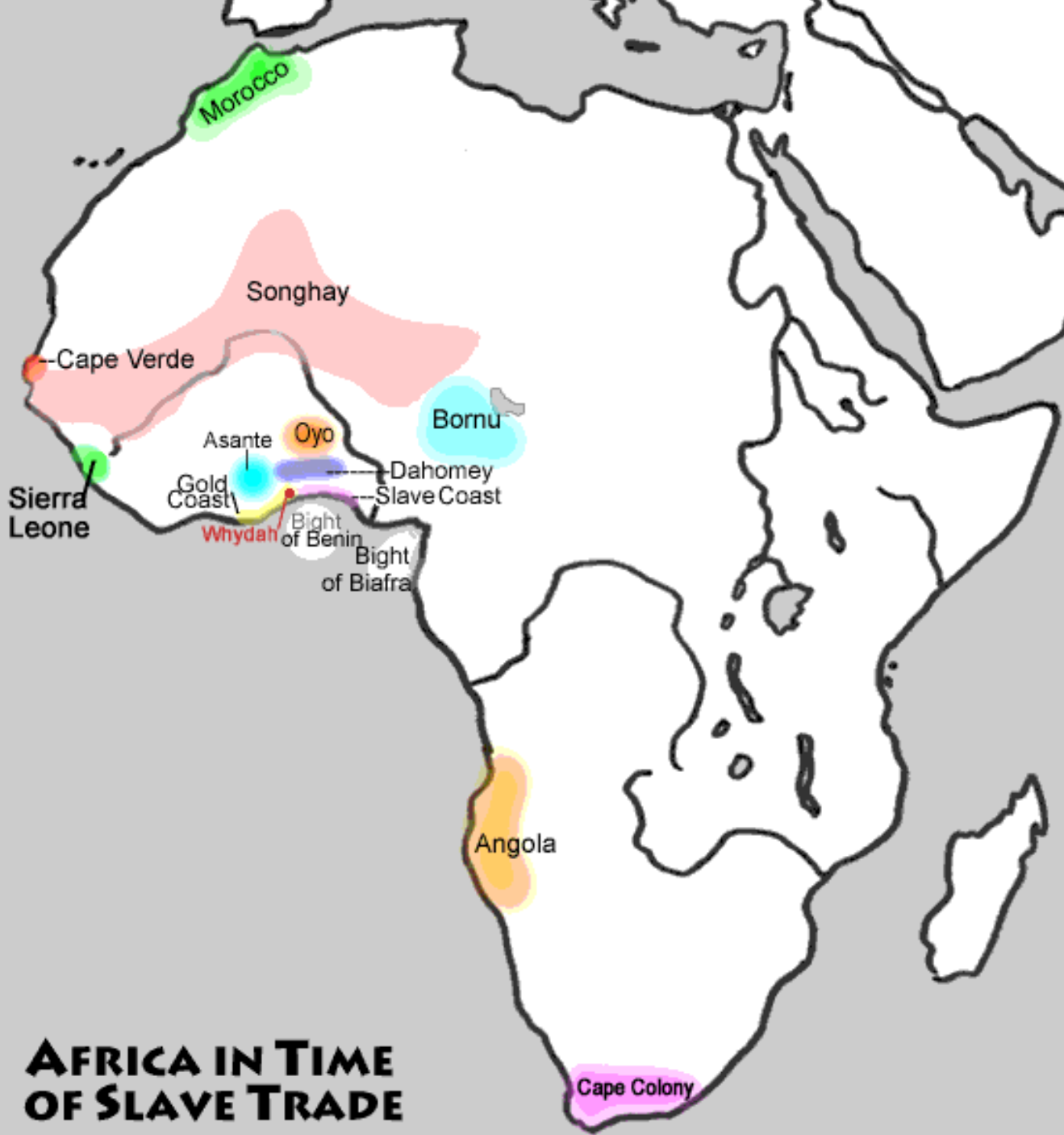
- Late 15th and 16th century... 2,000 Africans were exported each year
- 17th Century... 20,000 per year
- 18th Century... 55,000 per year
 - 1780s... 88,000 per year
- It is estimated that 12 million Africans were kidnapped and taken to the western hemisphere via the Atlantic Slave Trade.
- Another 4 million died resisting capture or during captivity before arriving in the Americas.

