

Atlantic Slave Trade-OVERVIEW

1400 c.E.	1500 c.E.	1600 c.E.	1700 c.E.	1800 c.E.
1415 Portuguese capture Ceuta (Morocco); beginning of European expansion 1441 First shipment of African slaves brought directly from Africa to Portugal 1481 Portuguese fort established at El Mina (Ghana)	1562 Beginnings of English slave trade 1570 Portuguese establish colony in Angola 1591 Fall of Songhay Empire	1652 Dutch establish colony at Cape of Good Hope	1700-1717 Osei Tutu unifies the Asante kingdom 1713 English get right to import slaves to Spanish Empire 1720s Rise of the kingdom of Dahomey 1790s Abolitionist movement gains strength in England 1792 Slave uprising in Haiti	1804 Usman Dan Fodio leads Hausa expansion 1815 Cape colony comes under formal British control 1818-1828 Shaka forges Zulu power and expansion; mfecane under way 1833 Great Britain abolishes slavery in the West Indies 1834 Boers make "Great Trek" into Natal

- 1400-1800
- * 9 to 12 million men, women, and children taken into bondage
 - * Traumatic impact on tribes and individuals
 - * Effects on African society, politics, and economies were profound
 - * Completely altered the social, ethnic, and economic development of North and South America
 - * Slave trade was at the heart of Europe's rise to power and prosperity



Geography:

- Gold Coast- Asante
- Slave Coast- Dahomey
- Bight of Benin
- Bight of Biafra
- Niger River
- Kongo River
- Zambezi River
- Luanda (Queen Nzinga)
- Zanzibar (cloves)
- Nguni (Shaka Zulu)

Origins

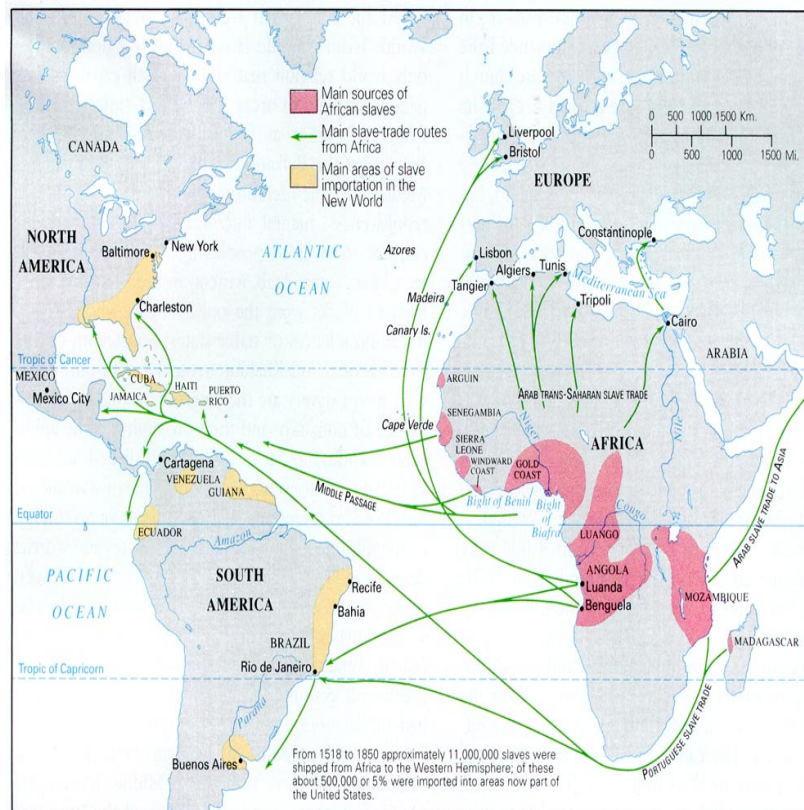
- Portuguese exploration of West Africa in 1400s
- In attempt to find the East Indies, they began to trade and "extract" resources, including slaves
- Starting in 1441, a limited number of slaves-about 1000 per year- were taken from Africa to Europe as domestic servants and "curiosities"

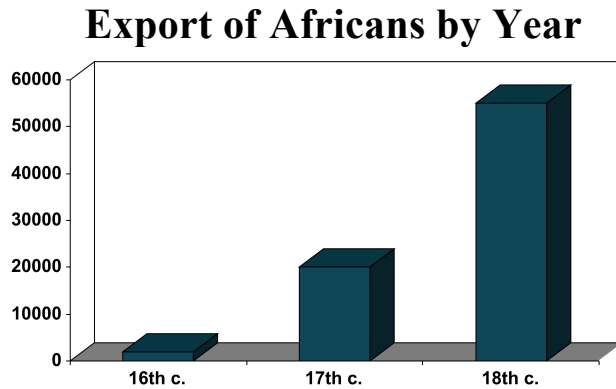
Early 16th century, slave trade began in earnest b/c of Spanish and Portuguese colonization.

