

SLAVERY AND THE COMING OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



“THE GREATEST INCONVENIENCE ASSOCIATED WITH MY ENDEAVOR IS THAT HERE ONE SEES MEN WHO RESEMBLE US ALMOST IN NOTHING, WHO SEEM TO US TO BE OUTSIDE OF NATURE – PERHAPS AS MUCH BECAUSE WE ARE IN THAT STATE OURSELVES AS BECAUSE THEY ARE IN FACT THERE.”

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU



WHY STUDY SLAVERY?

240 YEARS

4 MILLION SLAVES

800,000 DEAD

150 YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION



MAY 6 – SESSION 1 – SLAVERY ANCIENT AND MODERN – WE WILL LOOK AT THE CENTURIES’ LONG PRACTICE OF SLAVERY IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

MAY 13 – SESSION 2 – SLAVERY AND COLONIAL AMERICA – WE WILL LOOK AT HOW THE US CONSTITUTION ADDRESSED SLAVERY AS IT EXISTED IN 1787

MAY 20 – SESSION 3 – THE EMPIRE OF COTTON – WE WILL LOOK AT THE EARLY INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND ITS TIES TO TEXTILE PRODUCTION, COTTON AND SLAVERY; IMPORTANT IN UNDERSTANDING THE PRIME CAUSE OF SLAVERY



MAY 27 – NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE 3 – SESSION 4 – GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION AND SLAVERY – THE YEARS AFTER THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WERE ONES OF GROWTH IN THE GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF THE COUNTRY AND WE SEE EARLY POLITICAL CONFLICTS WITH SLAVERY AND OTHER MAJOR ISSUES

JUNE 10 – SESSION 5 – PLANTERS, YEOMEN AND THE REST – WE EXAMINE THE “MIND OF THE SOUTH” AND OF THE NORTH IN A SLAVE CULTURE

JUNE 17 – SESSION 6 – THE POLITICS OF SLAVERY – WE LOOK AT THE INCREASING POLITICAL CONFLICT AT THE COUNTRY CONFRONTS EXPANSION AND THE ROLE OF SLAVERY IN THE NEW STATES

JUNE 24 – SESSION 7 – THE SECESSION CRISIS – WE LOOK AT THE IMMEDIATE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE CIVIL WAR AS THE SLAVE STATES ADDRESSED THE ELECTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE APPROACH

VIEW SLAVERY FROM THE FUTURE

UNDERSTAND THE MINDSET OF

MASTERS AND SLAVES

UNDERSTAND THE MINDSET OF

NONSLAVE OWNERS

UNDERSTAND WHY ACTIONS WERE

TAKEN

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO US?



