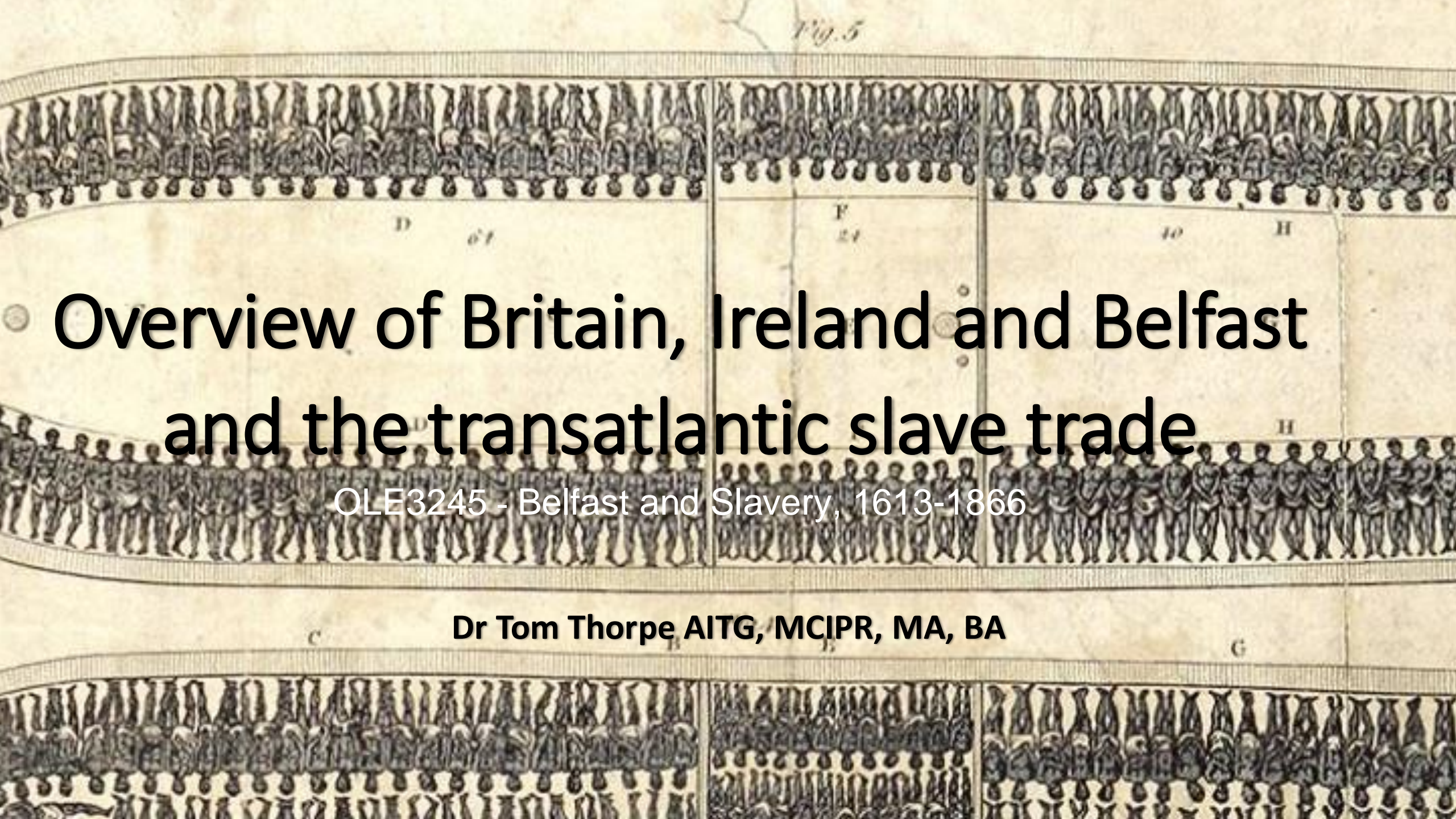


Overview of Britain, Ireland and Belfast and the transatlantic slave trade

OLE3245 - Belfast and Slavery, 1613-1866

Dr Tom Thorpe AITG, MCIPR, MA, BA



Health and safety

- Fire alarms – no drills schedule
- Toilets
- Accident reporting
- General personal safety/security
- COVID



TEACHING ROOM SAFETY GUIDELINES

For the safety and wellbeing of all staff and students, please follow these guidelines when attending face-to-face teaching:



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



DO NOT attend class if you have symptoms of Covid-19. Book a PCR test and follow the advice of the PHA



Wear a face covering unless you have a PHA-specified exemption



Cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your face



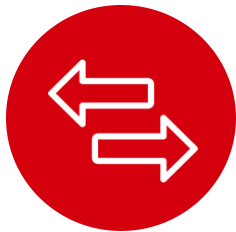
Regularly check the University Covid-19 FAQ information on the University website



SIT WHERE YOU LIKE

Students are not required to socially distance from one another but if there is capacity feel free to spread out in class

Teaching rooms are set up with signage and markers so that they can be quickly changed back to 1m+ social distancing if guidelines change later



Enter and exit the room promptly, adhering to physical distancing and directional signage



Download the StopCOVID NI proximity app



Ensure you are following quarantine restrictions if you have recently arrived from overseas



Use hand sanitiser when entering the room

Fire Action

ON DISCOVERING A FIRE

1. Sound the alarm by operating the nearest fire alarm call point.
2. Dial 2222 to call the Fire and Rescue Service.
3. If possible tackle the fire using the appliances provided. (Do not endanger yourself or others in doing so).

ON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM

4. Leave the building by the nearest exit, closing all doors behind you.

5. Report to the person in charge of the assembly point..

Do not take risks.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do not use lifts 1 .

Do not re-enter the building for any reason until authorised to do so.

Note 1: If any tutor/student feels that they could not leave the building by stairways due to a disability or a mobility problem, they should contact the School Disability Advisor or Disability Services, so that they can be assessed for a PEEP (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan)

If someone falls ill or requires medical assistance

- The tutor should contact the Security Control on an internal phone 2222 or on a mobile 028 9097 2222.



Accidents and incidents

- As soon as is practicable after any accident or incident, the tutor must complete
- an accident report form (AR1). Forms can be obtained from the Open Learning
- team at the School of Education, 20 College Green. Completed forms should be
- returned to the Open Learning Team as soon as possible.



About me

DANGER

NO TANKS

HUNDREDS OF THE BRITISH ARMY'S TANKS AND ARMoured VEHICLES COULD BE SCRAPPED UNDER PLANS TO MODERNISE THE ARMED FORCES

About me

- Local historian & archivist
- Media pundit
- QUB OL lecturer
- PhD, King's College London
- Former spin doctor



Podcasts



Tour Guide





The Slavery Abolition Act 1833

Course objectives

10. *An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies*

(28th July 1833)

Objectives of course

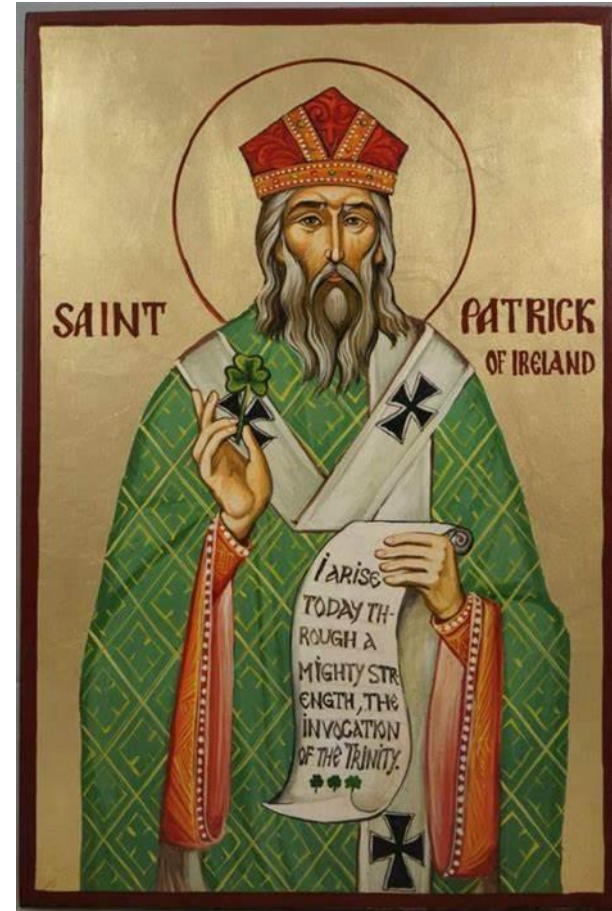
- Present a broad chronological history of the transatlantic chattel slave trade and Belfast's place within that narrative.
- Explore how Belfast citizens were involved in the slave trade and the abolitionist movement.
- Consider the legacy of the slave trade on modern culture, public art and discourse.



Schedule

1	22/01/2025	Introduction - International Transatlantic Slave Trade
2	29/01/2025	The life of a Slave
3	05/02/2025	Belfast, trade and slavery, 1613-1833
4	12/02/2025	United Irishmen, abolition and the slave trade, 1770-1807
5	19/02/2025	The campaign to abolish slavery, 1807-1833
6	26/02/2025	Slavery in the southern United States
7	05/03/2025	The Belfast Campaign to Abolish slavery in the USA, 1833-1844
8	12/03/2025	Frederick Douglass in Belfast, 1845-1846
9	19/03/2025	Belfast and Anti-Slavery, 1846-1866
10	26/03/2025	Legacy of slavery anti-slavery in Belfast

St Patrick



Mary Ann McCracken

- Born 1770, into wealthy merchant family in Belfast growing textile industry
- Became United Irishman, backed their programme for a democratic republic.
- Organised relief for and education of the poor.
- Lifelong abolitionist
- Belfast City Council agreed to erect a statue of Mary Ann McCracken in the grounds of Belfast City Hall.
- Died 1866



McCracken (l) and her niece Maria, miniature, 1801

1770: situation when she was born

- Britain was central to the international slave trade
- Abolitionism was in its infancy across Britain.
- Enslaved black people were slaves in the British Isles



1866: situation when she died

- Slave trade abolished in British Empire.
- Royal Navy had enforced a ban on the slave trade.
- Slavery in British Empire abolished.
- Slavery was abolished in the USA with the addition of Thirteenth Amendment to the US constitution, 18 Dec 1865



Objectives for lecture

- Place Belfast in the historical period, international context and provide a background for the next nine lectures
- Present a broad narrative of slavery, anti slavery and its legacy from 1600 to the present day.
- Set out some suggestions for further reading



What was the transatlantic slave trade?

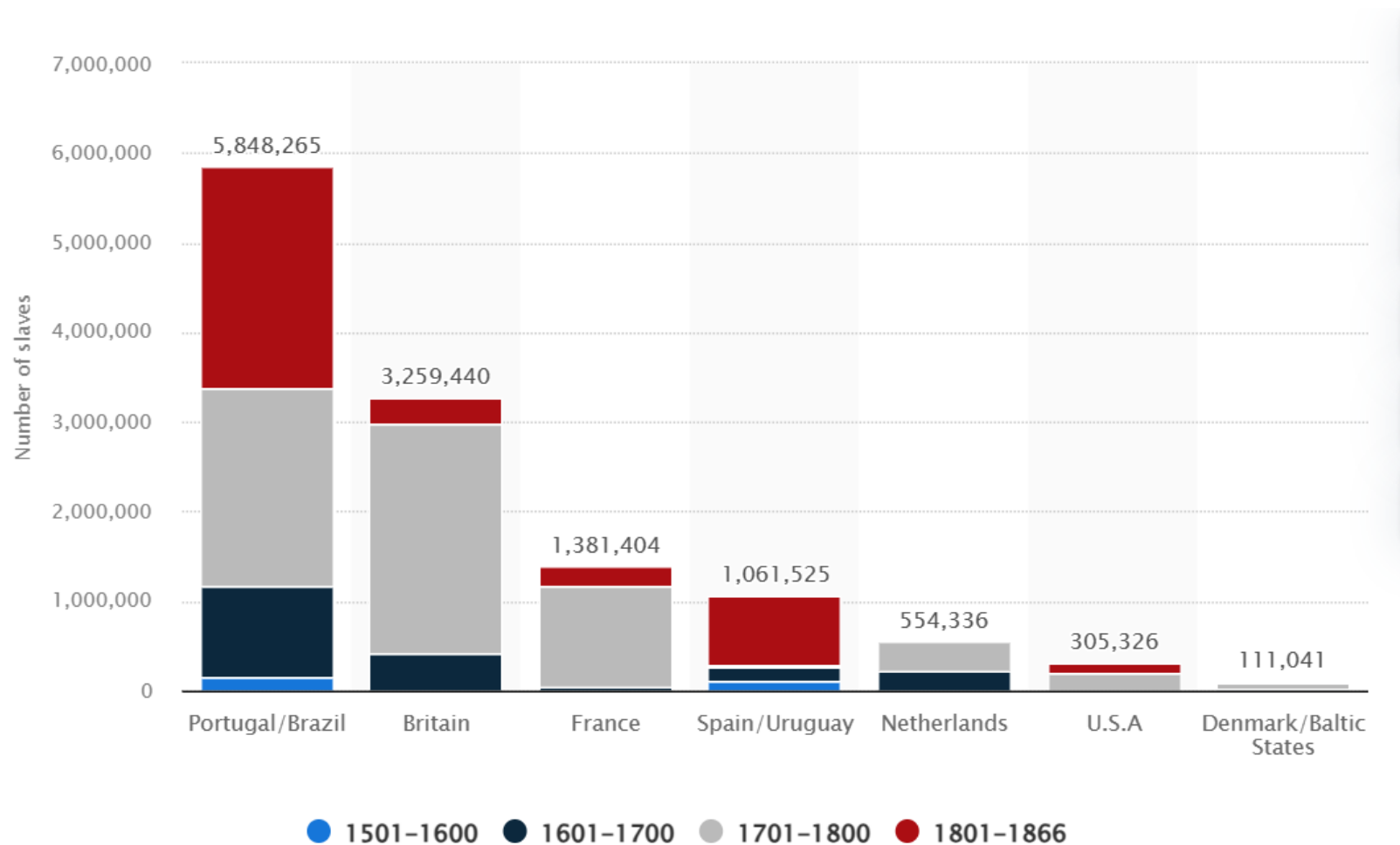


International Transatlantic Slave Trade

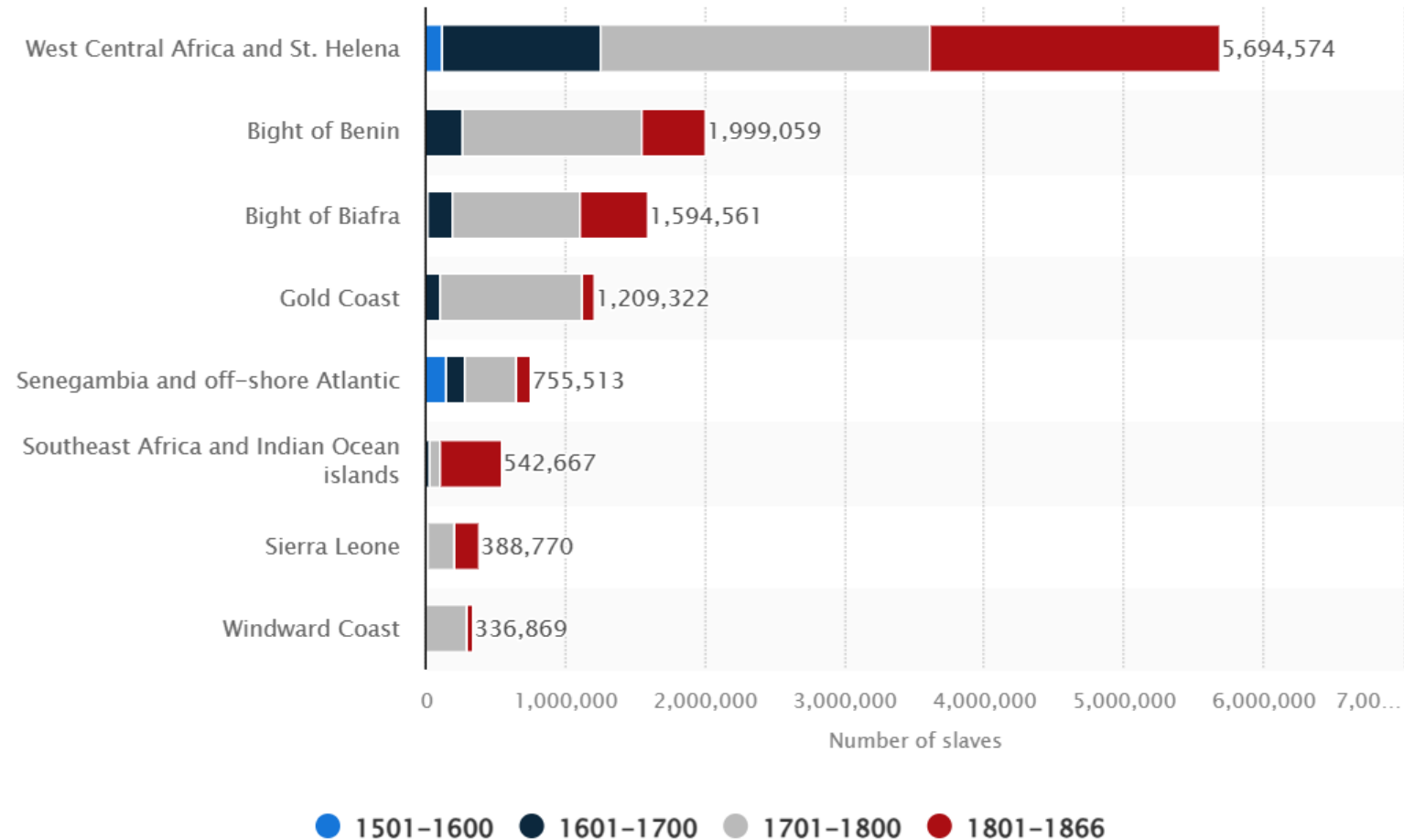
- The transatlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in human history.
- It completely changed Africa, the Americas, and Europe.
- Between the 1400s and 1800s, 12-15 million men, women, and children were forcibly transported from Africa to the Americas.