Triangular Trade



The demand for labor in the western hemisphere stimulated a profitable three-legged trading pattern.

- European manufactured goods, namely cloth and metal wares, especially firearms, went to Africa where they were exchanged for enslaved Africans.
- The Africans were then shipped to the Caribbean and Americas where they were sold for cash or sometimes bartered for sugar or molasses
- Then the ships returned to Europe loaded with American products



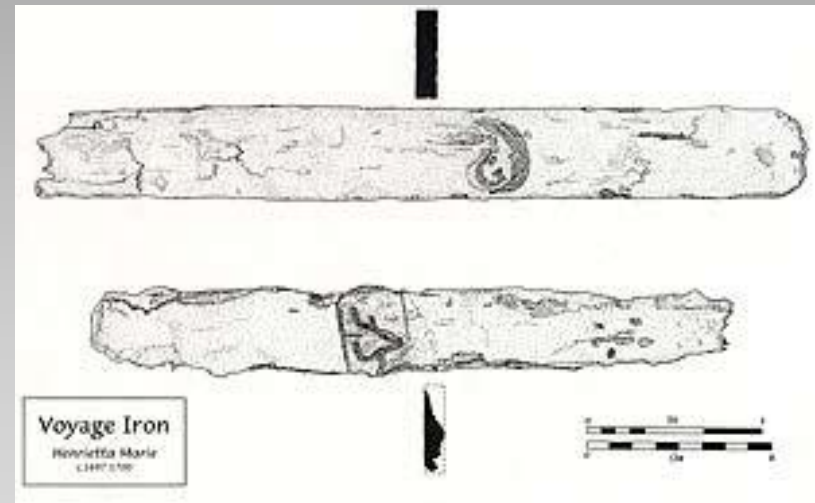
- West Africa was divided into states with different rulers governing different areas.
- Some African ethnic groups read and wrote in Arabic, others had strong oral (speaking and singing) traditions, and religious practices.

Port cities along the coast were controlled by Portuguese, Dutch, English.



Pewter, iron bars, glass beads, guns and other goods were rare in Africa, where they could be sold for much more than in England or other European countries.

Trade, Slavery, Weapons, and Warfare

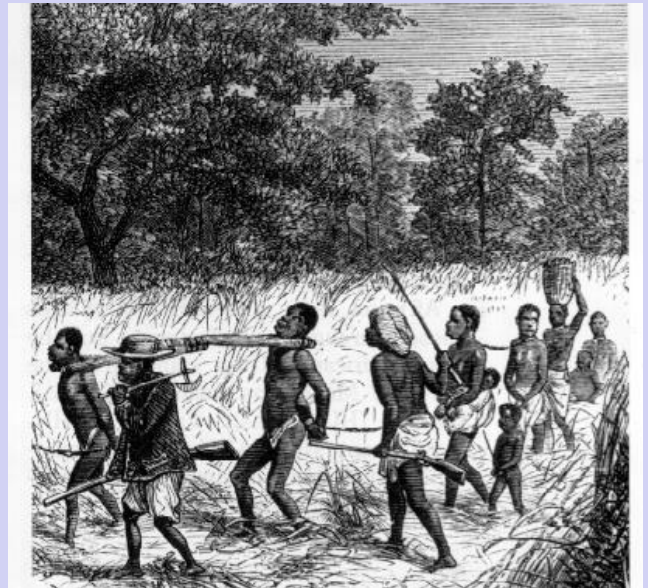


European guns were a popular trade item with the Africans. The coastal rulers who had access to guns used them to control areas further inland.