Approaches

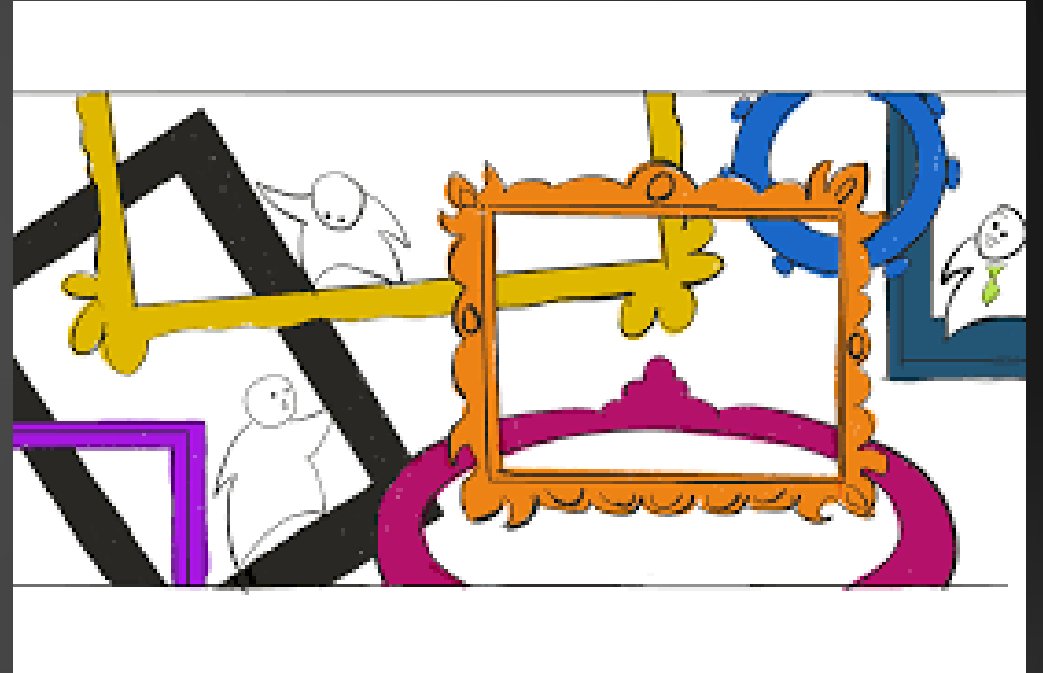
Framing

Fear, Honor and Interest

Interest and Strain

Perception and Misperception

Economics and Empire



WHO AM I?