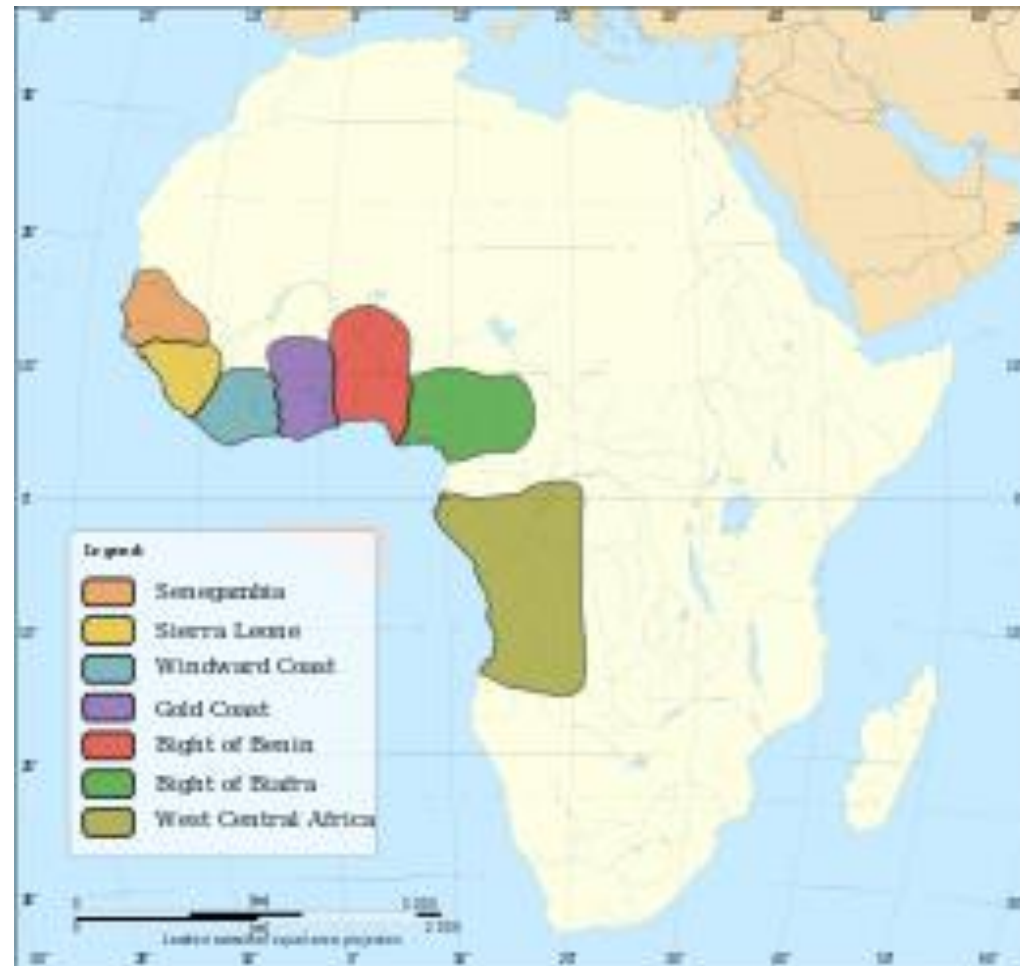
Estimated number of African slaves transported by various world powers during the transatlantic slave trade in each century from 1501 to 1866



Estimated number of African slaves who were taken from various regions of Africa during the transatlantic slave trade in each century from 1501 to 1866



Major slave trading regions of Africa, 15th–19th centuries



Origins: Portuguese start the trade...

- By the 1480s, Portuguese ships were already transporting Africans.
- They were used as enslaved labourers on sugar plantations in the Cape Verde and Madeira islands in the eastern Atlantic.



Spanish and Dutch Involvement

- Spanish conquistadors took enslaved Africans to the Caribbean after 1502.
- In the 1600s, the Dutch became the foremost traders of enslaved people.
- They were later supplanted by the English and French in the 18th century.



Britain's Involvement

- Britain's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade officially began in 1663 with the creation of the Royal African Company (RAC).
- Between 1672 and 1731, the RAC transported 187,697 enslaved people on company-owned ships to English colonies in the Americas.
- Of those transported, 38,497 enslaved people died en route.



Complicity

- Between 1662 and 1807, British and British colonial ships purchased an estimated 3,415,500 Africans.
- Of this number, 2,964,800 survived the 'middle passage' and were sold into slavery in the Americas.



London's Dominance

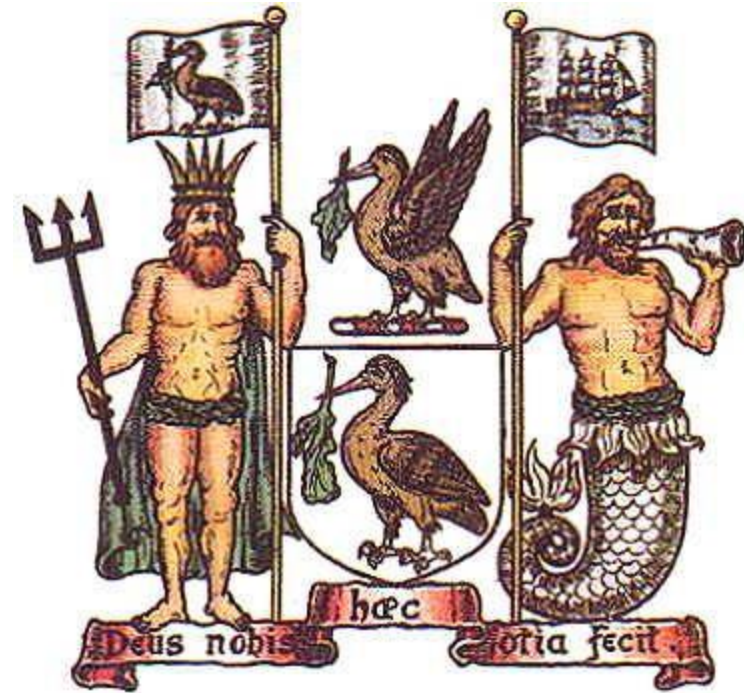
- Until the 1730s, London dominated the British trade in enslaved people. It continued to send ships to West Africa until the end of the trade in 1807.
- Because of the sheer size of London and the scale of the port's activities, it is often forgotten that the capital was a major slaving center.
- Between 1699 and 1807, British and British colonial ports mounted 12,103 slaving voyages, with 3,351 setting out from London.



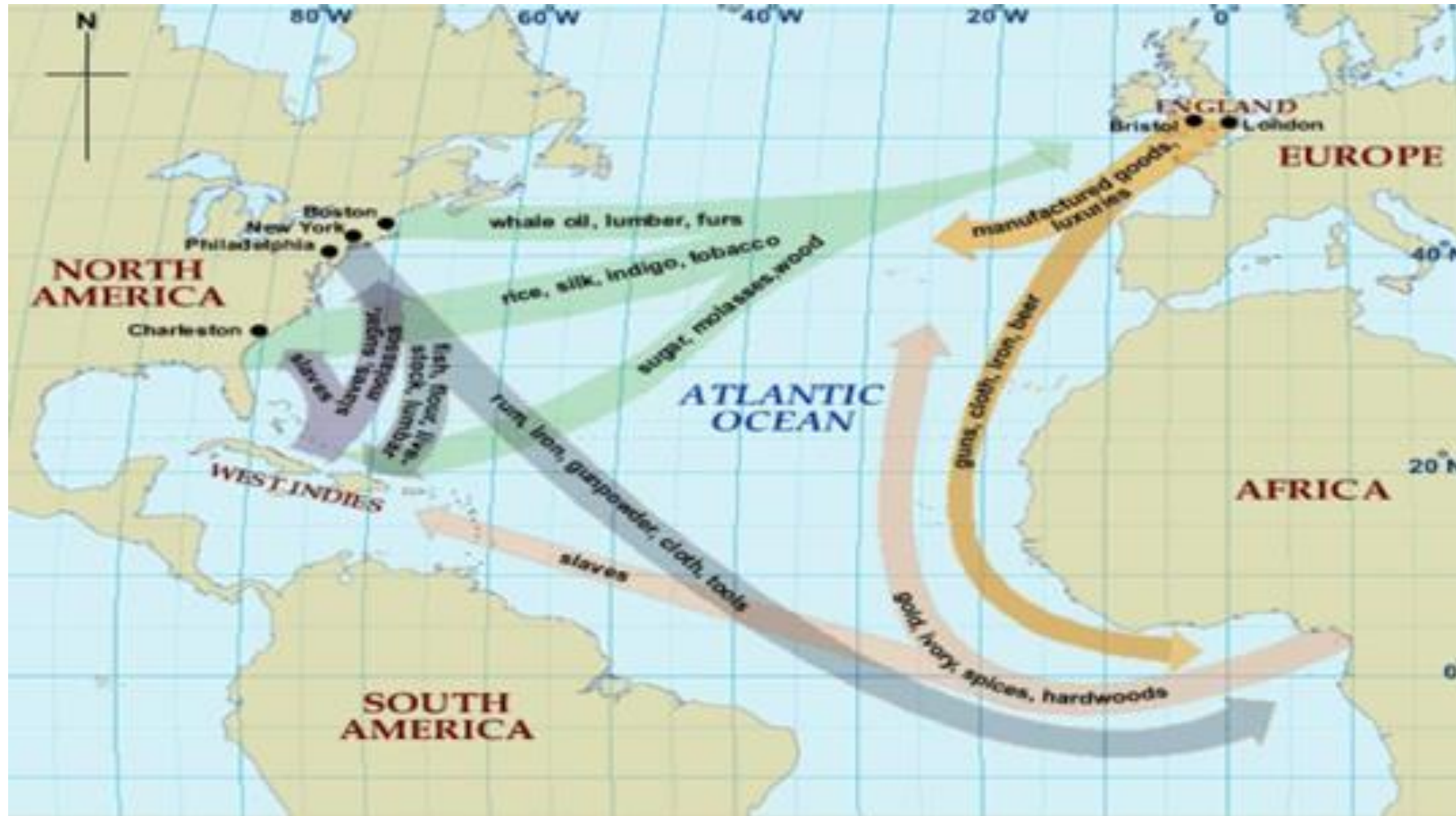
Other cities also benefitted...

The table below shows the figures for slave trade through the main British ports in 1771.

Port	Number of ships	Enslaved people
Liverpool	107	29,250
London	58	8,136
Bristol	23	8,810
Lancaster	4	950

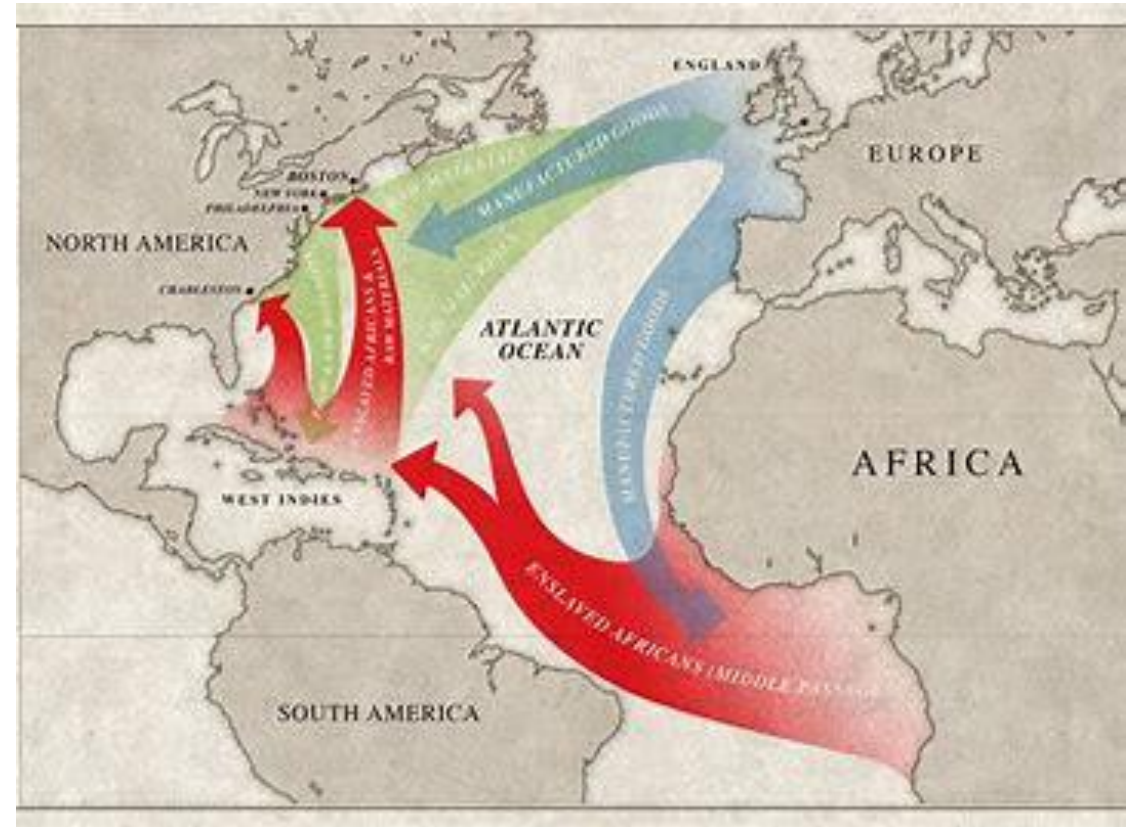


What is the middle passage?



Middle Passage

- The Middle Passage was the forced voyage of captive Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.
- It was the second stage of the triangular trade, or the route of the Atlantic slave trade.