Capture



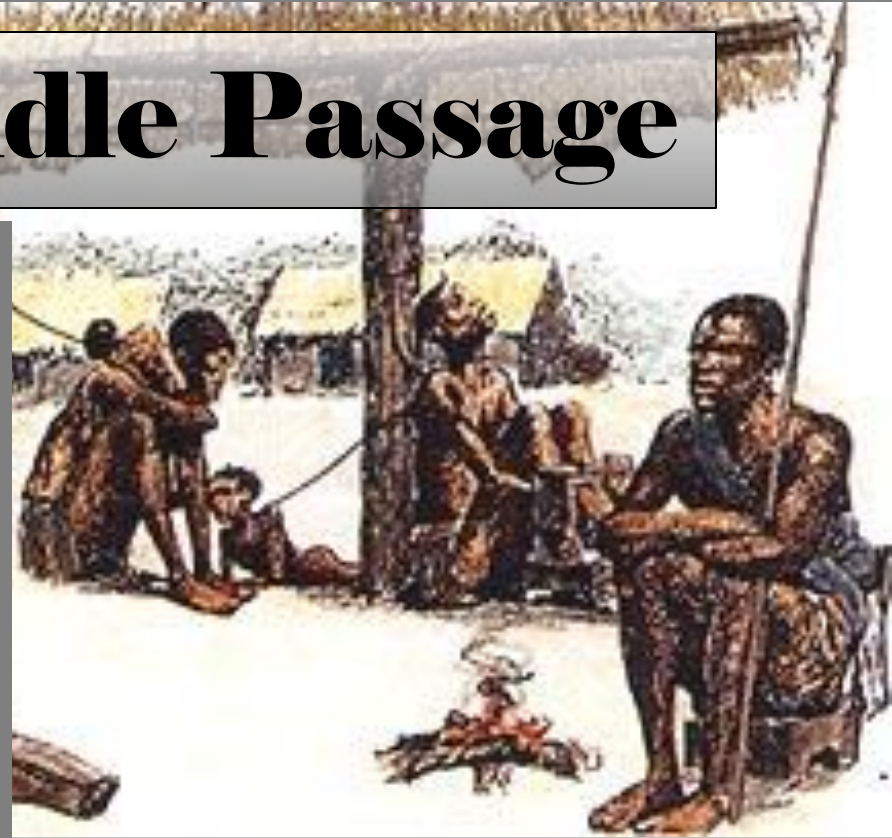
Rounding up Africans in groups of 100 – 300 for sale to the increasing number of European vessels arriving in coastal ports.



- The capture of Africans was violent.
- As European demand grew, African chieftains organized raiding parties to seize individuals from neighboring societies.
- Others launched wars specifically for the purpose of *capturing humans. (very common)
 - *War captives Prisoners
 - Religious offenders Thieves
- Conducted mostly by the Asante (uh·saan·tee) and Dahomey (duh·how·mee) tribes.
- Europeans gave Africans weapons (mainly guns) to capture other Africans

Before the Middle Passage

- Enslaved Africans captured or purchased in the African interior were often held in confinement for months.
- Some had been wounded in battles, and others were exposed to smallpox, yellow fever, and other deadly diseases.



In Africa, Europeans were middlemen.

- Not Welcomed Inland
- Forbidden to alter African politics
- Did convert some kingdoms to Christianity

The Crew of a Merchant Slave Ship

Men who could not find other work often gravitated to ports such as London where they signed on to escape their economic problems.

Crews of slavers tended to be desperate, violent men.



Former slave ship master Reverend John Newton (B.1725) wrote about the men aboard the merchant slavers:

"We are for the most part supplied with the refuse and dregs of the nation. The prisons and glass houses supply us with large quotas of boys impatient of their parents and masters, or already ruined by some untimely vice and for the most part devoid of principles."