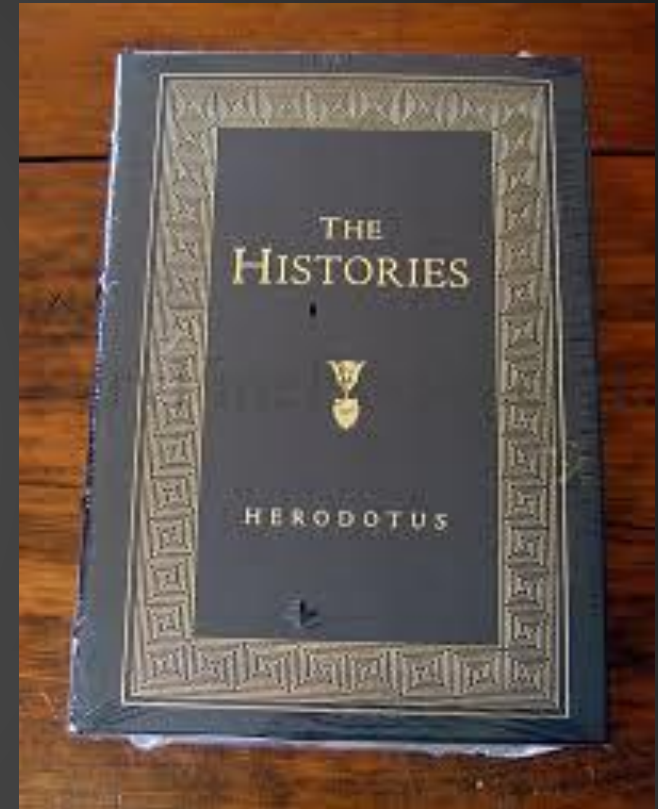
NO HISTORY DEGREE BUT A LOVE OF HISTORY
AND ITS VALUE FOR PROVIDING EXPERIENCE

NOT EXCESSIVELY CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL
IN POLITICAL OR SOCIAL VIEWS

A CAPITALIST AND AN AMERICAN

HAVE NO AXE TO GRIND

HAVE BACKED INTO INTEREST IN SLAVERY

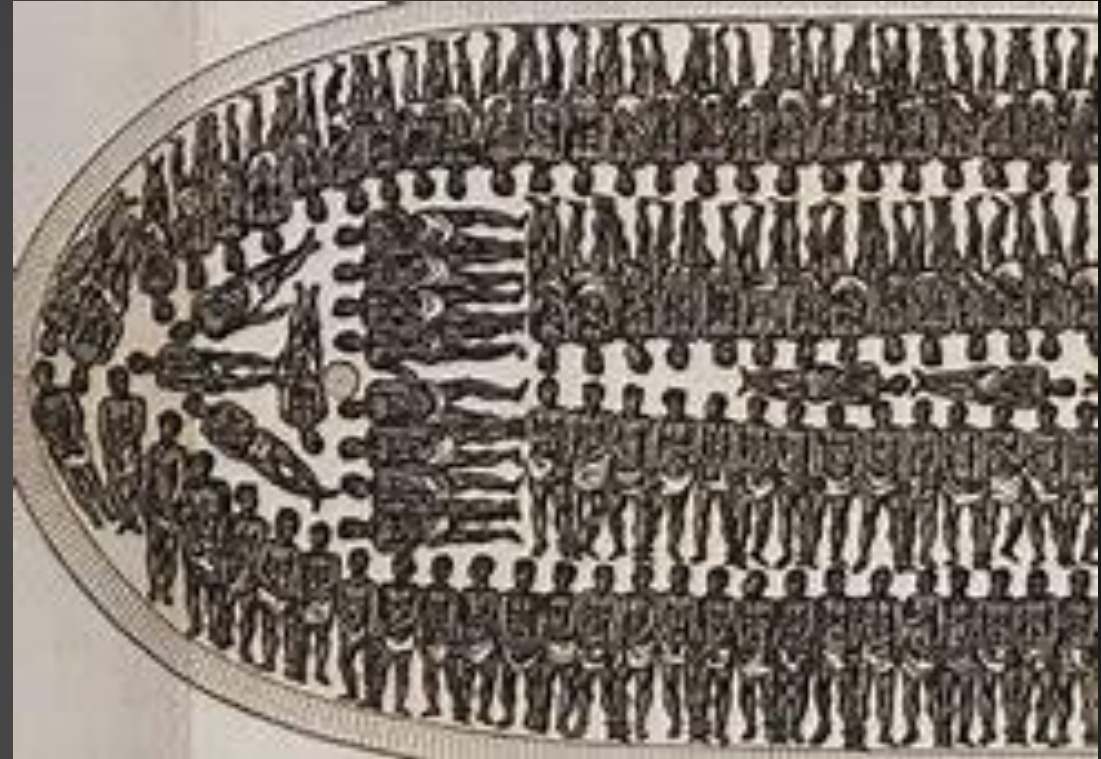


Slavery Ancient and Modern

“What Country, friend, is this?”
Viola, Twelfth Night

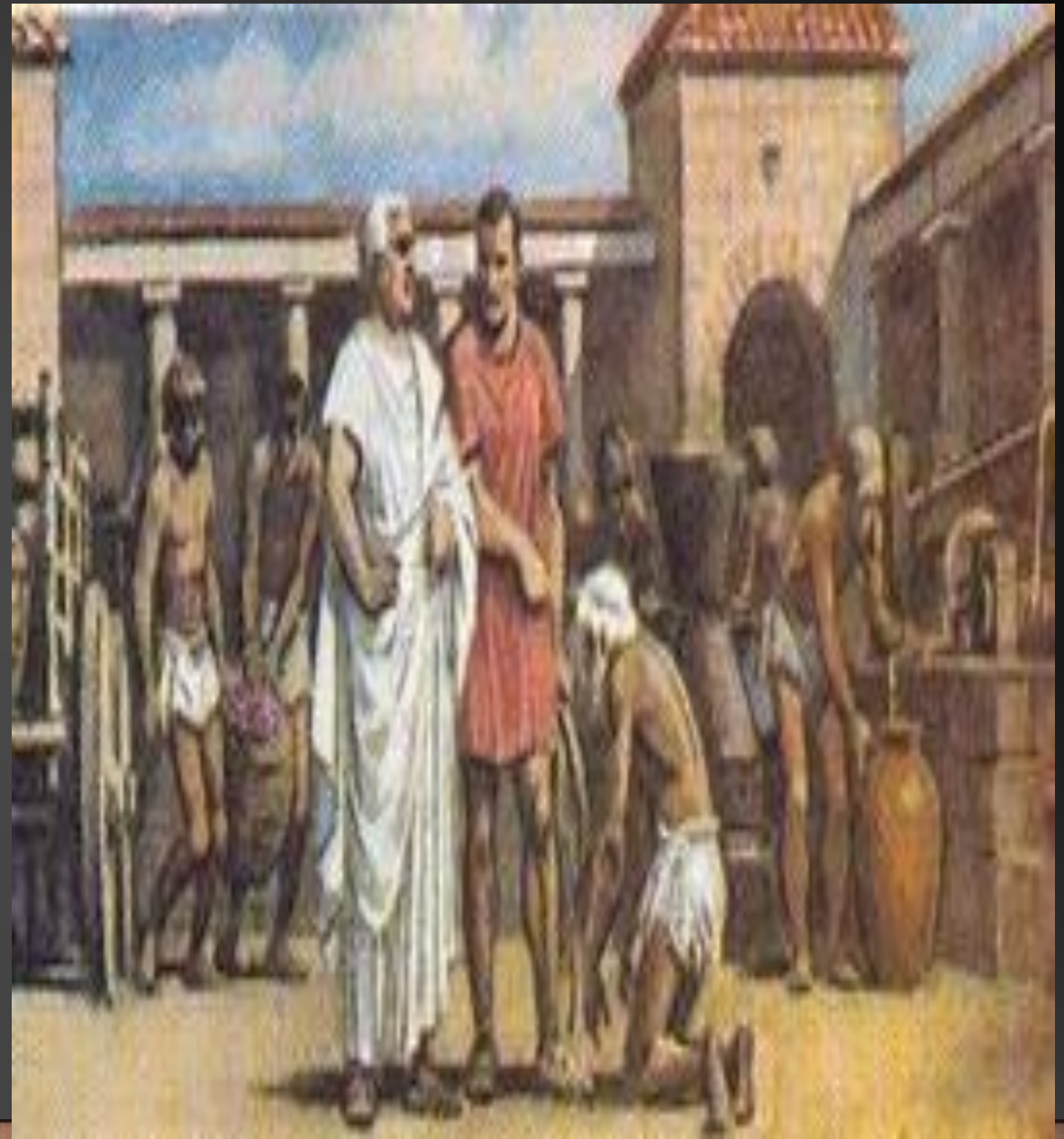
MAIN THOUGHT

- ❑ SLAVERY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WAS A BASIC ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE OLD AND NEW WORLD.
- ❑ MANY DOUBT THAT THE NEW WORLD WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED AS QUICKLY (ATTRACTED AS MANY PEOPLE) WITHOUT SLAVERY



- The ancient cognitive basis for modern slavery

- Aristotle and the purpose of man
- Tribalism
- International anarchy



- Slaves made non-slave peasants feel more important and not the last in line
- Slaves were a status symbol to their owners
- Slaves were often of a darker complexion than masters due to outside work
- A darker complexion became a slave marker



SOURCES OF SLAVES

- CONQUEST (BY A JUST WAR), PIRACY, DEBT, KIDNAPPING
- IN THE MODERN WORLD (AFTER 1400) WHEN SUPPLYING THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE – AFRICAN CONQUEST AND KIDNAPPING – MUSLIMS AND AFRICANS