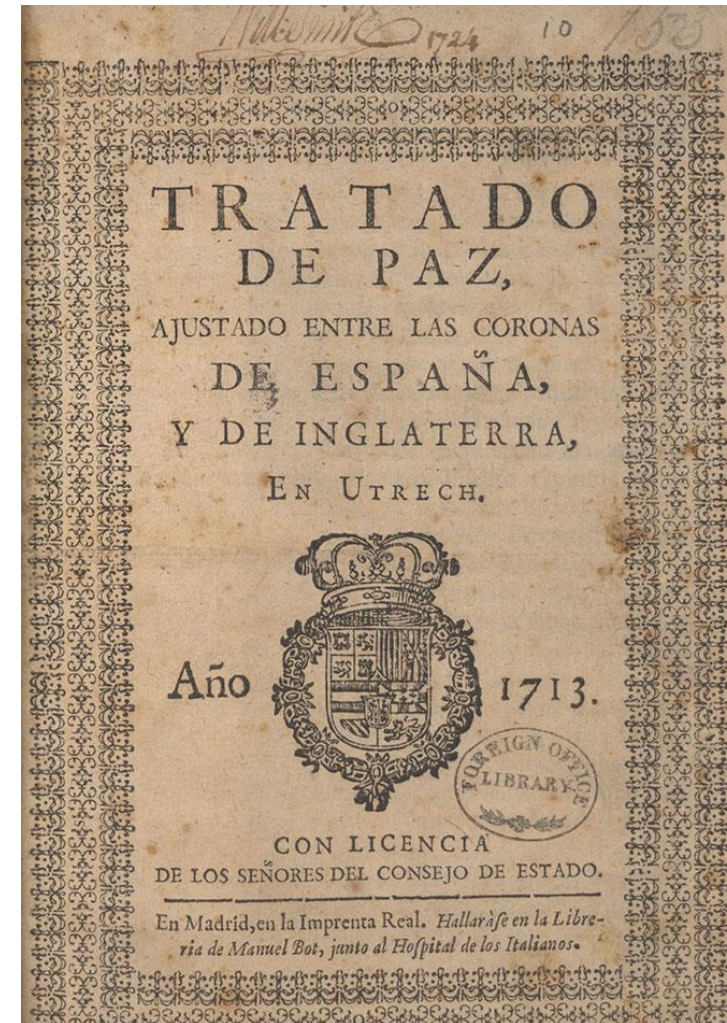


The Triangle Trade

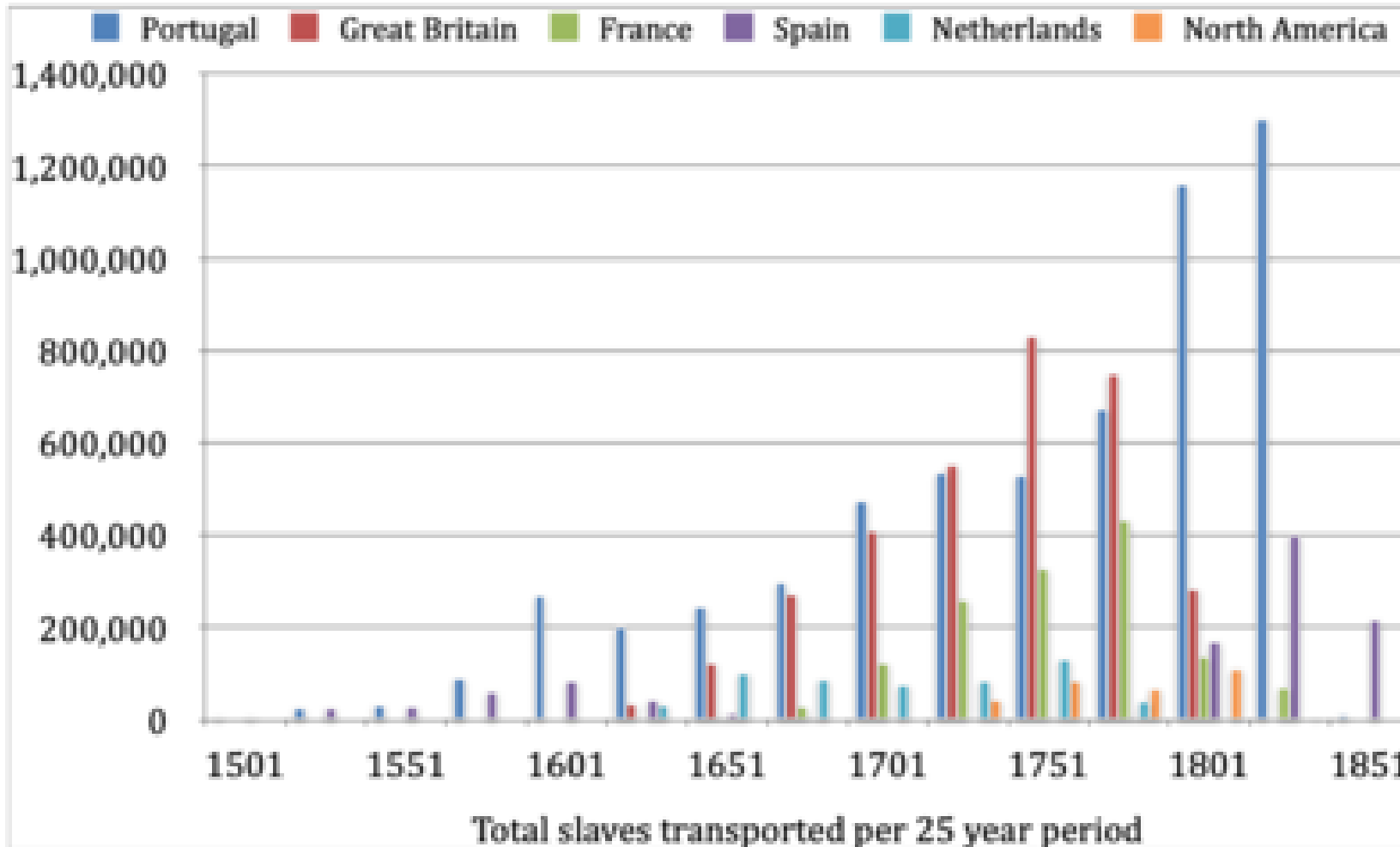


Spanish-British Agreement

- In 1713, an agreement between Spain and Britain granted the British a monopoly on the trade of enslaved people.
- Probably no more than a few hundred thousand Africans were taken to the Americas before 1600.



Rise in demand for slaves from 1700



The timeline chart when the different nations transported most of their slaves.

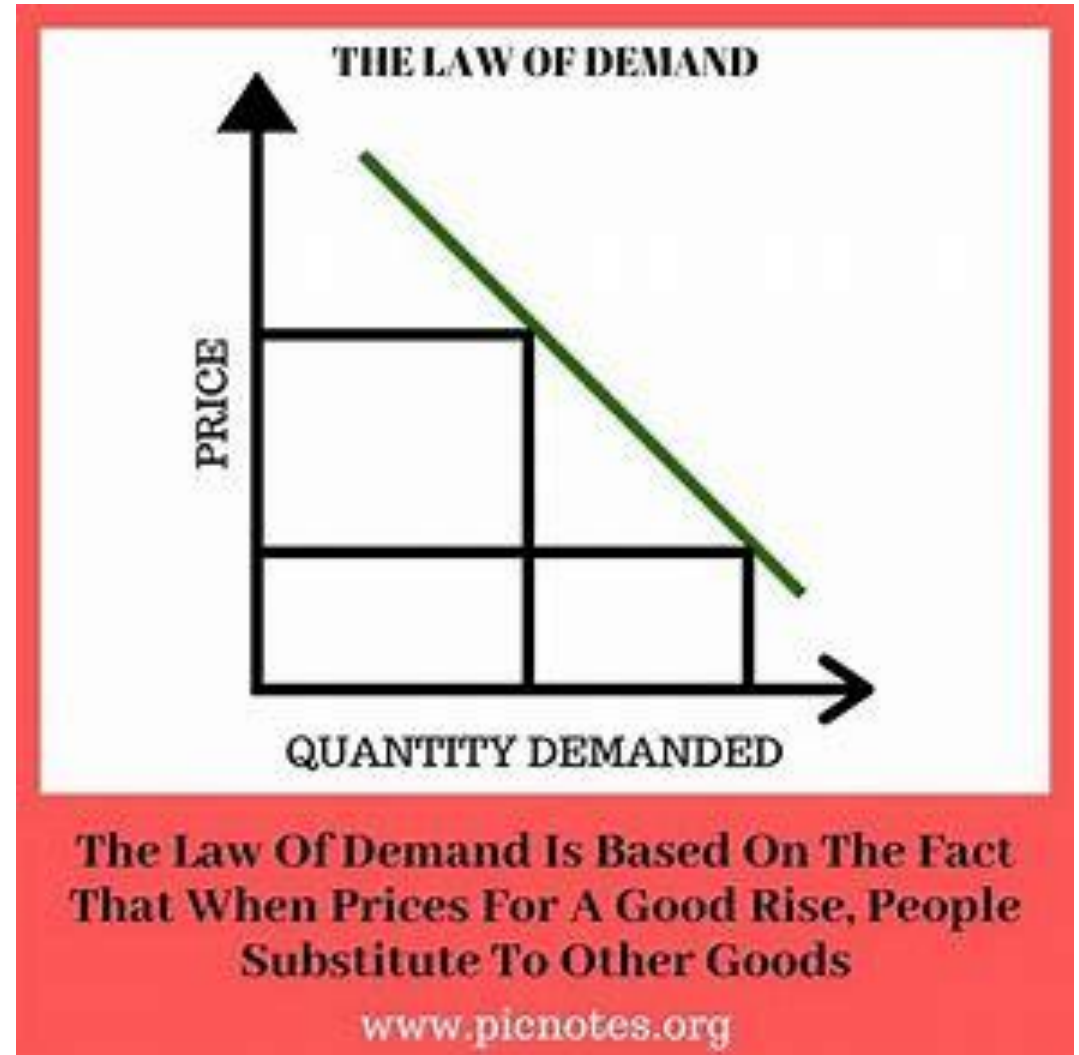


Driving the slave trade

Economic Demands

The demand for slave labour in the Americas, particularly in the sugar, tobacco, and rice plantations, soared.

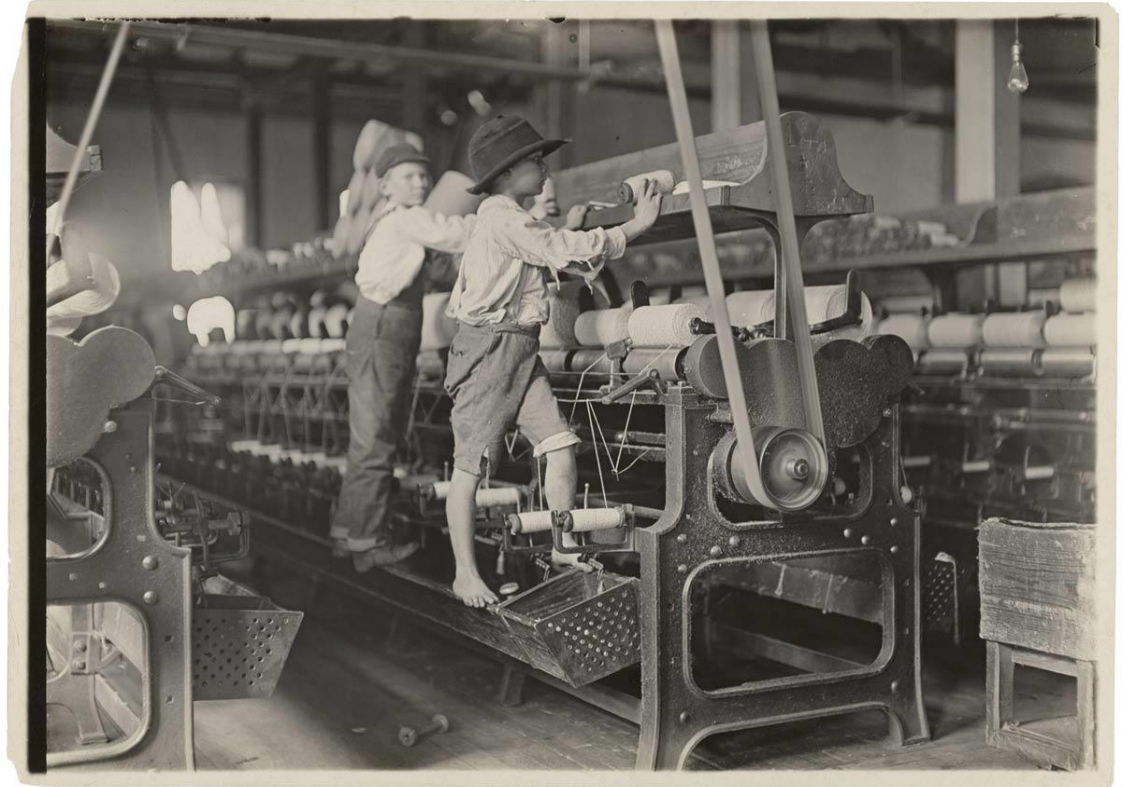
Plantation agriculture was highly profitable, and the need for cheap labor to maximize production drove the demand for enslaved Africans.



Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution in Europe led to increased production and demand for raw materials from the Americas.

This further boosted the need for slave labor to work on plantations that produced these goods.



Mercantilism

- Mercantilism was a dominant economic system in Europe from the 16th to 18th century, based on the idea that wealth was finite and trade was a competition.
- Mercantilist economic policies, which emphasized accumulating wealth through exports and colonies, led European powers to expand their colonial empires.
- This expansion required more labor to maintain and develop the colonies.



Legal and Racial Justifications

- European colonial powers developed legal and racial justifications for slavery
- One example was the idea of African inferiority, which made it easier to justify the enslavement of African populations.

NOW READY.

AMERICAN SLAVERY JUSTIFIED.

AMERICAN SLAVERY DISTINGUISHED FROM THE SLAVERY OF ENGLISH THEORISTS, AND JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF NATURE. By SAMUEL SEABURY, D.D., Author of "Discourses on the Pre-eminence and Obligation of Conscience," etc. 1 vol. 1 318 pp. Cloth extra. Price \$1.

The country has been flooded with anti-slavery sentiments; anti-slavery societies have persevered in systematic, vigorous, and ingenious efforts to inculcate their peculiar views by means of public harangues, newspapers, novels, sermons, tracts, pictures, and other means of i

Improved Transportation

Advances in ship design, navigation, and the 'Middle Passage' route allowed for more efficient transportation of enslaved Africans to the Americas, reducing mortality rates during the voyage.



Slave Trading Companies

The establishment of powerful chartered slave trading companies, like the Royal African Company in Britain, facilitated the organization and financing of slave voyages.



Company flag (c. 1665)

Competition among European Powers

European colonial powers were in competition with each other to expand their empires and profit from colonial ventures, which increased the demand for slave labour.



Social Acceptance

Slavery had become more socially accepted and entrenched in the colonial societies of the Americas, making it an integral part of the economic and social structure.

TO BE SOLD on board the
Ship *Banc-Island*, on tuesday the 6th
May next, at *Ashley-Ferry*, a choise
cargo of about 250 fine healthy



NEGROES,



just arrived from the
Windward & Rice Coast.

—The utmost care has
already been taken, and
all be continued, to keep them free from
the least danger of being infected with the
SMALL-POX, no boat having been on
board, and all other communication with
people from *Charles-Town* prevented.

Austin, Laurens, & Appleby.

N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had
SMALL-POX in their own Country.

The impact of the rise of the transatlantic slave trade



Impact on Africa

- The slave trade had devastating effects in Africa.
- Economic incentives for warlords and tribes to engage in the trade of enslaved people promoted an atmosphere of lawlessness and violence.



Impact on Americas and Caribbean

- Rapid growth of the African slave population in the Americas.
- Significant influx of slaves into regions like the Caribbean and South America.