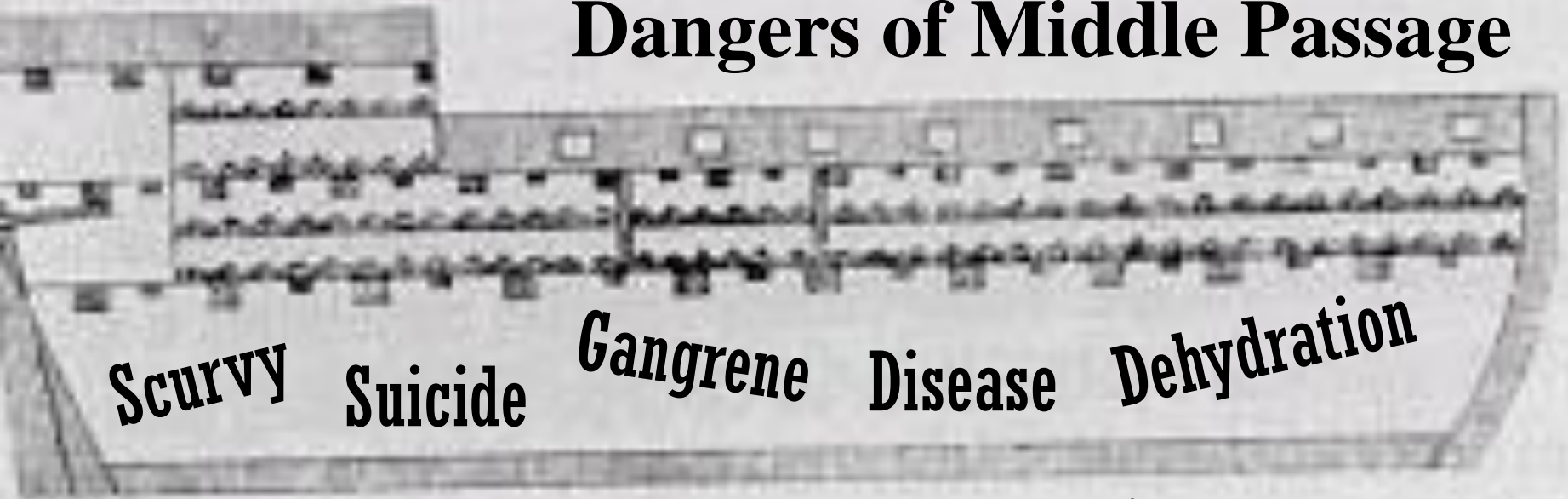
Middle Passage

- Following capture, enslaved Africans were forcefully marched to holding pens before being loaded on ships.
- Trans-Atlantic journey was called the “Middle Passage”.
- Ships were filthy, hot, and crowded.
- Most ships gave only enough room to sit up, but not enough to stand.
- Others were forced to lie in chains with only inches of space between them.
- By 1654, 8,000-10,000 Africans each year were forced across the Atlantic.
- By 1750, the annual number increased to 60,000-70,000.



“If the Atlantic were to dry up it would reveal a scattered pathway of human bones marking the various routes of the Middle Passage.”