- **WHY THE ANCIENT WORLD?**
- **GREECE THE FIRST “WESTERN” SLAVE SOCIETY – TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON SLAVES TO SUPPORT THE SOCIAL/ECONOMIC SYSTEM**
- **SLAVES GAVE FREE MEN TIME TO “BUILD CULTURE” – SLAVERY REINFORCED FREEDOM AND BECAME A NECESSARY COMPONENT IN THE VIEW OF GREEK SOCIETY**





- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SLAVES MADE UP TO 1/3 OF THE POPULATION IN ANCIENT GREEK CITIES
- SLAVES SERVED AS HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS, TEACHERS AND LABORERS, FARM WORKERS, MINERS, SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND DOCKWORKERS
- SLAVES AND SPARTA



GREEK EXPANSION THROUGH COLONIZATION EXPANDED AREAS OF GREEK SLAVERY



▪ **ROMANS INHERITED GREEK SLAVE ATTITUDES AND SYSTEM**

- **EARLY AMERICAN COLONISTS AND LATER SOUTHERN SLAVE HOLDERS SAW ROMAN POLITICS AND CULTURE AS A MODEL FOR AMERICAN/SOUTHERN CIVILIZATION**
- **ROMAN SLAVERY REINFORCED WITH PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TERROR**



- UNDER ROMAN LAW, SLAVES COULD BE BRUTALLY EXECUTED OR MUTILATED FOR INSUBORDINATION
- SLAVE REBELLIONS WERE ALWAYS A CONCERN OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
- 4TH CENTURY CHRISTIAN 'CONVERSION' OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR HAD LITTLE AFFECT ON SLAVE LAW BUT DID PROMOTE MANUMISSION.