Impact on Europe

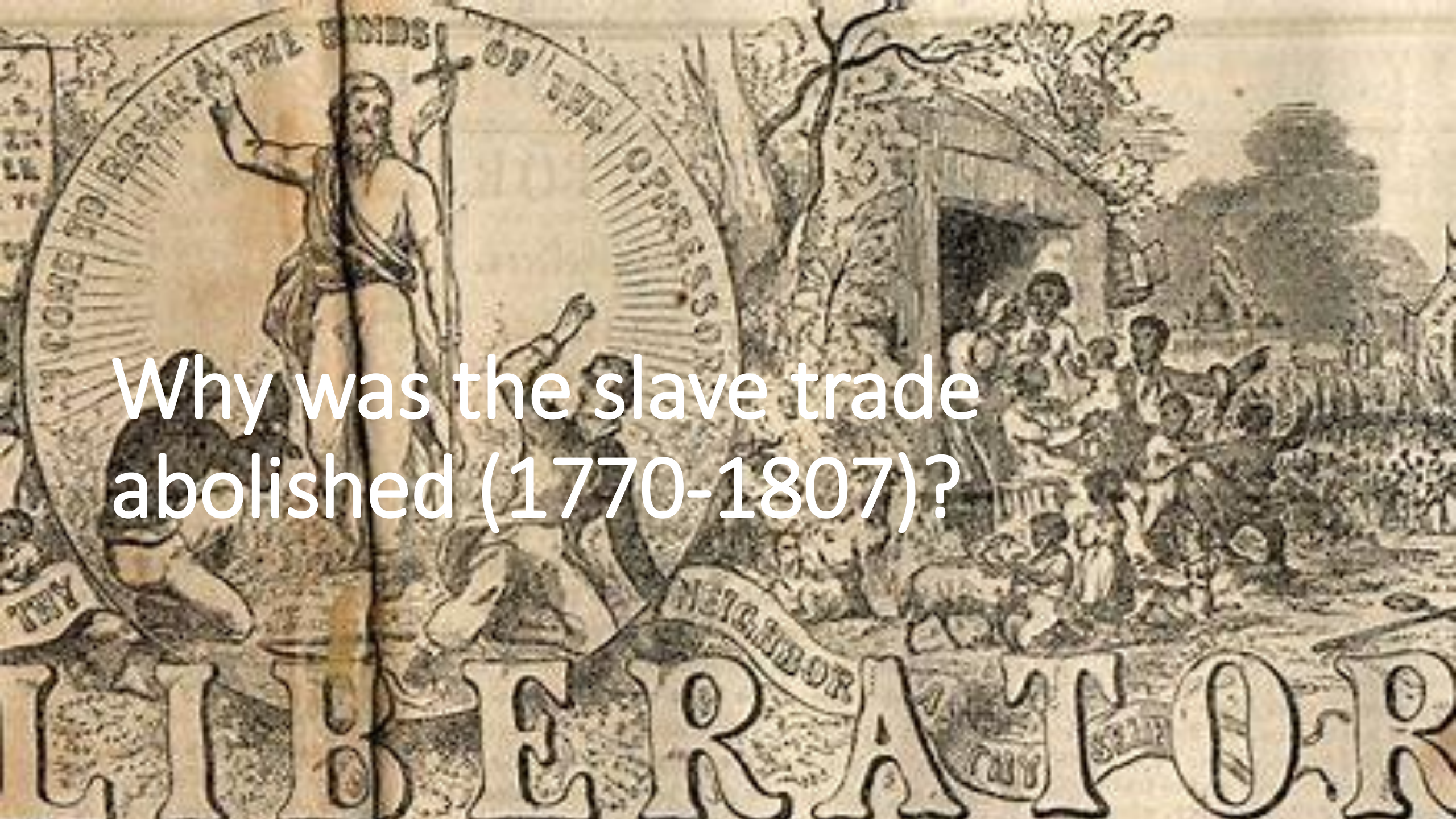
- Enormous profits for European colonial powers and slave traders.
- Emergence of anti-slavery sentiments in Europe and the Americas.
- Formation of organizations advocating for the abolition of the slave trade.
- British Empire's abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 1807.



Slave Trade Act 1807

- The Slave Trade Act 1807, also known as "An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade," was enacted by the UK Parliament.
- Its primary goal was to end the transatlantic slave trade within the British Empire, effective from May 1, 1807.
- The Act did not immediately abolish slavery but sought to halt the transportation of enslaved individuals.
- Many believed it would ultimately lead to the complete abolition of slavery.

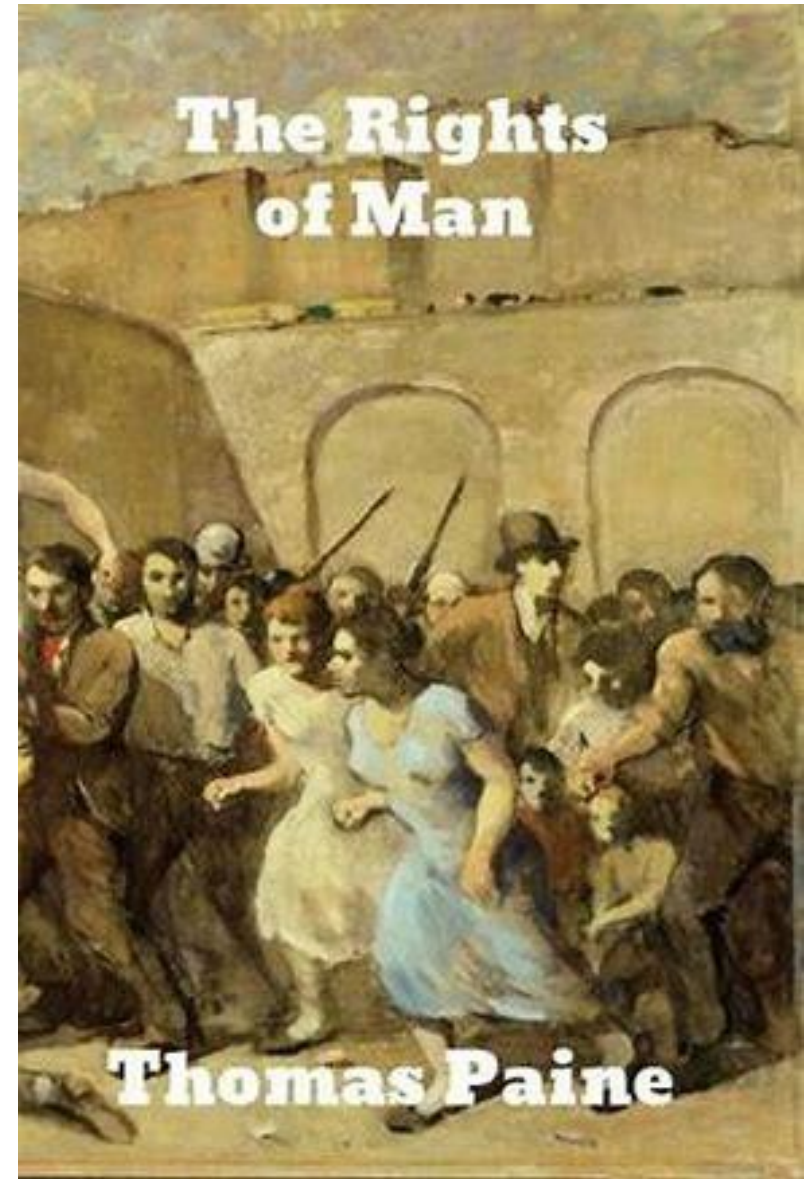




Why was the slave trade abolished (1770-1807)?

Enlightenment Ideals

- The Enlightenment period brought about a shift in intellectual thought, with an emphasis on reason, human rights, and the rejection of tyranny.
- Enlightenment ideals, such as liberty, equality, and the rights of man, influenced many individuals to question the morality of slavery.



Two Treatises of Government by John Locke (1689)

Locke's ideas about natural rights, individual liberty, and government by consent influenced Enlightenment thinkers and later abolitionists.

His principles laid the groundwork for the belief in the inherent rights of all individuals, which included freedom from enslavement.



The Social Contract by Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1762)

Rousseau's work emphasized the idea of the general will, the notion that laws and governance should reflect the will of the people.

This concept influenced democratic movements and anti-slavery campaigns.



The Sorrows of Young Werther by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1774)

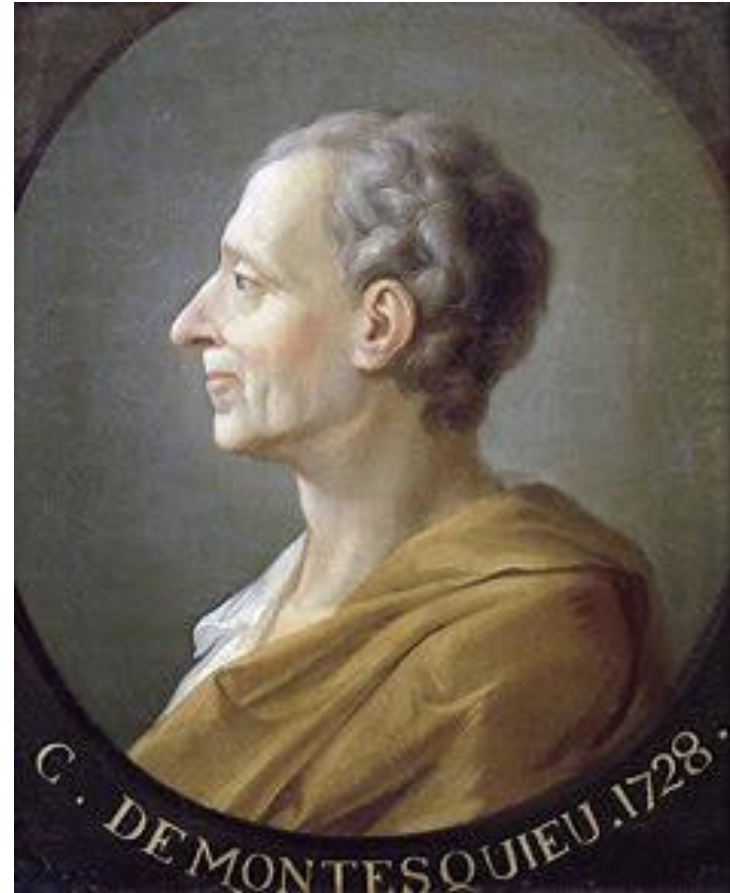
While not directly addressing slavery, Goethe's work played a role in Romanticism, an intellectual movement that valued emotional and individual experiences.

This emphasis on human suffering and empathy influenced the perception of the suffering of enslaved individuals.



The Spirit of the Laws by Montesquieu (1748)

Montesquieu's exploration of different forms of government and separation of powers contributed to the development of democratic governance, which would be used to argue against the institution of slavery.



"Common Sense" (1776) and "The Rights of Man" (1791) by Thomas Paine

- His pamphlets and writings, emphasized principles of liberty, equality, and human rights, which were fundamental to the abolitionist cause.
- Thomas Paine's works reinforced the Enlightenment's impact on promoting the ideas that ultimately helped end slavery.



Reflections on the Revolution in France by Edmund Burke (1790)

While conservative in nature, Burke's work prompted debates on human rights, revolution, and the abolition of oppressive systems.



Evangelical Christianity

- The Great Awakening, a religious revival movement, led to the spread of evangelical Christianity.
- Many evangelicals believed in the inherent worth and moral equality of all individuals, which conflicted with the institution of slavery.



Eighteenth Century religious revival

- The late 18th and early 19th centuries witnessed the emergence of evangelical Christianity, a movement challenging traditional religious sensibilities.
- Led by figures like John Wesley, evangelicals promoted personal faith, spiritual revival, and a personal relationship with Christ.
- The "Low Church" within the Church of England, including leaders such as William Wilberforce and Hannah More, advocated for moral and social reform, including the abolition of slavery and the promotion of Christian values.
- Evangelicals emphasized daily Bible reading, equality in God's view, and played a significant role in fostering moral and spiritual renewal.



Influence of Quakers

- The Quakers, a religious group known for their opposition to slavery, played a significant role in the early abolitionist movement.
- They founded the world's first antislavery society in 1787 and actively campaigned against the slave trade.



Origin of their position

- Quaker colonists in Barbados began questioning slavery in the 1670s but openly denounced it in 1688.
- In the 1740s and 1750s, anti-slavery sentiment grew stronger among Quakers.
- Quakers like John Woolman, Anthony Benezet, and David Cooper protested against slavery and pushed for Quaker society to sever ties with the slave trade.
- English Quakers began to express their official disapproval of the slave trade in 1727 and promote reforms.
- Pennsylvania Quakers tightened their rules, making slave trading an act of misconduct by 1758.
- The London Yearly Meeting issued a strong statement against slave trading in 1761, following the lead of Pennsylvanian Quakers.



Benjamin Lay (1682-1759)

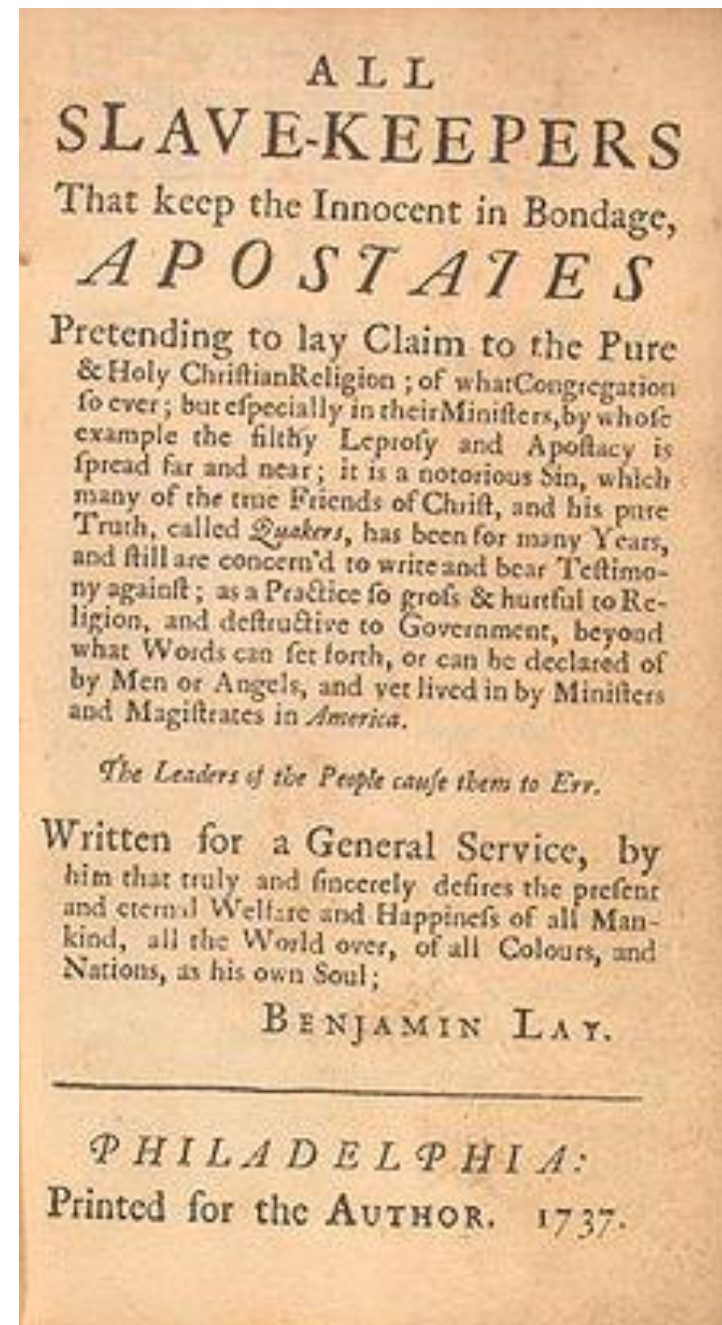
He was a notable Anglo-American Quaker known for his passionate anti-slavery activism and dramatic protests.

- His early life included work as a shepherd and glove-maker before he embraced the Quaker faith.
- In 1718, he moved to Barbados, where he witnessed the brutal treatment of enslaved Africans, influencing his lifelong commitment to abolition.
- Lay eventually settled in Philadelphia, where his confrontational anti-slavery stance made him unpopular among fellow Quakers.
- He authored several pamphlets on social issues and a book titled "All Slave-Keepers That Keep the Innocent in Bondage, Apostates," one of the earliest North American works against slavery.
- In addition to his abolitionist work, Lay was known for his concern for ethical treatment of animals and his advocacy for vegetarianism.