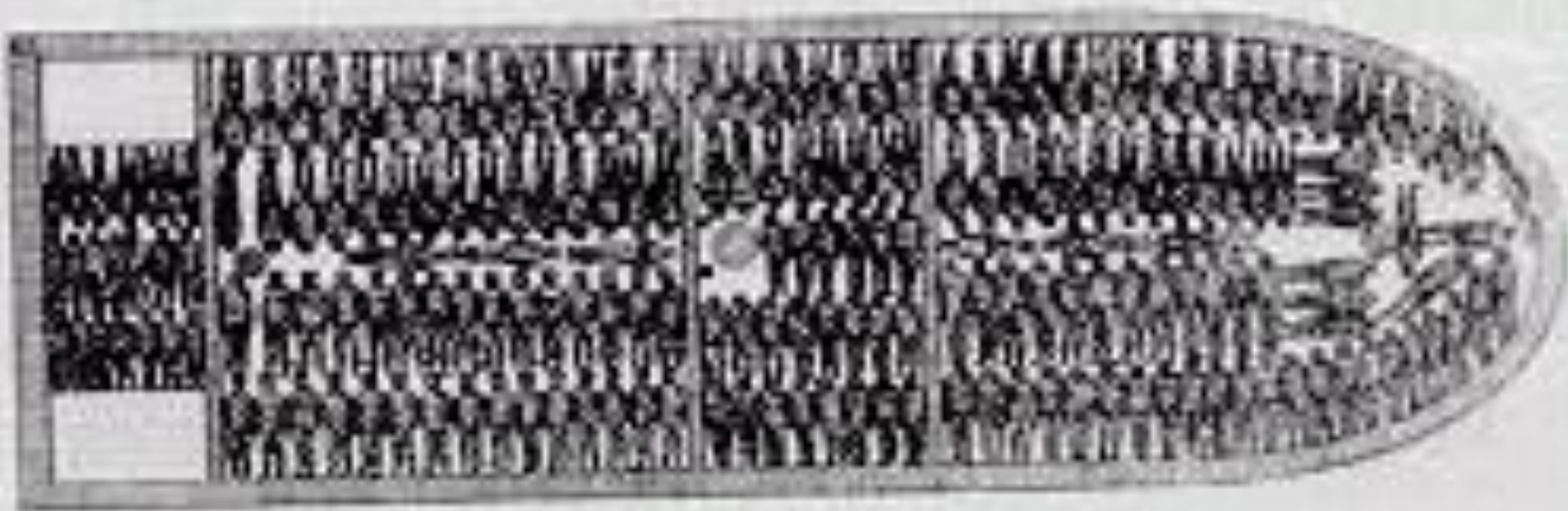
Dangers of Middle Passage



Scurvy **Suicide** **Gangrene** **Disease** **Dehydration**

Dysentery

Malnutrition

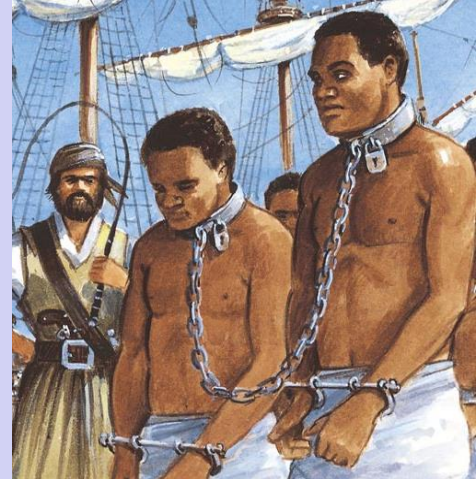


Middle Passage

- Crews attempted to keep as many enslaved Africans alive as possible to maximize profits, but treatment was extremely cruel.
 - Some slaves refused to eat and crew members used tools to pry open their mouths and force-fed them
 - Sick slaves were cast overboard to prevent infection from spreading
 - Mortality rates were as high as 50% (early trade)
- As the volume of trade increased, conditions improved. (bigger ships, more water, better nourishment and facilities/mortality declined to about 5%)
- The time a ship took to make the trip depended upon several factors:
 - point of origin in Africa, destination → Americas, sea conditions - winds, currents, and storms
- With good conditions and few delays, a 17th century Portuguese slave ship typically took 30 to 50 days to sail from Angola to Brazil.
- British, French, and Dutch ships transporting enslaved Africans to their Caribbean islands took 60 to 90 days.
- Larger merchant ships were introduced → times reduced by a few days

Arrival

- 1st sighting of land- captains would order the enslaved Africans on deck in small groups for fresh air & grooming to improve their appearance for sale.
 - Men were shaved, sores were dressed, and food/water rations improved as they approached their destination.
- Africans were taken off the ship & placed in pens.
 - Would be washed & their skin covered with grease or tar to make them look healthy
- Were branded with a hot iron to identify them.



Auctions

- Buyers physically inspected the Africans, including their teeth as an indication of the slave's age.
- Auctioneers had slaves perform various acts to demonstrate their physical abilities
- Auctioned off in groups, with prices ranging depending on the sex, age, and condition of the individual

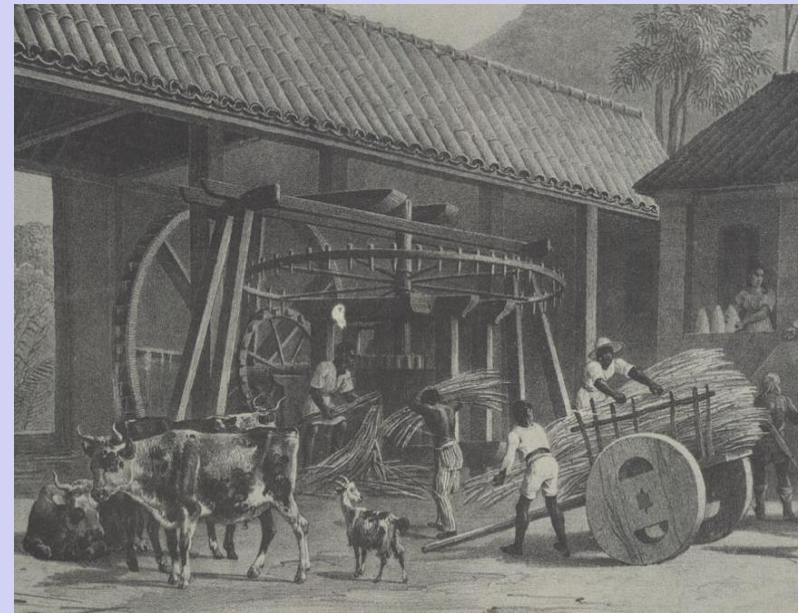


Plantations

- Most Africans went to plantations in the tropical or subtropical regions.
 - 1st established by the Spanish on Hispaniola (1516)
- Original cash crop was sugar, Portuguese began organizing plantations in Brazil (1530s), which became the leading supplier of sugar.
- Most Europeans had never tasted sugar before the economic successes of the transatlantic trade made sugar readily available.
- England was a major consumer (c.1660). For a century and a half, sugar remained the most valuable and largest import, overtaken only by cotton (1820s).
- In addition to sugar, crops like tobacco, indigo, and cotton were produced.
- designed to export commercial crops for profit.
- Relied on large amounts of slave labor supervised by small numbers of European or Euro-American managers.