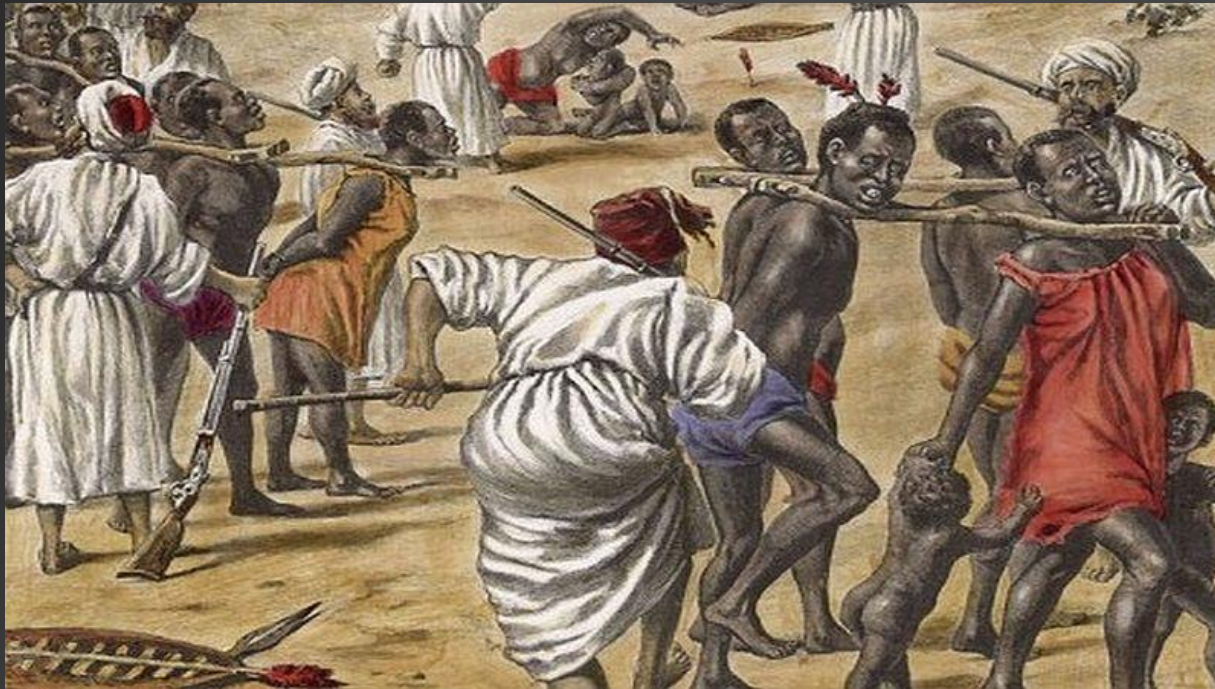
CHRISTIANITY AND THE SOUTH

- CHRISTIAN INFLUENCES DICTATED AGAINST WHITE SLAVERY (BUT NOT NON WHITE)
 - SLAVERY LINKED WITH ORIGINAL SIN IN CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS
 - SLAVERY NOT CONDEMNED IN EITHER TESTAMENT
 - THE CURSE OF HAM
 - PAUL'S PHILEMON LETTER URGES MAINTAINING SLAVE STATUS TO A RUN AWAY SLAVE



THE MIDDLE AGES

MUSLIM COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE AGES CONTINUED
TRADITION OF TURNING CONQUERED AND KIDNAPPED
PEOPLE INTO SLAVES



**VIKING RAIDERS ALSO
CAPTURED AND SOLD PEOPLE
INTO SLAVERY ACROSS
WESTERN AND EASTERN
EUROPE IN THE 9TH AND 10TH
CENTURIES**



SLAVERY AND THE MODERN PERIOD (AFTER 1400)

- EARLY MODERN EUROPE BEGAN TO FOCUS ON RACE AS THE BASIS FOR SLAVERY
 - “INFERIOR PEOPLE” WERE MEANT TO BE SLAVES
 - ALSO SLAVERY WAS PART OF THE “CHRISTIANIZATION” OF “BACKWARD” PEOPLES



THIS VIEW WAS REINFORCED BY THE MUSLIM INVASIONS OF EUROPE – A DARK SKINNED ENEMY TRYING TO OVERWHELM CHRISTENDOM

WITH THE WESTERN CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE IN EARLY 13TH CENTURY, ITALIAN MERCHANTS BEGAN BUYING WHITE SLAVES AROUND THE BLACK SEA AND CASPIAN SEA FOR SALE IN ITALY.



EXAMPLE: BETWEEN 1414 AND 1423 NEARLY 10,000 BONDSWOMEN WERE SOLD IN RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

ON THE CAPTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE BY THE OTTOMAN TURKS IN 1453, THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SLAVE TRADE SOURCE WAS CHANGED TO AFRICA