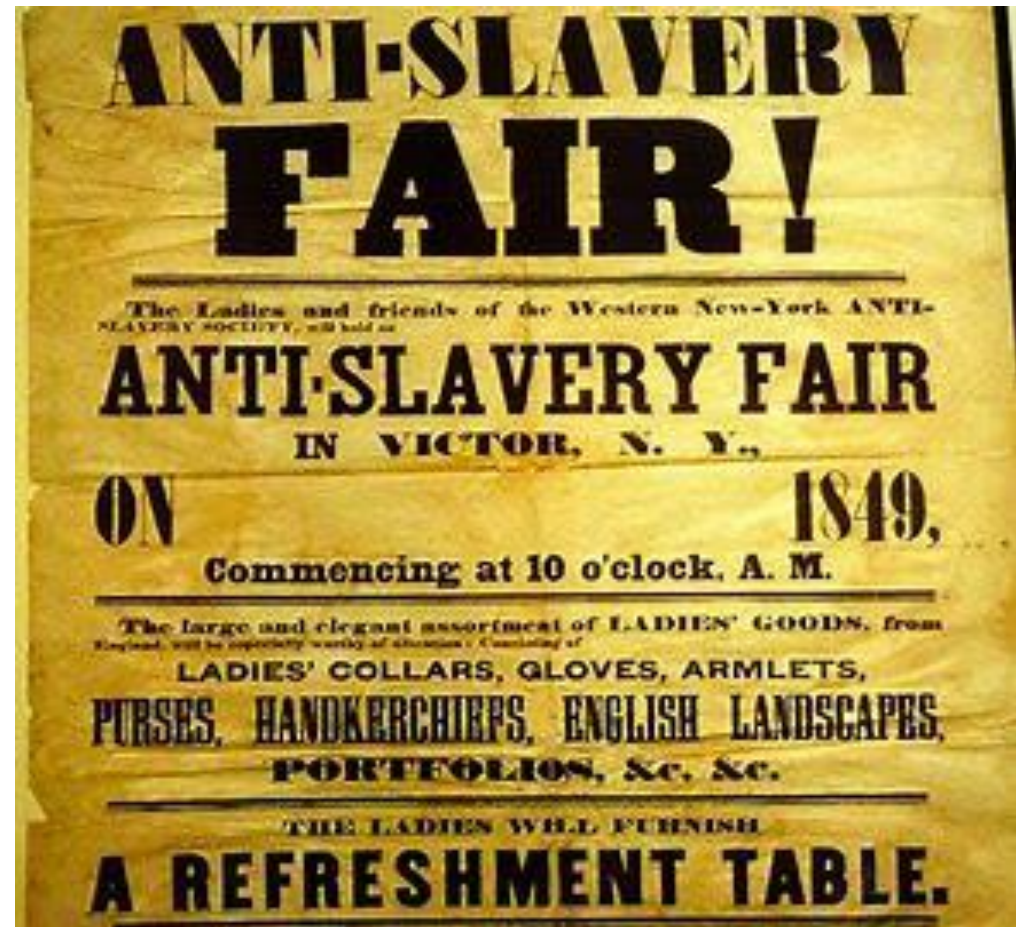
Lay's opposition

- Benjamin Lay opposed slavery after witnessing an enslaved man's suicide in Barbados.
- His Quaker beliefs strongly influenced his anti-slavery stance.
- Lay used dramatic demonstrations to raise awareness, such as standing outside a Quaker meeting in harsh conditions to illustrate slaves' suffering.
- He temporarily kidnapped a child of slaveholders to highlight the pain of family separations.
- In a symbolic protest, Lay plunged a sword into a Bible filled with red pokeberry juice during a Quaker meeting to emphasize the violence and injustice of slavery.



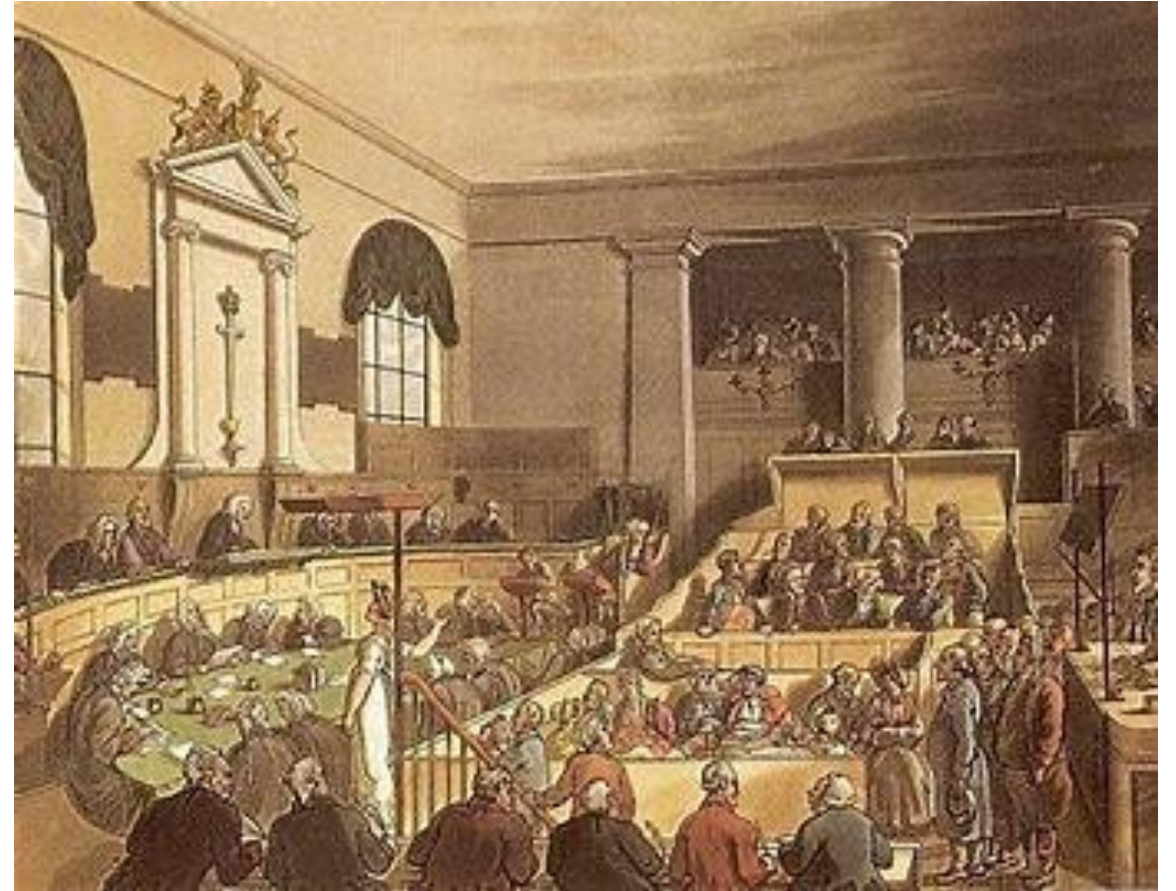
Boost to the Abolitionist Movement

- The 1772 Somerset v. Stewart court case in England saw Lord Mansfield's ruling that slavery in the British Isles was not supported by English common law.
- While Somerset's case provided a boon to the abolitionist movement, it did not end the holding of slaves within England
- This decision gave legal backing to the movement and inspired abolitionists.



Somerset v Stewart (1772)

- James Somerset, an enslaved African, was purchased by Charles Stewart, a customs officer in Boston, a British colony in North America.
- Stewart brought Somerset to England in 1769.
- In October 1771, Somerset escaped.
- He was recaptured in November and was to be sent to Jamaica on the ship Ann and Mary.
- Somerset's godparents from his baptism in England applied for a writ of habeas corpus on December 3 to secure his release.



William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, decision

‘The state of slavery is of such a nature that it is incapable of being introduced on any reasons, moral or political, but only by positive law, which preserves its force long after the reasons, occasions, and time itself from whence it was created, is erased from memory. It is so odious, that nothing can be suffered to support it, but positive law. Whatever inconveniences, therefore, may follow from the decision, I cannot say this case is allowed or approved by the law of England; and therefore the black must be discharged.’



A reason for his judgment?

- **Marriage:** Murray married Lady Elizabeth Finch, daughter of Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham and 7th Earl of Winchilsea, and Anne Hatton. No children.
- **Lady Elizabeth Murray:**
 - Taken in by the couple after her mother's death.
 - Daughter of David Murray, 7th Viscount Stormont, Lord Mansfield's nephew and heir (great gran niece).
- **Dido Elizabeth Belle:**
 - Daughter of Sir John Lindsay and Maria Bell, an enslaved woman of African descent.
 - Born into slavery in 1761, baptised in November 1766 in London. Raised by the Murrays at Kenwood.
 - Possibly brought to comfort Lady Elizabeth and later serve as her attendant.



Dido Elizabeth Belle and Lady Elizabeth Murray by David Martin, 1778. Dido Belle (left) and Lady Elizabeth Murray (right)

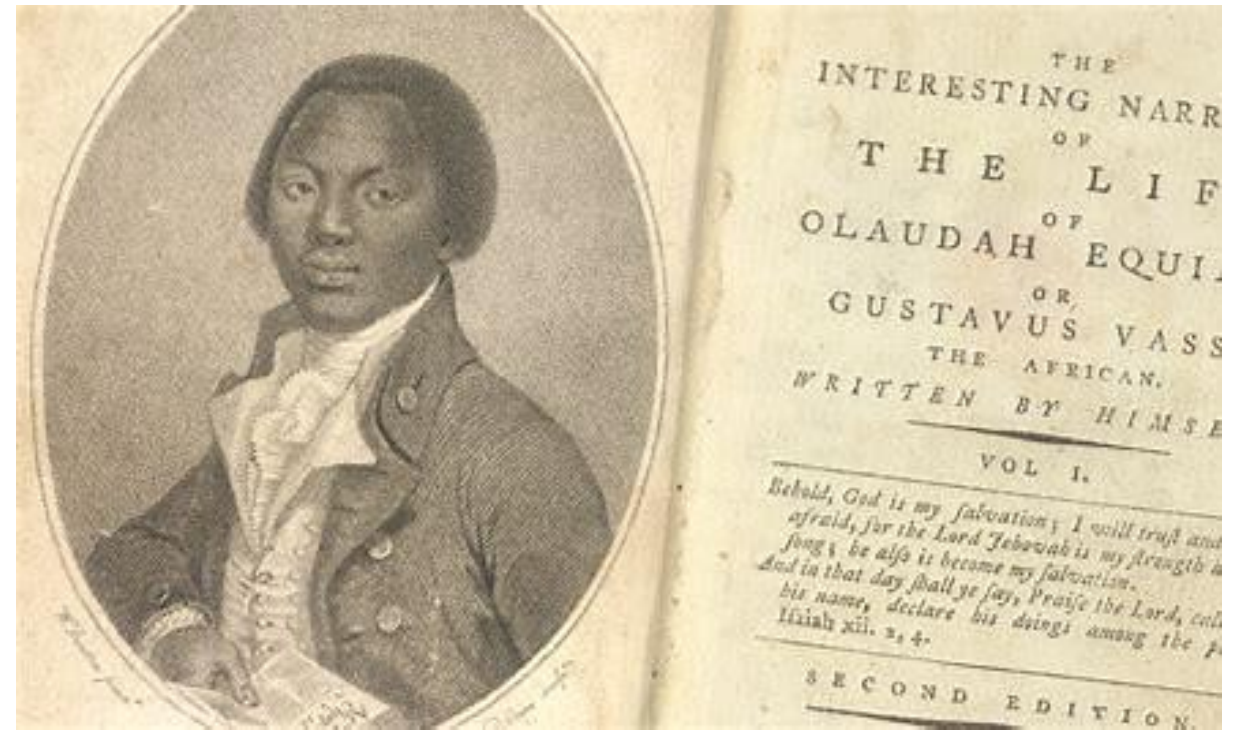
Impact

- The hymnwriter William Cowper wrote in a poem that "we have no slaves at home - then why abroad?"
- Granville Sharp rhetorically asked "why is it that the poor sooty African meets with so different a measure of justice in England and America, as to be adjudged free in the one, and in the other held in the most abject Slavery?"



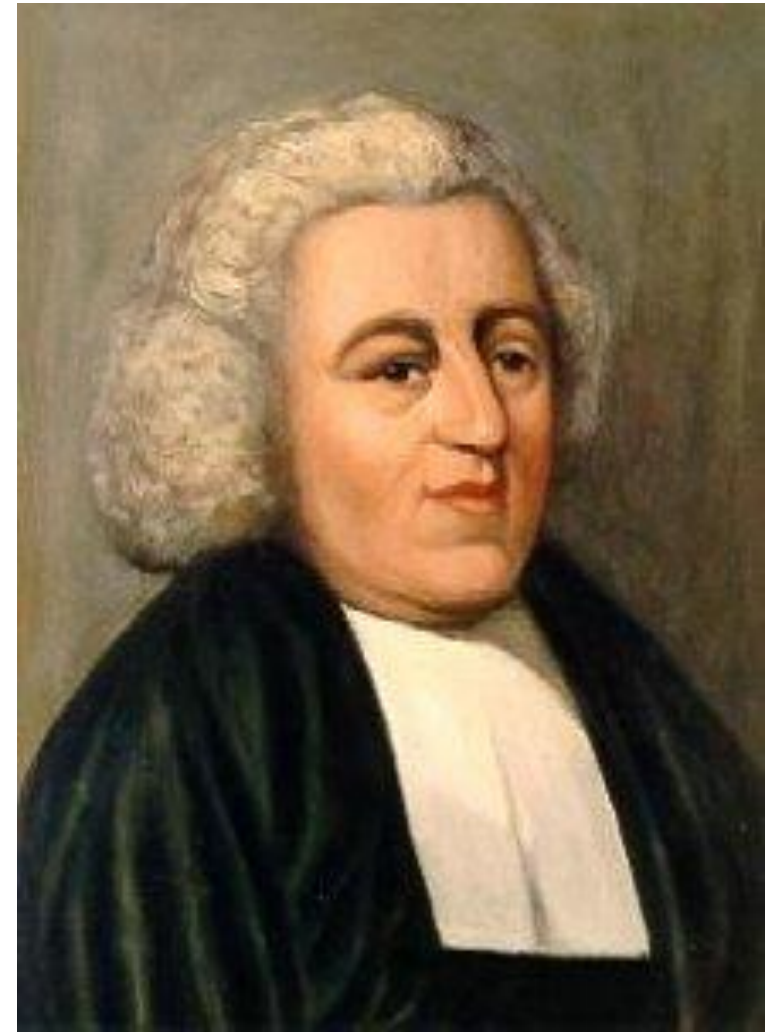
Impact of Abolitionist Literature

- Abolitionists, such as Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson, and Olaudah Equiano, wrote and published influential literature, accounts of the horrors of the slave trade, and the case for abolition.
- These writings captured the public's imagination and garnered support.



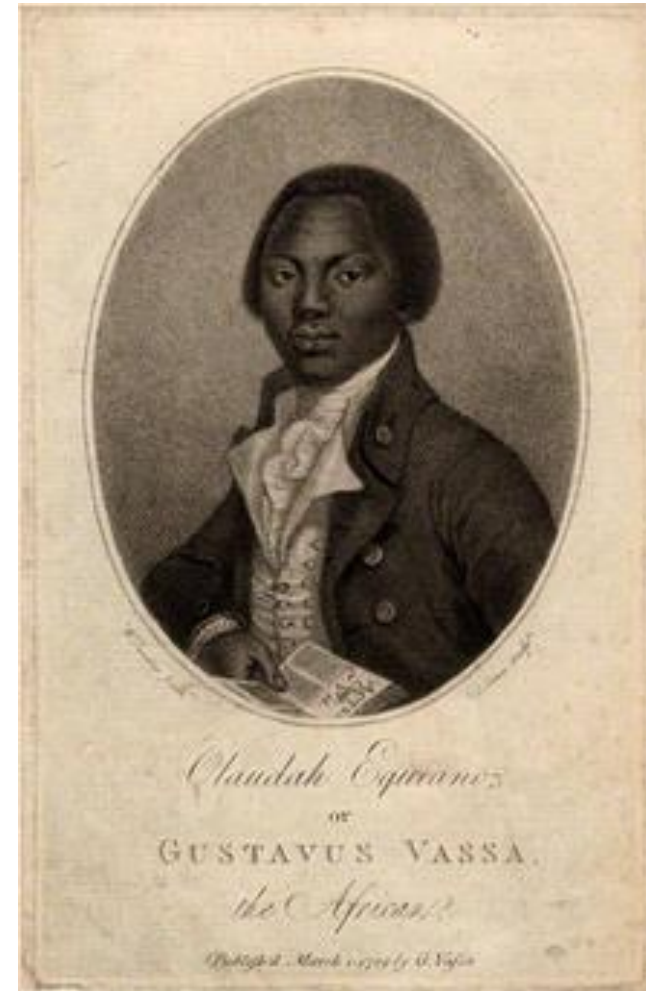
John Newton (1725-1807)

- John Newton's life underwent a remarkable transformation, from being involved in the slave trade to becoming a passionate slavery abolitionist.
- He began his career at sea, working on slave ships and even captaining them, while also investing in the slave trade.
- In 1745, he himself was enslaved by Princess Peye of the Sherbro people in what is now Sierra Leone.
- After being rescued and returning to sea, Newton continued his involvement in the slave trade as a ship captain and investor.
- During a storm on returning to Britain, he prayed for divine help to survive the storm. This led him to renounce his involvement in the slave trade.
- Newton was ordained as a Church of England cleric and served as a parish priest in Olney, Buckinghamshire, for two decades.
- He is best known for his authorship of hymns, including "Amazing Grace" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."
- Newton's lifetime coincided with the British Empire's 1807 abolition of the African slave trade, a momentous change he witnessed shortly before his death.



Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745 – 31 March 1797)

- He was born in Igboland, in what is now southern Nigeria.
- Equiano was enslaved as a child in Africa, transported to the Caribbean, and sold to a Royal Navy officer. He endured multiple sales before buying his freedom in 1766.
- Upon gaining his freedom in London, he became a prominent supporter of the British abolitionist movement, particularly in the 1780s.
- He was a member of the abolitionist group, the Sons of Africa, consisting of Africans living in Britain.
- Equiano authored his autobiography, "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano," in 1789, which gained significant popularity. Nine editions were published during his lifetime.
- His autobiography played a vital role in the passage of the British Slave Trade Act in 1807, which abolished the slave trade.
- In the late 20th century, Equiano's work regained popularity among scholars and remains a valuable primary source for studying the history of slavery and abolition.



Humanitarian Concerns

- Increasingly, people in Britain became aware of the inhumane conditions on slave ships, plantations, and the mistreatment of enslaved Africans.
- This was fed by increased literacy, mass circulation newspapers and pamphlets.
- This led to a growing sense of moral outrage.



This engraving of 1784 by Richard Cosway shows the artist with his wife, Maria, and Ottobah Cugoano, who was then their servant. He later became a prominent abolitionist

Rise in literacy

- The literacy rate in England in the 1640s was around 30 percent for males, rising to 60 percent in the mid-18th century.
- The rate of illiteracy decreased more rapidly in more populated areas and areas where there was a mixture of religious schools.
- Education and literacy in early modern England were transformed by the expansion of the universities, the grammar schools, the printing press, and the Protestant Reformation.



Rise mass circulation newspapers

- The News Letter printed from 1737
- The Observer, first published on 4 December 1791, was the world's first Sunday newspaper.
- In 1753 the total number of copies of newspapers sold yearly in Britain amounted to 7,411,757.
- In 1760 it had risen to 9,464,790
- In 1767 to 11,300,980.
- In 1776 the number of newspapers published in London alone had increased to 53



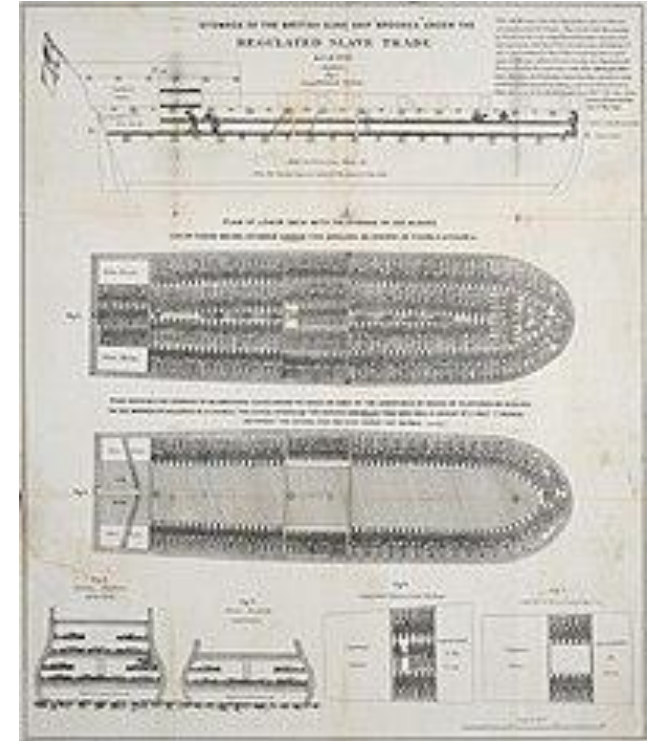
Increased use of graphics and mediums



A depiction of the Massacre on the Zong



"Am I Not A Man And A Brother?" medallion created as part of the anti-slavery campaign by Josiah Wedgwood, 1787



Brookes slave ship plan

Subscription Libraries

- British Library was established in 1753
- Linen Hall Library established in 1788 by a group of artisans as the Belfast Reading Society and in 1792 became the Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge.
- 1800: more than 200 commercial circulating libraries open



Diversification of British Society?

- Dido Elizabeth Belle (left) with her cousin Elizabeth Murray, the great-nieces of Lord Mansfield (above), both were brought up in Kenwood House.
- 6,376 people of colour were bought for military service in the West India Regiment from 1798 to 1806.
- Many people of colour served in the Royal Navy (e.g. Equanio).



A changing society (be it slow!)

A small number of men of colour in Britain in the 18th century rose from servitude (often with the help of their former masters) to enjoy independent lives. Prominent among this class were :

- the Westminster shopkeeper, letterist and composer Ignatius Sancho (right)
- the coal merchant and property owner Cesar Picton in Kingston-upon-Thames
- Nottingham-based George Africanus, who ran a servants' register in the city. one of the few black people in Britain in the late 18th century who lived independent lives.



Influence of Abolitionist Groups

- Abolitionist groups were instrumental in ending slavery.
- They raised public awareness and framed slavery as a moral issue.
- Advocacy led to legislative changes and legal challenges.
- Abolitionists left a lasting legacy, inspiring future social justice movements.



The Zong Massacre - Background

- The Zong Massacre occurred in late November 1781 when over 130 enslaved Africans were killed by the crew of the British slave ship *Zong*.
- The ship was owned by the William Gregson slave-trading syndicate, based in Liverpool, as part of the Atlantic slave trade.
- As common practice, insurance had been taken out on the lives of the enslaved Africans as cargo.
- The crew claimed that navigational mistakes and a shortage of drinking water led to the decision to throw enslaved Africans overboard.



Legal Proceedings

- After the ship reached Jamaica, Zong's owners sought compensation from their insurers for the loss of enslaved Africans, but the insurers refused to pay.
- Court cases, including *Gregson v Gilbert* (1783), were held, with controversial findings that the murder of enslaved Africans could be legal under some circumstances.
- Granville Sharp, an anti-slavery campaigner, learned of the massacre and attempted to have the ship's crew prosecuted for murder.
- The Zong massacre garnered increased publicity, becoming a symbol of the horrors of the Middle Passage and stimulating the abolitionist movement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



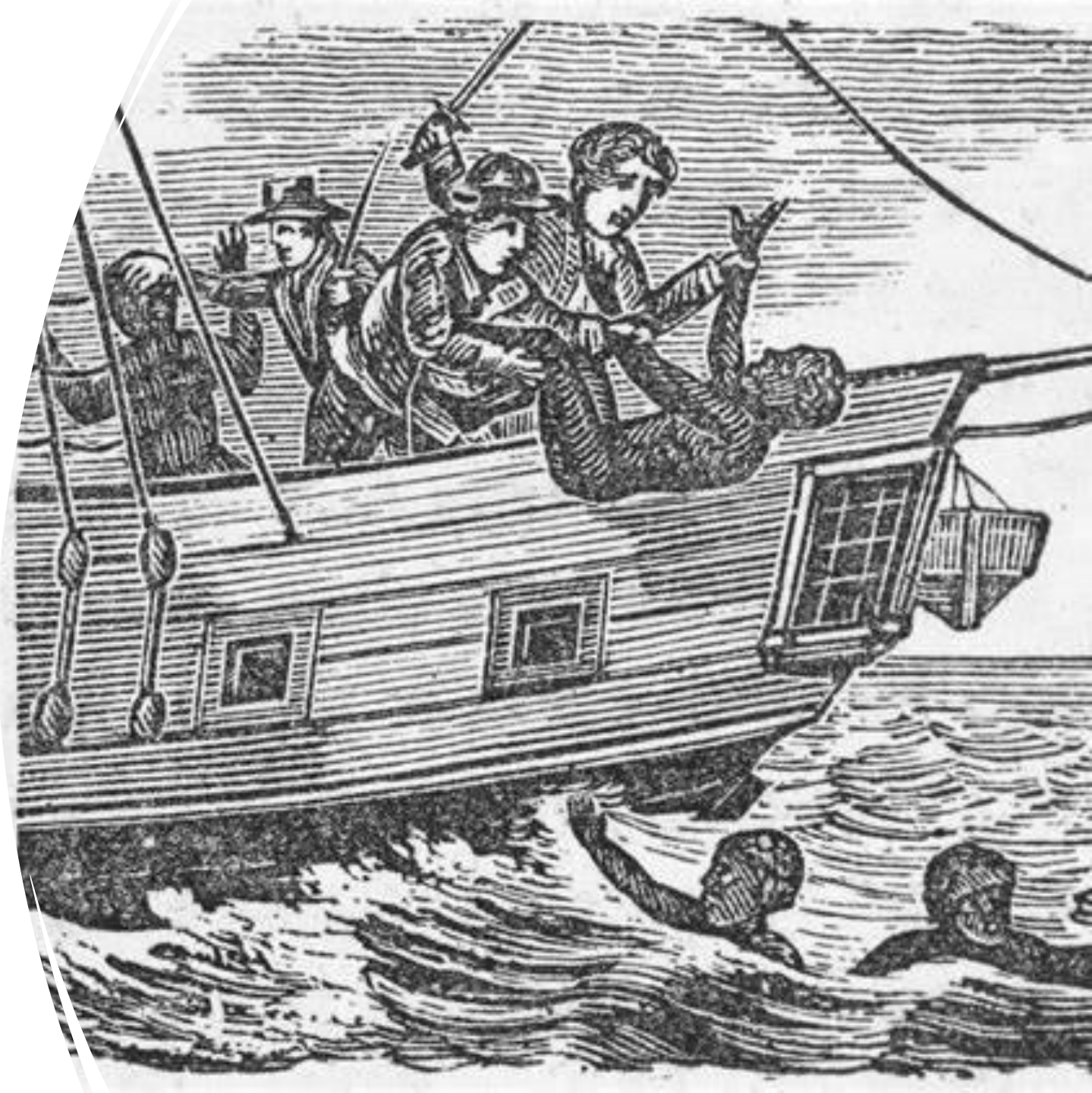
Initially, the Zong incident had little impact

- Granville Sharp campaigned to raise awareness of the massacre, writing letters to newspapers, the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty and the Prime Minister
- Only one London newspaper reported the first Zong trial in March 1783 but it provided details of events
- Little else about the massacre appeared in print before 1787.



Lord Mansfield, as Chief Justice of the King's Bench, presided over the court case

- Legal Focus: The case before Mansfield was not about murder or human rights but rather an insurance claim. The ship's owners sought compensation for the "loss of cargo" (the enslaved people) under maritime insurance.
- Judicial Position:
 - Mansfield's judgement focused on the technicalities of commercial law.
 - He ordered a retrial, emphasizing the need for a proper legal examination of the case.



Impact of the Zong

Influenced by the Zong Massacre, an informal group of six Quakers pioneered the British abolitionist movement in 1783 when the London Society of Friends' yearly meeting presented its petition against the slave trade to Parliament, signed by over 300 Quakers.



The Slave Ship (1840), J. M. W. Turner's representation of the mass killing of enslaved people, inspired by the Zong killings.

Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade

- Formed by 9 Quakers and 3 Anglicans in 1787
- The society did not aim at ending slavery altogether, but only to abolish British involvement in the international slave trade.
- They would do this by awareness-raising campaigns highlighting some of the cruel practices involved in the trade.



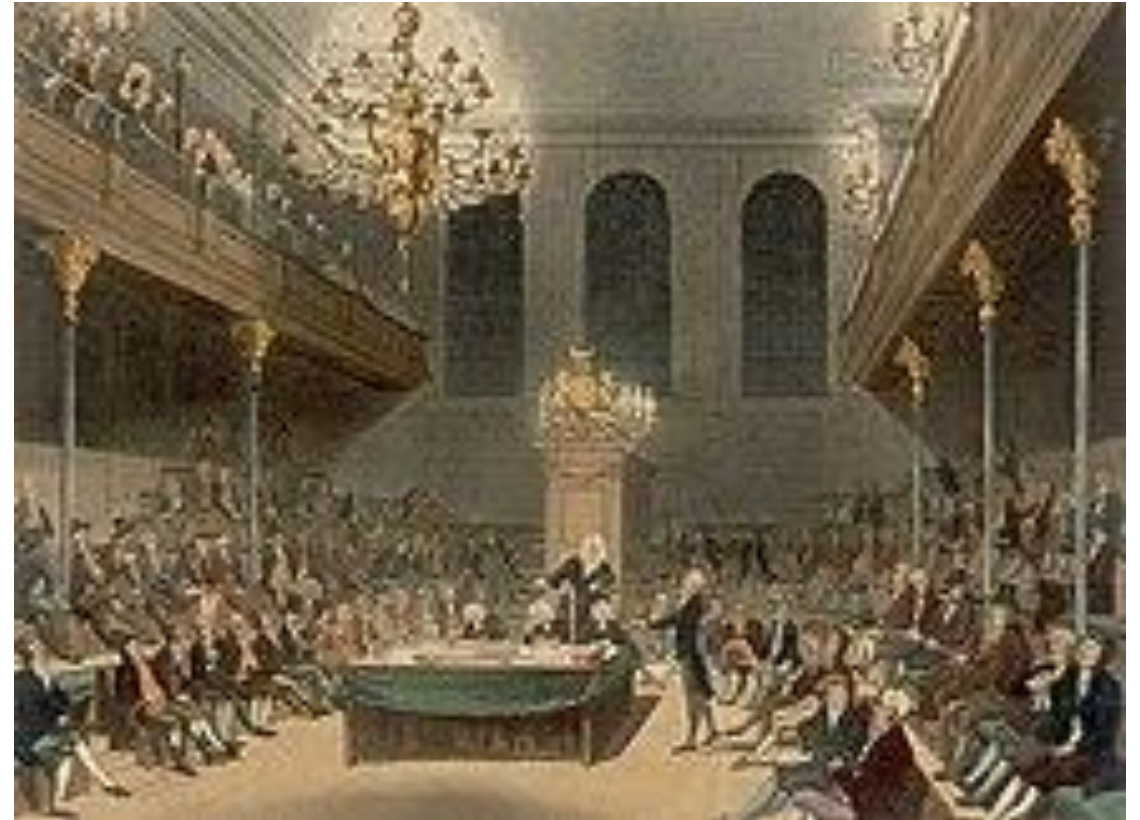
Granville Sharp - Abolitionist and Philanthropist

- Born on November 10, 1735, in Durham, Britain.
- Entered abolitionism in 1767 by defending an injured slave in a legal case.
- Published the first English tract against slavery in 1769.
- Secured Lord Mansfield's ruling in *Somerset v Stewart* (1772), challenging slavery's legality in English law.
- Co-founded the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade with Thomas Clarkson in 1787.
- Played a significant role in achieving the Slave Trade Act of 1807.
- Advocated for a free colony in Sierra Leone, promoting black settlement in West Africa.



Activities

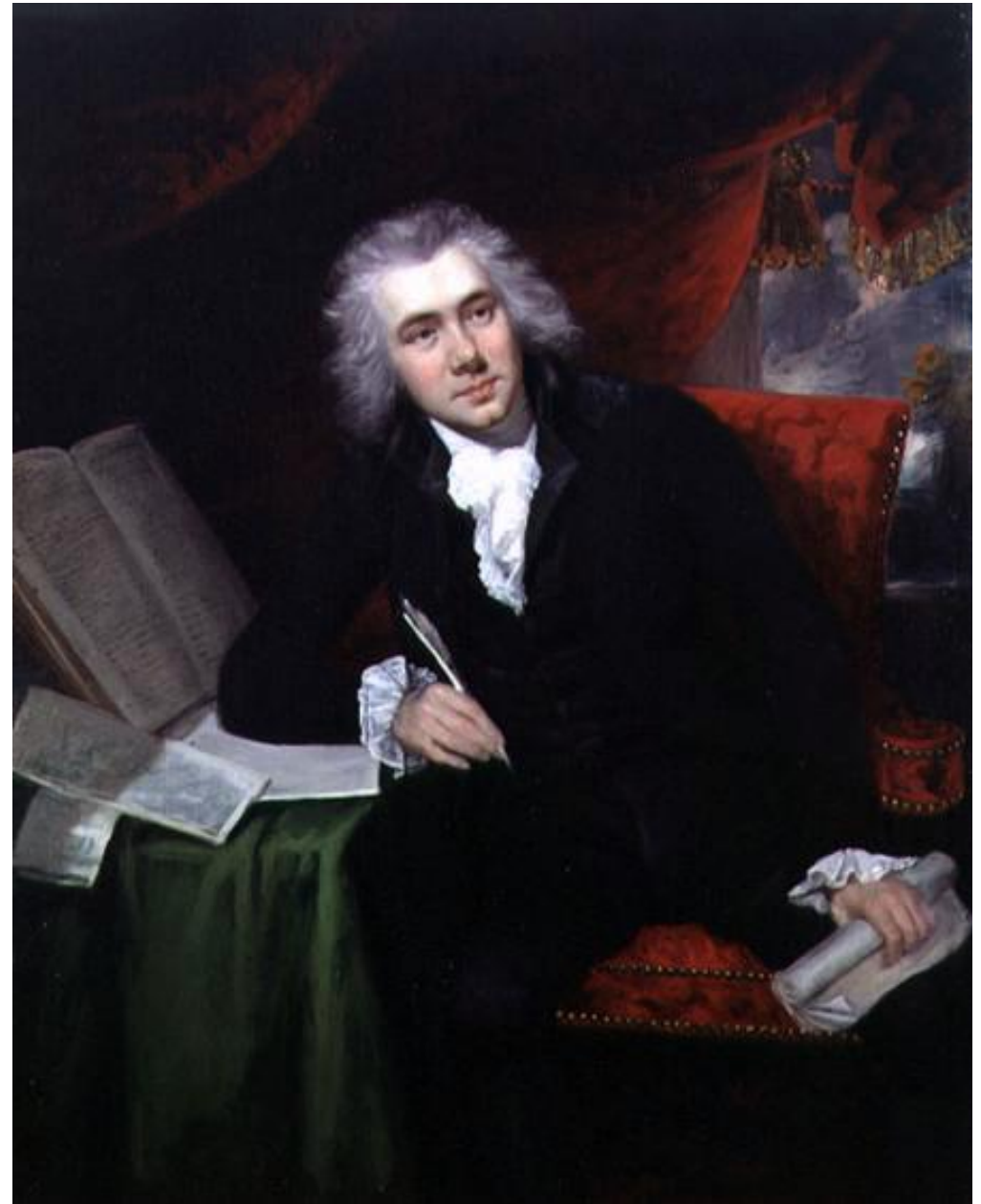
- Petitions were presented to the House of Commons, over 100 in 1788.
- Petitioning peaked in 1792, with up to 100,000 signatures (Manchester alone contributed 10,639)
- Anti-slavery rallies.
- William Wilberforce introduced the first Bill to abolish the slave trade in 1791, which was defeated by 163 votes to 88.