Brazilian sugar mill in the 1830s



Slavery in the Caribbean and South America

- Disease, brutal working conditions, and poor sanitation/nutrition resulted in high mortality rates
- Owners imported mainly male slaves and allowed few to establish families which resulted in low reproduction
- To keep up the needed numbers, plantation owners imported a steady stream of Africans
 - About 50% went to the Caribbean and about 33% went to Brazil
 - Smaller numbers went elsewhere in South and Central America

Slavery in North America

- Diseases took less of a toll in North America
- Plantation owners imported large numbers of females and encouraged the enslaved Africans to form families and bear children
 - Only about 5% of slaves delivered to the western hemisphere went to North America

Forms of Resistance

- Work slowly
- Sabotage
- Runaway
 - Many Africans escaped slavery and banded together to form new communities (Maroons)
 - “Maroons” gathered together and built self-governing communities
- Revolts and Rebellions
 - Slaves outnumbered the owners and supervisors, so revolt was always a threat
 - While causing much destruction, revolts were usually able to be suppressed because the owners had access to arms, horses, and military forces
 - As early as 1522, the first notable slave revolt broke out in the Spanish colony of Hispaniola (now Haiti)
 - Enslaved Africans never accepted their fate, and rebellions continued for the next 300 years until the abolition of plantation slavery



In the Caribbean, "Maroons" lived in the hills, using guerrilla warfare to free other enslaved Africans and steal necessary arms and equipment.

Saint-Dominique

- The only revolt to successfully abolish slavery as an institution occurred on the French sugar colony of Saint Dominique in 1793.
- The slaves declared independence from France, renamed the country Haiti, and established a self-governing republic in 1804.



Francois-Dominique Toussaint was one of the military leaders of the Saint-Dominique revolt

Abolitionists

Former Slave: Olaudah Equiano

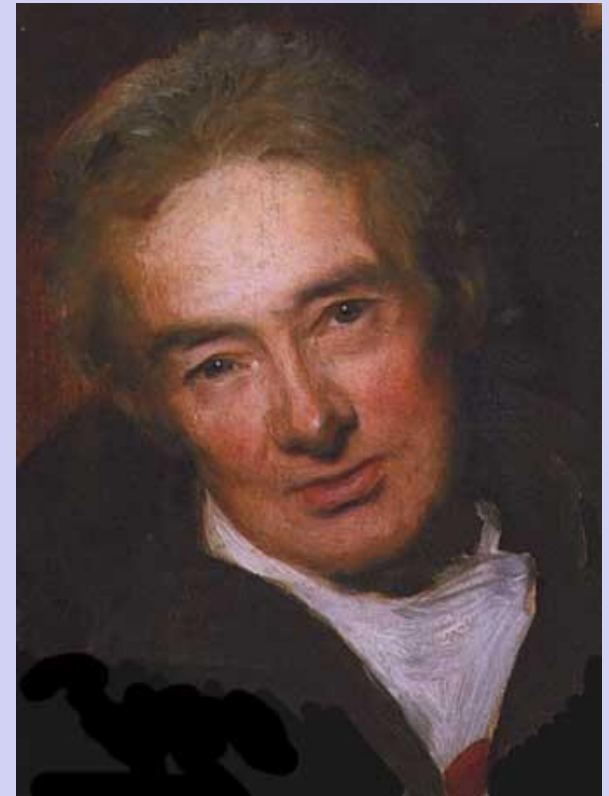
- Equiano was originally from Benin and was captured by slave raiders when he was 10
- Spent 21 years as a slave and was able to save up enough money to buy his freedom
- In 1789 he published *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*
- Sold the book throughout Britain, undertaking lecture tours and actively campaigning to abolish the slave trade



Abolitionists

Politician: William Wilberforce

- English philanthropist elected to Parliament in 1780
- Delivered a stirring abolitionist speech to the House of Commons in 1789 and repeatedly introduced the Abolition Bill until it passed in 1807



Abolitionists

Religious Leader: John Wesley

- Founder of the Methodist Church
- Published *Thoughts Upon Slavery* in 1774
- On his deathbed he was reading Equiano's *Narrative*



Revolutionary: Simon Bolivar

- Inspired by George Washington and Enlightenment ideas, Bolivar took up arms against Spanish rule in 1811
- Freed slaves who joined his forces
- Provided constitutional guarantees of free status for all residents of Gran Columbia (Venezuela, Columbia, and Ecuador)



Timeline for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and Slavery

1803: Denmark abolishes slave trade.