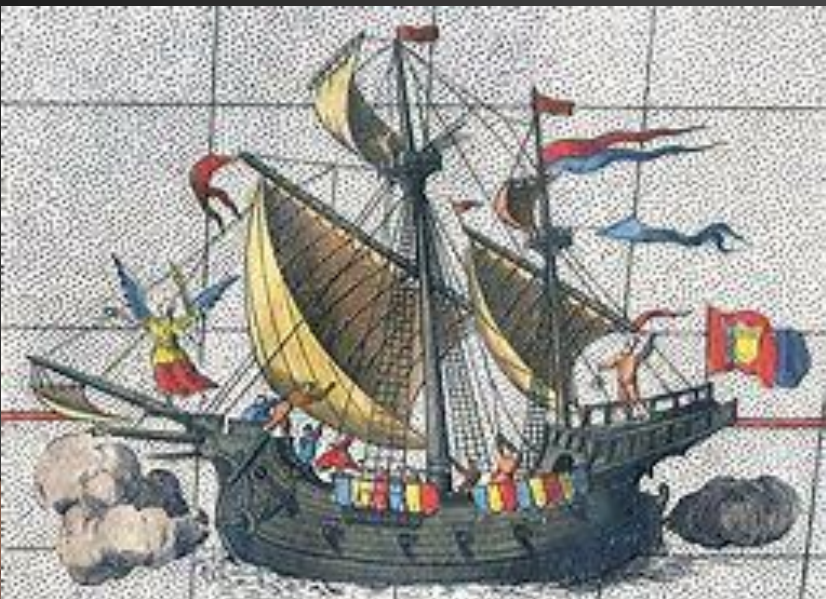


WITH THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE, ITALY REPLACED BY PORTUGAL AS THE MAJOR SLAVE TRADERS

SOME ITALIAN SLAVE MERCHANTS MOVED TO PORTUGAL TO OPERATE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

PRINCE HENRY OF PORTUGAL GRANTED SLAVE MONOPOLIES IN AFRICAN REGIONS TO PORTUGAL TRADERS.

FERDINAND OF SPAIN WOULD LATER GRANT THE SAME IN MEXICO AND SOUTH AMERICA



- **WITH THE BLESSING OF POPE ALEXANDER VI IN 1494, PORTUGAL, WHICH WAS DEVELOPING ASIAN SPICE MARKETS, BEGAN BUYING WEST AFRICAN SLAVES AS ITS SHIPS PASSED THE WEST AFRICAN COAST**
- **1ST PUBLIC AFRICAN SLAVE AUCTION IN PORTUGAL IN 1444**
- **SPAIN WAS UTILIZING BLACK SLAVES THAT IT WOULD EMIGRATE TO MEXICO AND SOUTH AMERICA WITH MASTERS FOR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE**



**GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS DROVE
EUROPEANS TO EXPLORE THE ATLANTIC
AND DEVELOP ITS COMMERCE:**

**(1) NEW AND PROFITABLE COMMERCIAL
OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE EUROPE**

**(2) CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE TRADE
NETWORK TO THAT CONTROLLED BY
MUSLIM EMPIRE**



Expansion of the Islamic World to 1500



- Islamic world at the end of the Umayyad dynasty
- Extent of the Islamic world 1250
- Extent of the Islamic world 1500
- Area reconquered by Christians 1250
- Area reconquered by Christians 1500
- Extent of Christian crusading principalities in 12th century
- Site and date of important battle

- NATION STATE WAS DEVELOPING IN EUROPE IN RESPONSE TO NEED FOR LARGER ARMIES AND TO MEET THE MUSLIM THREAT. TRIBES ARE CHANGING
- NATION STATE NEEDED GOLD AND SILVER TO FUND LARGE ARMIES AND STATE SPONSORED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS SEEN AS A PARTIAL SOLUTION



- EUROPEAN TRADERS WANTED TO TRADE FOR GOLD, WHICH COULD BE FOUND IN WESTERN AFRICA, AND TO FIND A MARITIME ROUTE TO "THE INDIES" (INDIA), FOR SPICES WITHOUT HAVING TO OBTAIN THESE ITEMS FROM ISLAMIC MIDDLE EASTERN TRADERS



- SOURCE OF SLAVES FROM AFRICA INTERIOR WERE OTHER AFRICANS OBTAINING SLAVES BY WAR AND KIDNAPPING
 - INDIGENOUS SLAVE TRADING IN AFRICA LONG BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS
 - SLAVE TRADERS DID NOT VENTURE FAR INLAND; SLAVES WERE BROUGHT TO THE COAST FOR TRADING FOR EUROPEAN GOODS



- THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE WAS THE RESULT OF A CHRONIC LABOR SHORTAGE, ITSELF IN TURN CREATED BY THE DESIRE OF EUROPEAN COLONISTS TO EXPLOIT NEW WORLD LAND AND RESOURCES FOR PROFIT.
- ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF LABOR, SUCH AS INDENTURED SERVITUDE, FAILED TO PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT WORKFORCE.