The House of Commons in early 19th century by Augustus Pugin and Thomas Rowlandson (1808–1811)

William Wilberforce

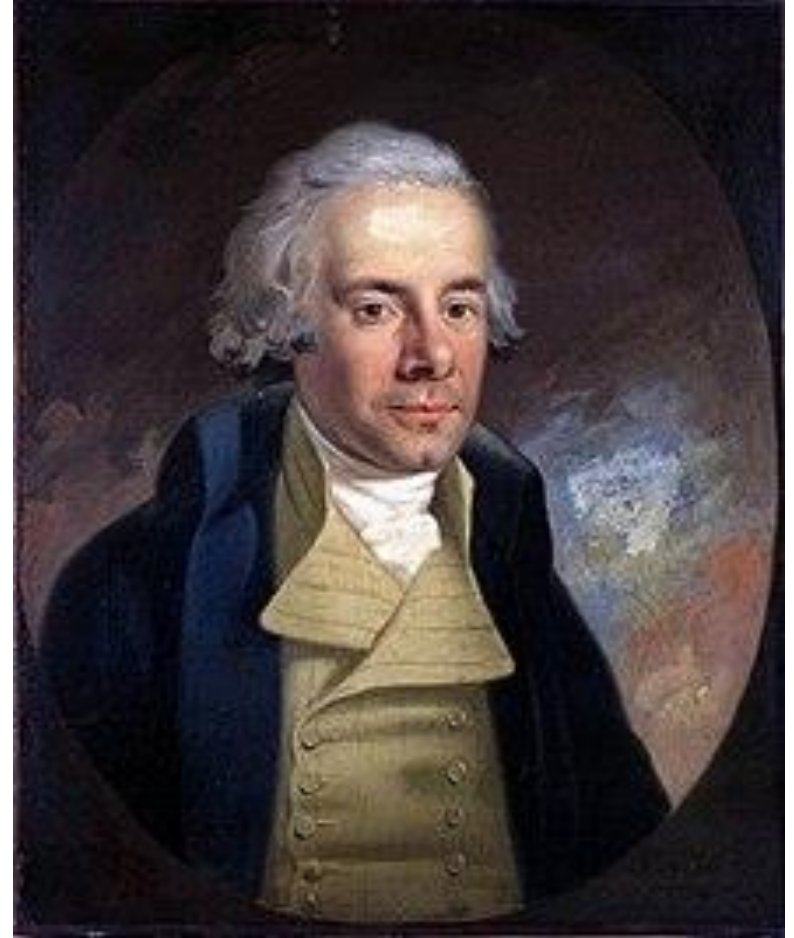
- Born on August 24, 1759, in Kingston upon Hull, England.
- An English politician, philanthropist, and prominent leader in the movement to abolish the slave trade.
- Started his political career in 1780 and became an MP for Yorkshire in 1784.
- Underwent a religious conversion in 1785, which fueled his lifelong commitment to reform and moral causes.



William Wilberforce by John Rising, 1790, pictured at the age of 30

Recruitment to the abolitionist cause

- In 1787, Wilberforce met with influential activists like Thomas Clarkson, Granville Sharp, Hannah More, and Charles Middleton.
- Persuaded to take up the cause of abolition, Wilberforce emerged as a prominent English abolitionist.
- Led a 20-year parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade, culminating in the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807, making the transatlantic slave trade illegal in the British Empire.



Wilberforce's Parliamentary Actions

- William Wilberforce played a crucial role in the movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade through his work in the British Parliament.
- Wilberforce introduced several bills in Parliament aimed at ending the slave trade, starting with his first motion in 1789.
- He led the parliamentary campaign against the slave trade for over 20 years, enduring significant opposition and criticism.
- Wilberforce's unrelenting efforts culminated in the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807, which made the transatlantic slave trade illegal within the British Empire.
- He continued advocating for further reforms to completely abolish slavery even after the 1807 Act.



A statue of William Wilberforce outside Wilberforce House, his birthplace in Hull

Successes

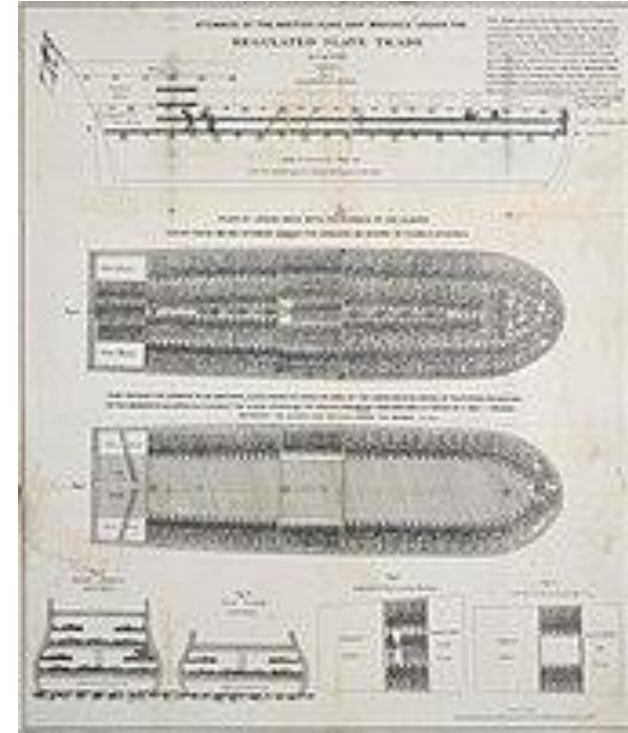
- Parliament received numerous petitions against the slave trade and examined the issue in 1788.
- With strong support by Sir William Dolben, it passed the Slave Trade Act 1788 (Dolben's Act)
- This was the first legislation to regulate the slave trade.
- It restricted the number of slaves that could be transported, to reduce problems of overcrowding and poor sanitation.



Sir William Dolben, 3rd Baronet

Provisions

- The act held that ships could transport 1.67 slaves per ton up to a maximum of 207 tons burthen, after which only 1 slave per ton could be carried.
- The provisions of the 1788 act expired after one year, meaning that the act had to be renewed annually by Parliament. The act was renewed between 1789 and 1795 and between 1797 and 1798.
- In 1799 the provisions of the previous acts were made permanent through the Slave Trade Act 1799.



Plan of the slave ship Brookes, carrying 454 slaves after the Slave Trade Act 1788. Previously it had transported 609 slaves and was 267 tons burthen, making 2.3 slaves per ton

Change in public opinion? The trial of John Kimber

- John Kimber was the captain of a British slave ship.
- In 1792, he faced a trial for murder.
- The trial was initiated by the abolitionist William Wilberforce.
- Kimber was accused of torturing to death an enslaved teenage girl on the deck of his ship.
- Despite the accusations, John Kimber was acquitted in the trial.
- The case garnered significant attention in the press.
- It established a precedent that slave ships' crews could be tried for the murder of enslaved individuals.



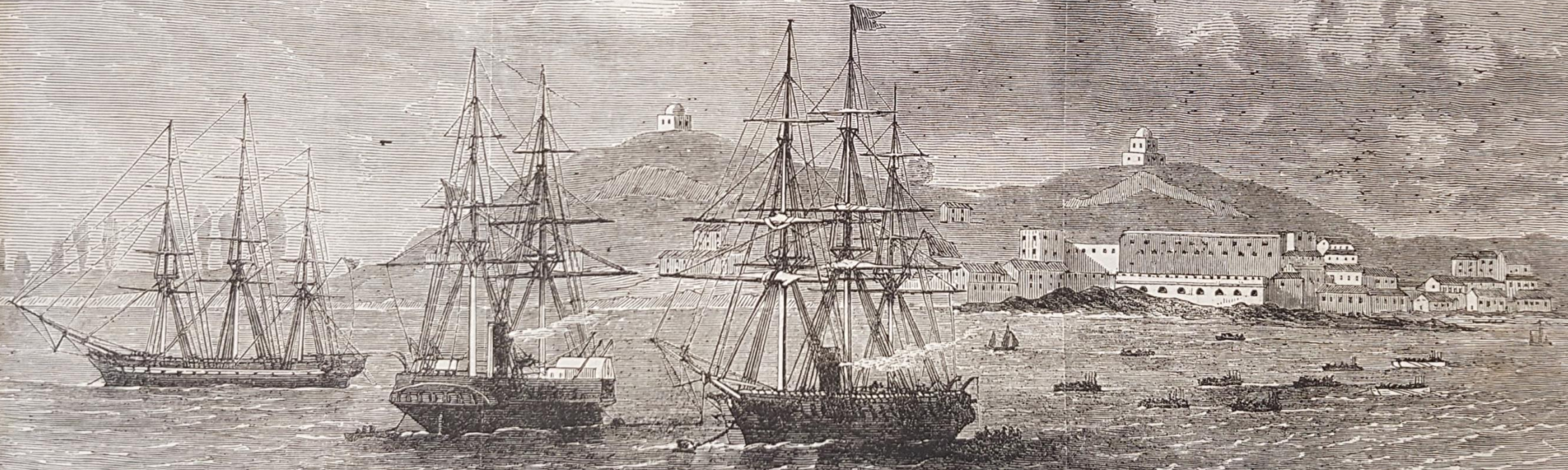
Engraving by [Isaac Cruikshank](#) showing Captain John Kimber on the deck of the *Recovery*, with the girl he was alleged to have whipped to death

1807 abolition of the slave trade

- In 1807, the British Parliament voted to abolish the international slave trade under the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act
- The society wound up its work after the Act was passed.
- The United States also prohibited the African slave trade in the same year, taking effect on 1 January 1808.
- In 1808, a separate Act was passed in the UK to give greater British protection to Freetown in West



Abolishing slavery (1807-33)



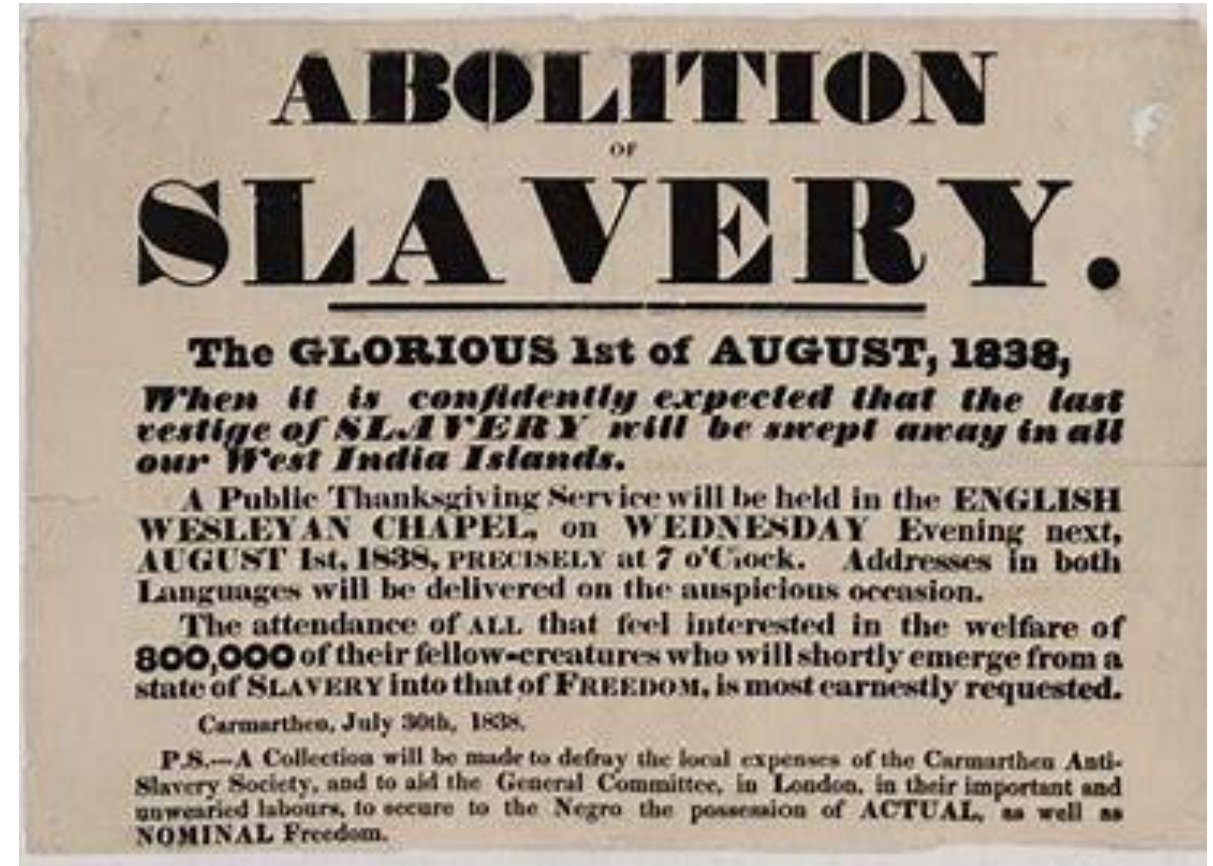
Why had the trade been abolished and not the institution?

- Economic Interests: Slavery deeply entrenched in economies, resistance due to economic dependence.
- Political Challenges: Changing laws and norms required monumental effort.
- Gradual Approach: Slave trade abolition was a feasible, less disruptive step.
- Moral Awakening: Belief in setting a moral precedent for gradual abolition.
- Public Opinion: Focused on horrors of slave trade to build support.