1807: Britain abolishes slave trade.

1807: U.S. passes legislation banning slave trade, to take effect 1808.

1810: British negotiate an agreement with Portugal calling for gradual abolition of slave trade in the South Atlantic.

1813: Gradual emancipation adopted in Argentina.

1814: Gradual emancipation begins in Colombia.

1815: At the Congress of Vienna, the **British pressure** Spain, Portugal, France and the Netherlands to agree to abolish the slave trade.

Spain and Portugal are permitted a few years of continued slaving to replenish labor supplies.

1817: Great Britain and Spain sign a treaty prohibiting the slave trade:

Spain agrees to end the slave trade N of the equator immediately, and S of the equator in 1820.

British naval vessels are given right to search suspected slavers. Still, loopholes in the treaty undercut its goals and the slave trade continues strongly until 1830.

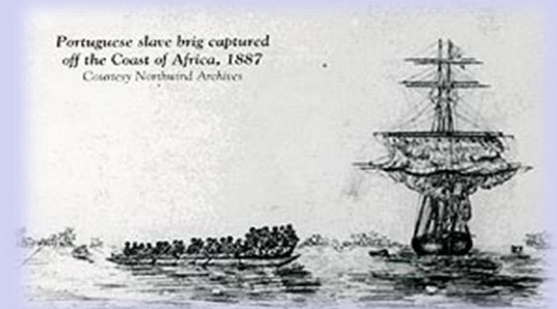
1823: Slavery abolished in Chile.

1824: Slavery abolished in Central America.

1829: Slavery abolished in Mexico.

1831: Slavery abolished in Bolivia.

1833: Abolition of Slavery Act passed in Britain - complete emancipation by 1838.



Timeline for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and Slavery

- 1842:** Slavery abolished in Uruguay.
- 1848:** Slavery abolished in all French and Danish colonies.
- 1851:** Slavery abolished in Ecuador.
- 1854:** Slavery abolished in Peru and Venezuela.
- 1863:** Emancipation Proclamation issued in the U.S.
- 1863:** Slavery abolished in all Dutch colonies.
- 1865:** Slavery abolished in the U.S. as a result of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and the end of the Civil War.
- 1867:** The last documented ship that carried slaves across the Atlantic arrived in Cuba in 1867
- 1871:** Gradual emancipation initiated in Brazil.
- 1873:** Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico.
- 1886:** Slavery abolished in Cuba.
- 1888:** Slavery abolished in Brazil.
- 1960s:** Slavery abolished in Saudi Arabia and Angola.



Future Effects on Africa

- Kidnapping and removal of millions of African men, women, and children from their homelands changed Africa forever.
- Led to economic dependence on Europe, devastating effects when trade was outlawed.
- Became vulnerable to European imperialism.

Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

- Mixed
 - Some states like Rwanda largely escaped the slave trade through resistance and geography
 - Some like Senegal in west Africa were hit very hard
 - Other societies benefited economically from selling slaves, trading, or operating ports
 - As abolition took root in the 19th Century some African merchants even complained about the lose of their livelihood
- Overall, the slave trade devastated Africa and tore apart millions of families.