- AFRICAN SLAVES WERE INITIALLY USED ON THE AFRICAN ATLANTIC ISLANDS ON SUGAR PLANTATIONS.
- CANARY ISLANDS DURING THE 15TH CENTURY
- CAPE VERDES ISLANDS (1416)
- MADEIRAS ISLANDS (1424). A WEALTHY SUGAR PRODUCING ISLAND BY 1492





- SUGAR PRODUCTION WAS BACK BREAKING WORK WITH HIGH MORTALITY RATE FROM DISEASE
- THE AFRICAN ISLANDS OUT PRODUCED ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN SUGAR PRODUCERS BY 1500 AND SUPPLIED EUROPE THROUGH EXPORT TO LONDON, LISBON AND OTHER MAJOR PORT CITIES





- **MADEIRAS ISLAND PLANTATIONS SERVED AS A MODEL FOR USE IN THE NEW WORLD**
- **COLUMBUS LIVED ON A NEARBY ISLAND FOR 10 YEARS AND TOOK SUGAR CANE FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS TO THE CARIBBEAN ON HIS 2ND WESTERN VOYAGE**

TO THE NEW WORLD

NEW EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS IN SEAFARING TECHNOLOGIES RESULTED IN SHIPS BEING BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE TIDAL CURRENTS AND COULD BEGIN TRAVERSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN



- **SLAVERY WAS A BASIC ECONOMIC COMPONENT OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE NEW WORLD.**
- **MANY DOUBT THAT THE NEW WORLD WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED AS QUICKLY WITHOUT SLAVERY**
- **IN THE LATE 1500'S PORTUGAL GRADUALLY MOVED SUGAR PRODUCTION FROM THE WEST AFRICAN ISLANDS TO BRAZIL.**
- **SPAIN BEGAN SUGAR PRODUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS**



- THE MAJOR ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADING NATIONS WERE: THE PORTUGUESE, THE BRITISH, THE FRENCH, THE SPANISH, AND THE DUTCH EMPIRES.
- SEVERAL HAD ESTABLISHED OUTPOSTS ON THE AFRICAN COAST WHERE THEY PURCHASED SLAVES FROM LOCAL AFRICAN LEADERS.
- CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT ABOUT 12 MILLION AFRICANS WERE SHIPPED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC BETWEEN 1500 AND 1800



- **THE PORTUGUESE TRANSPORTED THE MOST SLAVES TO THE NEW WORLD BEFORE 1650 AND AFTER 1810.**
- **WITH THE GROWTH OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF COMMERCE, BRITAIN BECAME THE BIGGEST SLAVE TRADING COUNTRY BY 1650 UNTIL IT ABOLISHED SLAVE TRADING IN EARLY 1800's.**



- **SHORTAGE OF LABOR FROM**
 - **LARGE AMOUNTS OF CHEAP LAND**
 - **WORK NO ONE WOULD DO FREELY**
 - **HIGH MORTALITY RATE FOR NATIVES AND AFRICAN SLAVES**



THE TRANSPORT OF SLAVES ON SHIPS

- OFTEN 150 TO 400 SLAVES PER SHIP WITH AVERAGE OF 4 SQ/FT PER SLAVE
- CREWS WERE LARGE AND ARMED AGAINST REVOLT; SOMETIMES SOME CREW MEMBERS WERE SLAVES
- SEPARATION BY SEX FROM FEAR OF MALE REVOLT





- MALES OFTEN BOUND BY CHAINS ETC.
- OFTEN NO STANDING ROOM
- SLAVES SURROUNDED BY AND LYING IN THEIR OWN FILTH
- MORTALITY RANGED FROM 15% TO 35% WITH DECEASED THROWN OVERBOARD
- ALSO HARD TO RECRUIT CREW MEMBERS AND SOME WERE SLAVES

- APPROXIMATELY 1.2 – 2.4 MILLION AFRICANS DIED DURING THEIR TRANSPORT TO THE NEW WORLD
- THE NUMBER OF THE AFRICANS WHO ARRIVED IN THE NEW WORLD AS SLAVES WAS ABOUT 10,000,000
- SLAVE AUCTIONS CONDUCTED AT DESTINATION WITH NAKED SLAVES SEPARATED BY SEX AND PHYSICAL CONDITION FOR INSPECTION AND BIDDING




- SOON BRAZIL WAS PRODUCING MORE SUGAR THAN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS
- FROM 1500 TO 1870, BRAZIL ABSORBED 41% OF IMPORTED AFRICAN SLAVES, THE CARIBBEAN 45%, THE REST OF SOUTH AMERICA 5%, AND BRITISH NORTH AMERICA 6%.