1. Spanish and Portuguese sugar cultivation began in Brazil and Caribbean
2. Spanish not using Natives for labor anymore-
 - a. Many killed by disease and war
 - b. 1542 priests lobbied against encomienda system-Las Casas
 - c. native Americans temperamentally unsuited to slavery-home territory, spoke same language as other “slaves”
3. French, Dutch, and English colonists in Caribbean and later N. America became dependent on slave labor too
4. Number of slaves taken from Africa was more like 2000 per year in 16th c.

The 17th and 18th centuries were the heyday of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Every major country in Europe was involved.

1. Slavery=major foundation in mercantilism
2. One million Africans transported to the New World in 1600s and six million in 1700s
3. 37% of slaves went to Brazil
4. 15% went to Spanish America-No ban on slavery until early 19th c.
5. Non-Spanish Caribbean=41%
6. 5% to colonies of North America





More Demographics...

TABLE 25.1 Slave Exports from Africa, 1500–1900 (in thousands)

	1500–1600 (%)	1600–1700 (%)	1700–1800 (%)	1800–1900 (%)	Total
Red Sea	200 (17)	200 (7)	200 (3)	450 (8)	1050 (6)
Trans-Saharan	550 (47)	700 (24)			
	700 (9)	1200 (22)			
	3150 (19)				
East Africa and Indian Ocean	100 (9)	100 (4)	400 (5)	442 (8)	1042 (6)
Trans-Atlantic	325 (28)	1868 (65)			
	6133 (83)	3330 (61)			
	11,656 (69)				
					16,898

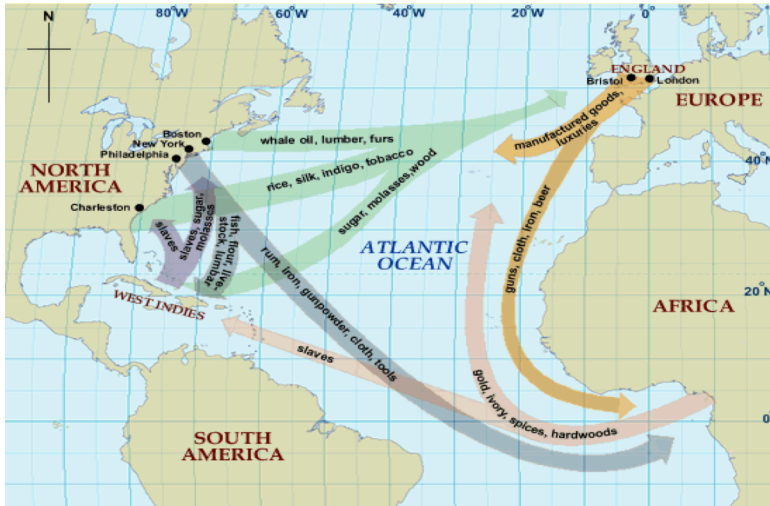
Source: Adapted from Paul Lovejoy, *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa* (1983).

TABLE 25.2 Estimated Slave Imports into the Americas by Importing Region, 1519–1866

Region and Country	Slaves
Brazil	3,902,000
British Caribbean	2,238,200
Spanish America	1,267,800
French Caribbean	1,092,600
Guianas*	403,700
British North America	361,100
Dutch Caribbean	129,700
Danish Caribbean	73,100
	9,468,200

*Includes Dutch, French, and British colonies, namely, Berbice, Cayenne, Demerara, Essequibo, and Surinam.