“Door of No Return” on Goree Island off the coast of Senegal

Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

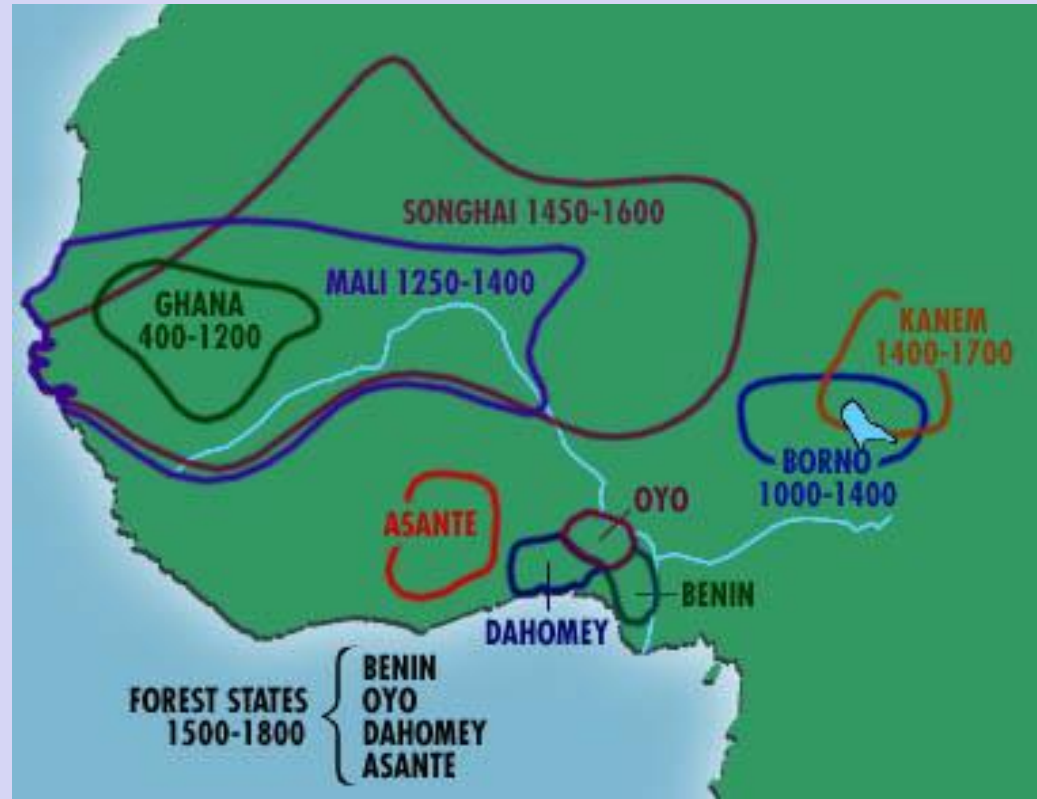
- Deprived Africa of about 16 million people and the continuing Islamic slave trade consumed another several million.
- Overall, the African population rose partly due to the introduction of higher caloric food from the Americas.
- Distorted African male to female ratios.
 - Approximately 2/3 of all exported slaves were male.
- Slavers preferred young men between the ages of 14 and 35 to maximize investment potential and be suitable for hard labor.
- The gender imbalance in some parts of Africa, such as Angola, encouraged polygamy and caused women to take on duties that had previously been the responsibility of men.



Peanuts were one of several crops introduced to Africa from the Americas.

Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

- The slave trade brought firearms to such African societies as Asante, Dahomey, and Oyo. Violence increased overtime.
- In the 18th century, Dahomey expanded rapidly, absorbed neighboring societies, and fielded an army that was largely a slave-raiding force.



African Diaspora

Sea Island
basket



There were many African contributions:

- Africans built hybrid cultural traditions made up of African, European, and American elements
- Influenced language by creating tongues that drew on several African and European languages
- Impacted cuisine - introduced African foods to American societies
 - For example, combined African okra with European-style sautéed vegetables and American shellfish to make gumbo
- Introduced rice cultivation to tropical and subtropical regions
- Fashioned distinctive crafts such as pottery and baskets
- Many were Christians when they left Africa or converted to Christianity after their arrival in the western hemisphere
- Not exactly like “European” Christianity and included African traditions
 - Associated African deities with Christian saints
 - Relied on African rituals such as drumming, dancing, & animal sacrifices
 - Preserved their belief in spirits and supernatural powers and made use of magic, sorcery, witchcraft, and spirit possession

End of the Slavery - Free At Last - *Or Were They?*

- Treaties were signed
- Differing countries abolished slavery at different times
- Though abolished on paper, was not in people's hearts
- Racism continued to segregate Africans from others
- Slaves were still smuggled into the country

Causes

- Industrial Revolution in Europe
- Demand for slaves dropped through surpluses of offspring
- Anti-slavery movements in Europe
- Donations and protests
- Slave rebellion - Haiti on the island of St. Domingue in 1791