Charleston, July 24th, 1769.

TO BE SOLD,

On THURSDAY the third Day
of AUGUST next,

A CARGO
OF
NINETY-FOUR
PRIME, HEALTHY



NEGROES,

CONSISTING OF
Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS,
Twenty-four WOMEN, and
Sixteen GIRLS.

JUST ARRIVED,
In the Brigantine *DEMBIA*, *Francis Bare*, Master, from SIERRA-
LEON, by
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.

- **SPANISH IN SOUTH AMERICA AND LATIN AMERICAN INITIALLY USED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AS SLAVES IN MINES AND AGRICULTURE**
- **SOON BECAME UNWORKABLE DUE TO DISEASE AND NON-COMPLIANCE**
- **AFRICAN SLAVES SOON BECAME PREFERRED**
 - **SOME LOCAL PRIESTS, SEEKING TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS AND CONVERTED PEOPLES, ADVOCATED AFRICAN SLAVES**



- **MAIN DRIVER WAS ECONOMIC**
 - **EUROPEAN AND AMERICAS DEMAND FOR SUGAR, MOLASSES AND RUM**
 - **SUGAR CANE PLANTATIONS BECAME FACTORIES IN THE FIELD WITH THEIR EFFICIENCY**



CARIBBEAN PLANTATIONS

- OFTEN OWNED BY ABSENTEE BRITISH OWNERS WHO ALSO WERE MEMBERS OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND VERY RICH
 - THIS APPROACH WAS COUPLED WITH THE INCREASINGLY ACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE THAT MONEY MAKING WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ELITE
- SOME ISLAND POPULATIONS WERE 90% SLAVES
 - SLAVE REBELLIONS BECAME THE GREATEST CONCERN OF NON-SLAVE INHABITANTS AND BRITISH AND OTHER OWNERS ADDRESSED THIS BY NOT LIVING THERE



- **WHITE AND MIXED-RACE OVERSEERS WERE THE PLANTATION MANAGERS**
- **ABSENTEE OWNERSHIP BECAME A MODEL FOR SOUTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY RICE PLANTERS IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY**
- **THIS ARRANGEMENT SEPARATED THE OWNERS FROM THE SLAVES MAKING SLAVERY AND ITS CRUELITIES REMOTE AND MORE PERVERSIVE**



- FREE “COLOREDS” ALSO OWNED SLAVES ON SMALLER SUGAR PLANTATIONS
- CARIBBEAN ISLANDS PRODUCED SO MUCH INCOME FOR BRITISH OWNERS AND GOVERNMENT THAT ONE HALF OF THE BRITISH TROOPS IN AMERICA IN 1788 WERE SHIPPED TO THE CARIBBEAN AFTER THE 1788 AMERICAN–FRENCH TREATY FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE FRENCH FLEET
- BRITISH SUGAR EXPORTS EXCEED THE VALUE OF AMERICAN EXPORTS



- **WEST INDIES ALSO BECAME A CRITICAL EXPORT MARKET FROM BRITISH AMERICA OF FOOD AND SHIP SUPPLIES**



SLAVERY IN COLONIAL NORTH AMERICA

- MOST SLAVES WHO WERE BROUGHT OR KIDNAPPED TO THE THIRTEEN BRITISH COLONIES — THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF WHAT LATER BECAME THE UNITED STATES — WERE IMPORTED FROM THE CARIBBEAN, NOT DIRECTLY FROM AFRICA.
- SOUTH CAROLINA BECAME SOURCE FOR FOOD FOR CARIBBEAN ISLANDS



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WERE ALSO ENSLAVED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE

INDIAN SLAVERY LARGELY ENDED IN THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY THOUGH THE ENSLAVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DID CONTINUE TO OCCUR IN THE SOUTHERN STATES UNTIL THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION



TAKE AWAYS

MARKET DEMAND FOR SLAVE PRODUCED PRODUCTS
CAUSED CREATION AND EXPANSION OF SLAVERY

RACISM LED TO EASY ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS

SLAVERY WAS BACK END JUSTIFIED BY TRADITION AND
SENSE OF CULTURAL SUPERIORITY

WESTERN SLAVERY GREW OUT OF TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT

SLAVERY WAS A CULTURALLY ACCEPTED PRACTICE IN
EUROPE AND THE NEW WORLD

SLAVERY WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE GROWTH
OF THE NEW WORLD



Next Week:

Slavery and the Constitution