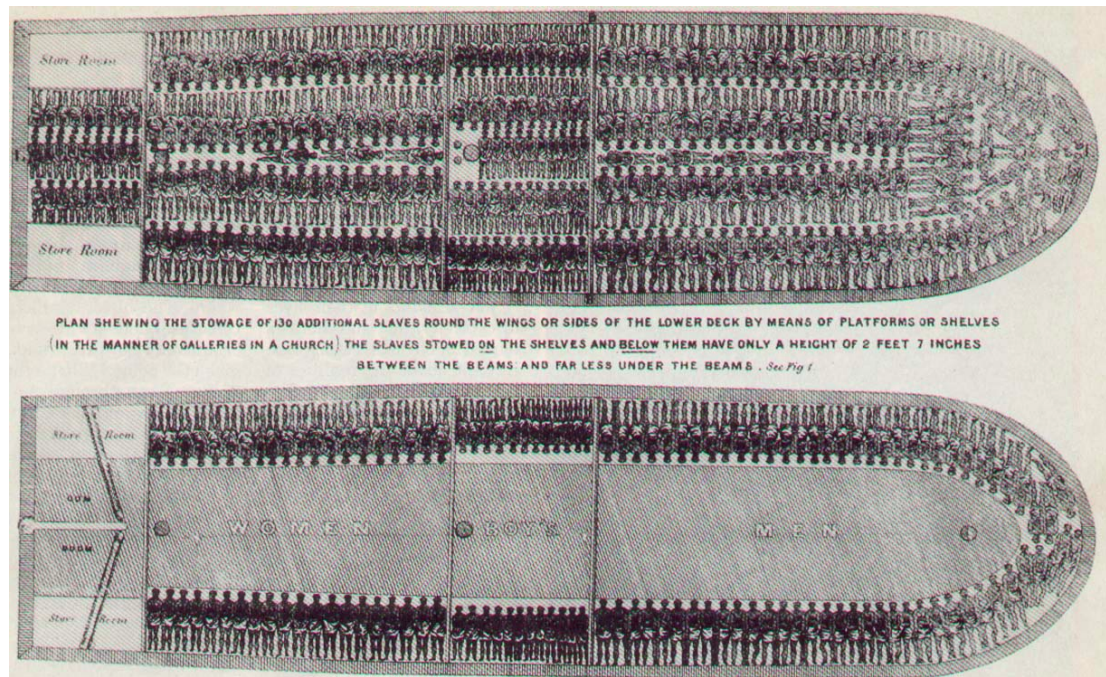
Economics:



- Triangular trade which was really more complicated than a triangle
- Cash crops in Americas=sugar cane, tobacco, cotton, rice, furs, silver
- Potosi mine (slaves worked in all these areas)
- Manufactured good from Europe to Africa metal goods, cotton cloth, firearms, and alcohol
- Europe to Americas: slaves
- Africa's economy very linked to European dependence.
 - Started in era of Mali and Songhai with gold trade
 - Gold was "free" for the taking in New World, Europeans did not want African gold
 - Slave trade allowed African leaders to keep linked to the world trade, but it was destructive

Social Effects:

- On individuals-
 - Taken POW or a slave raid
 - Middle Passage-crammed into a dark cargo hold for weeks
 - 25% of those shipped died in early years; by 18th c. still 10% mortality
 - Shock of new language, new climate
 - Humiliation of being sold
 - Force, whippings, sexual exploitation



Effects on Africa-entire tribes fell victim to the slave trade

- Dahomey, Asante and Kongo leaders cooperated with the Europeans
- Economies based on the slave trade and they became wealthy during this period
- Asante insisted on payment in gunpowder weapons-made them powerful
- Trade stirred up intertribal violence along the west coast and central Africa because kinds raided neighboring tribes for slaves to sell Europeans
- Led to incessant warfare: African states traded for firearms and horses that encouraged wars of expansion
- The strong market demand for slaves encouraged wars of conquest as well as raids to acquire slaves

1800s Big Changes: Ban on slave trade in European countries

- Great Britain in 1807, slavery illegal in GB
- 1814 to 1815-end of Napoleonic Wars, Britain convinced most European countries and the US ban the slave TRADE (not Spain or Portugal)
- Slavery continued to be illegal in the US, Cuba, and Brazil. Slave trade continued illegally, but lessened considerably.
- British and US navy patrolled the African coast and the Caribbean to interfere with the slave trade
- British destroyed fortresses, outposts and slave markets and Kongo maintained on Atlantic Coast
- 2 million slaves taken from Africa 1800s
- Slavery ends in US in 1866 and in Brazil in 1888