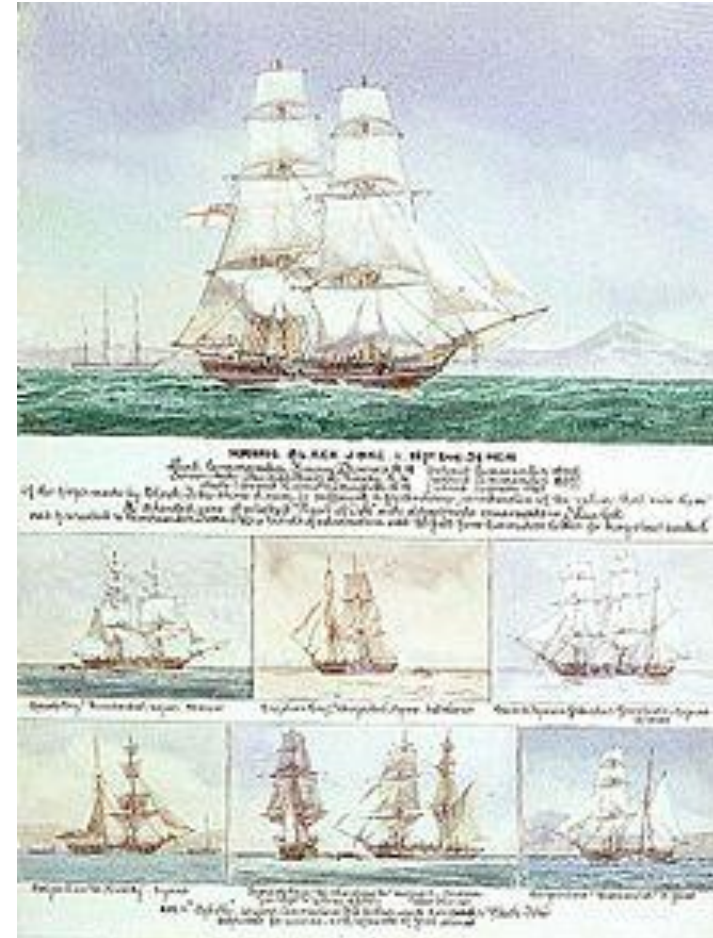
The Slavery Abolition Act 1833

- **Background:** The Slavery Abolition Act 1833, officially known as 3 & 4 Will. 4. c. 73, was a significant piece of legislation passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom.
- **Objective:** The act aimed to gradually abolish slavery in most parts of the British Empire, marking a crucial step towards the end of the transatlantic slave trade.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Gradual Abolition:** The act provided for the gradual emancipation of slaves within the British Empire.
 - **Prohibited Purchase and Ownership:** It made the purchase and ownership of slaves illegal throughout the British Empire.
 - **Exemptions:** There were exceptions, including "the Territories in the Possession of the East India Company," Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and Saint Helena.
- **Effective Date:** The Slavery Abolition Act came into force on 1 August 1834, signifying the beginning of the end of slavery within the British Empire.
- **Repeal:** In 1998, the act was repealed as part of a broader effort to rationalize English statute law. Nevertheless, other anti-slavery legislation remains in effect to this day.



Royal Navy seeks to end the trade

- The West Africa Squadron, also known as the Preventative Squadron, was a squadron of the British Royal Navy established to suppress the Atlantic slave trade by patrolling the coast of West Africa.
- It played a crucial role in enforcing the Slave Trade Act 1807 and operated from 1808 until 1856, with a brief revival from 1866 to 1867.
- The impact of the squadron is a subject of debate, with some acknowledging its significant contribution to ending the slave trade and others noting resource issues and corruption.



Development of ships and technology

- Early efforts to suppress the slave trade were often ineffectual, as they aimed to maintain good relations with other European powers.
- The squadron's actions were strictly governed by treaties, and officers could be punished for overstepping their authority.
- The Royal Navy was initially unable to catch faster slave ships, but as they acquired new, faster vessels, they regained the upper hand.
- By the 1840s, paddle steamers, such as HMS Hydra, replaced sailing ships and proved superior in many ways.



Hecate run aground at Neah Bay east of Cape Flattery in 1861

International co-operation

- The squadron expanded its operations to North Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean.
- Britain pressed other nations into treaties that allowed the Royal Navy to search their ships for slaves.
- The United States Navy contributed to the efforts, starting in 1820, and later formed the Africa Squadron after the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842.



The Capture of Veloz Passagera, Jakin, 1830

Impact

- The West Africa Squadron seized around 1,600 ships involved in the slave trade and freed approximately 150,000 slaves between 1807 and 1860.
- It is considered one of the most expensive international moral actions in modern history.
- Liberated slaves faced challenges, and many could not return to their place of origin, resulting in high mortality rates.
- Some freed slaves joined the Royal Navy or the West India Regiments, while others were recruited to work in the West Indies as apprentices.



Abolitionist Movements

The efforts of abolitionist groups and individuals in Britain continued to play a significant role.

Though the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade had dissolved itself, new groups emerged.

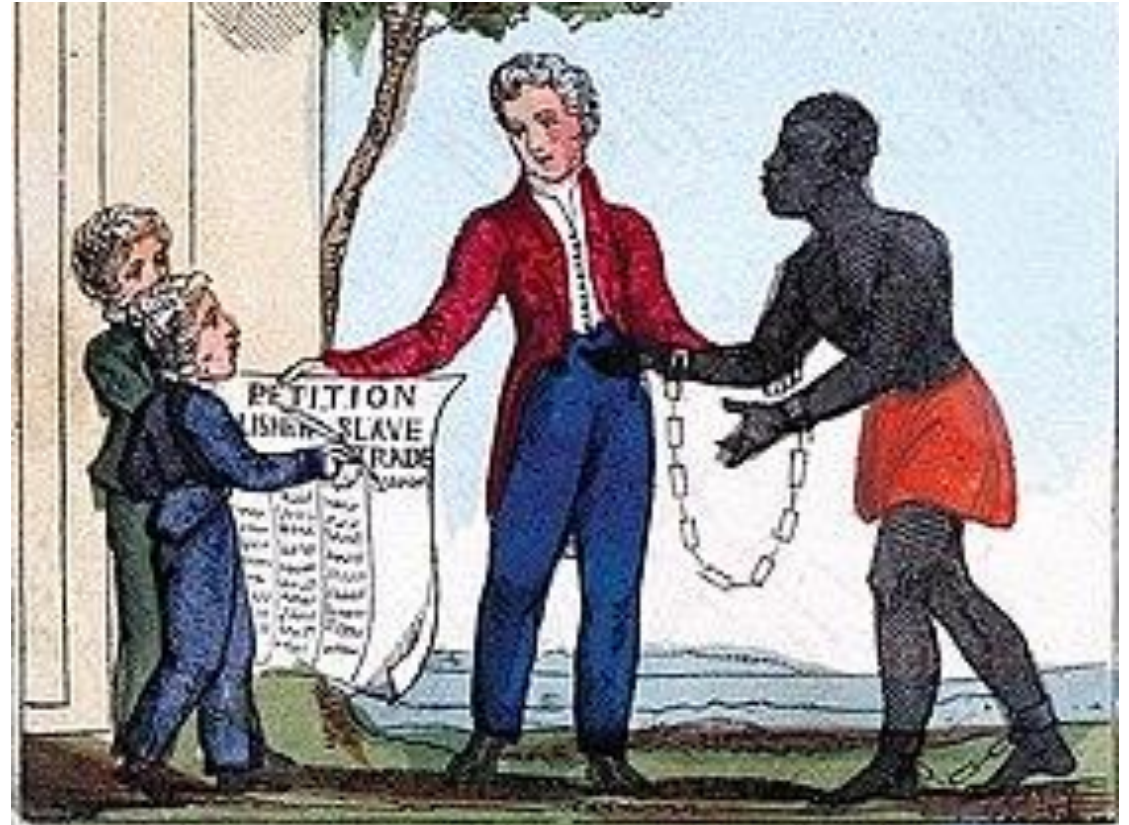
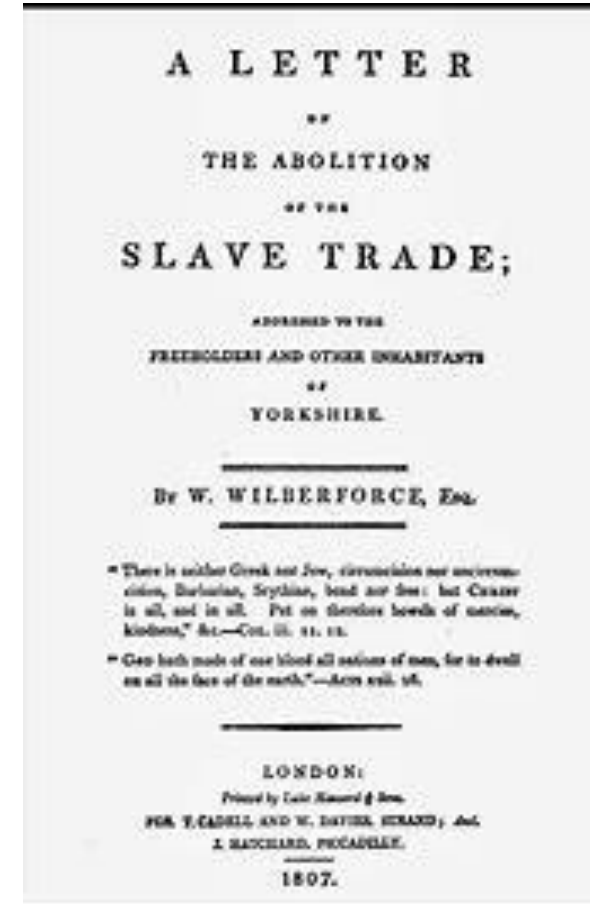


Illustration from the book: *The Black Man's Lament, or, how to make sugar* by Amelia Opie. (London, 1826)

Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout the British Dominions

- Founded in 1823 and known as the London Anti-slavery Society, was commonly referred to as the Anti-Slavery Society.
- Other members included Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce, Henry Brougham, Thomas Fowell Buxton, Elizabeth Heyrick, Mary Lloyd, Jane Smeal, Elizabeth Pease, and Anne Knight.



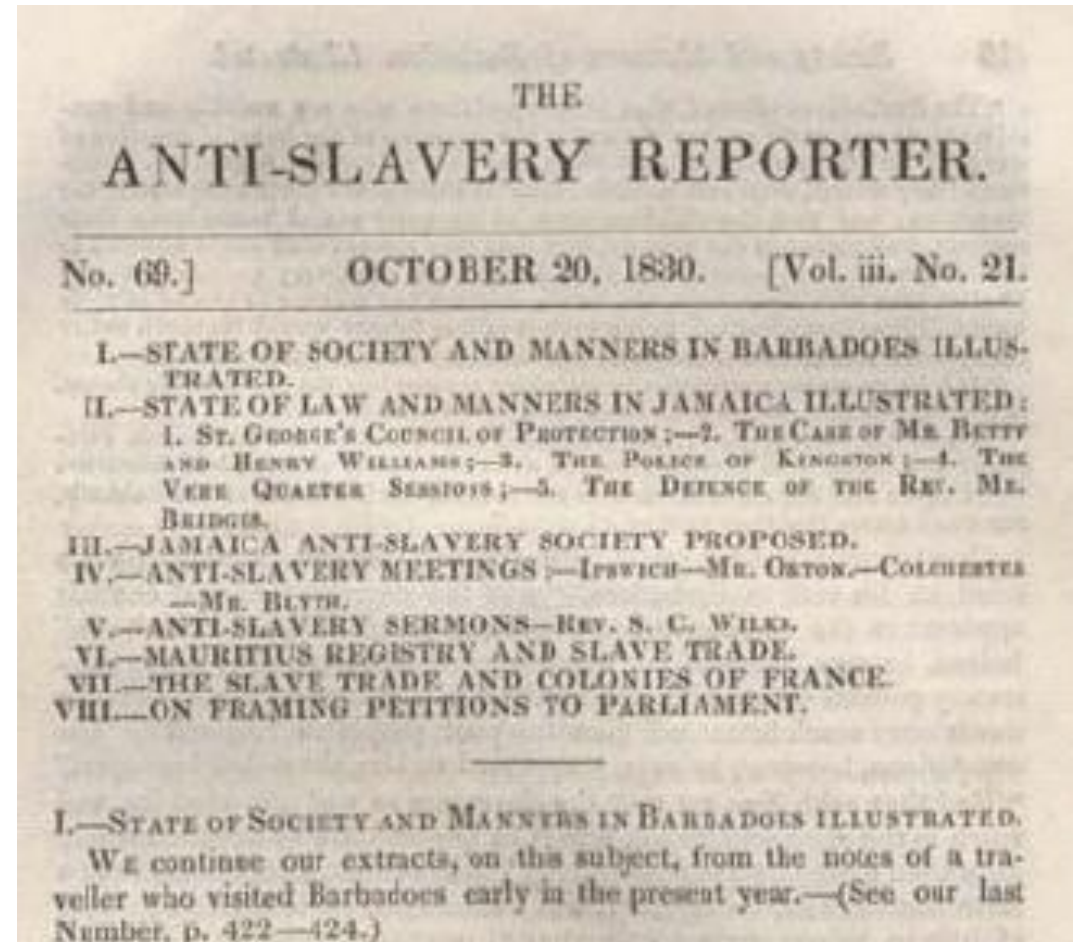
Auxiliary and affiliated groups set up across Britain and Ireland

- Birmingham and West Bromwich Ladies Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves was established in 1825.
- The London Female Anti-Slavery Society: Established in 1826, this organization was one of many female anti-slavery societies that focused on raising awareness and funds to support the campaign to abolish slavery.
- The Edinburgh Ladies' Emancipation Society: Founded in Scotland in the 1830s, this organization also worked towards the abolition of slavery and the welfare of enslaved people.



New publications fed into the debate

- Starting in 1825, the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society began publishing the "Anti-Slavery Monthly Reporter."
- Under the editorship of Zachary Macaulay, this publication played a vital role in the anti-slavery movement.
- In August 1830, its name was changed to "The Anti-Slavery Reporter," reflecting the society's evolving focus.
- The publication continued under the auspices of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society from 1839, marking a new phase in the fight against slavery.



New generation of campaigners

Jamaican mixed-race campaigners such as Louis Celeste Lecesne (left) and Richard Hill were also members of the Anti-Slavery Society.



Mary Prince (1788-1833)

- Born in Bermuda, enslaved to a family of African descent.
- Sold multiple times and moved throughout the Caribbean.
- Brought to England as a servant in 1828 and later left her enslaver.
- Despite being illiterate, she dictated her life story to Susanna Strickland in London.
- *The History of Mary Prince* (1831) was the first account of a Black enslaved woman's life published in the UK.
- This pioneering narrative galvanized the British anti-slavery movement and was reprinted twice in its first year, influencing the fight against slavery.



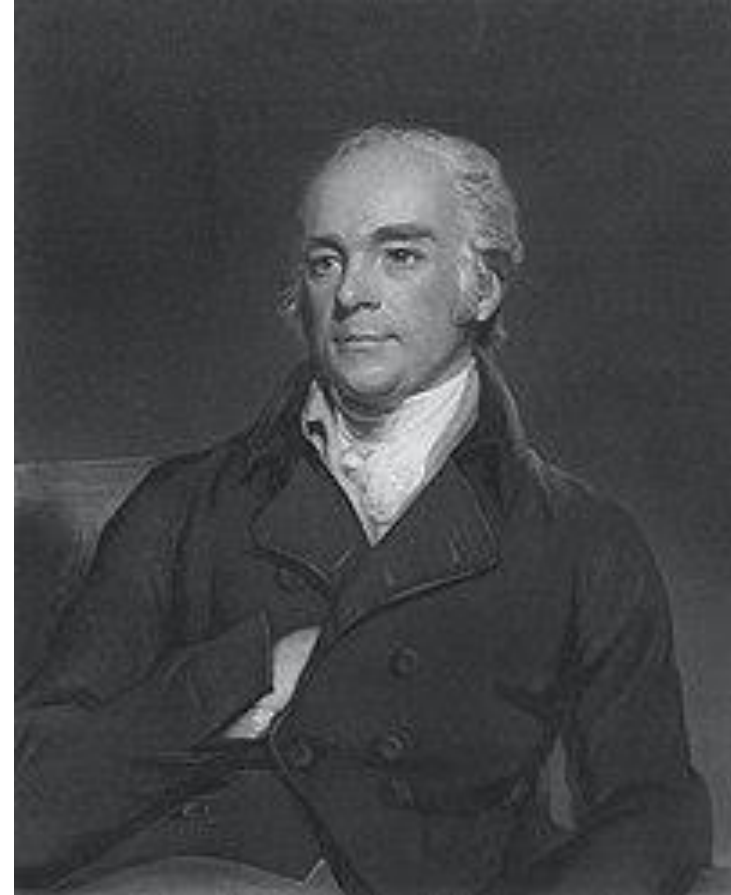
Amelia Opie

- Novelist in the Romantic period until 1828
- Prominent member of the Bluestocking circle
- Leading abolitionist in Norwich, England
- Her name was the first of 187,000 presented to Parliament on a women's petition against slavery
- Pioneering advocate for the abolition of slavery
- A legacy in literature and the fight against slavery



New campaigners were more radical

- Elizabeth Heyrick's 1824 pamphlet "Immediate, not Gradual, Abolition" gave the tone to the argument.
- Wilberforce disliked to militancy of the women and wrote to Thomas Babington protesting that "for ladies to meet, to publish, to go from house to house stirring up petitions - these appear to me proceedings unsuited to the female character as delineated in Scripture".



Thomas Babington of Rothley Temple (1758-1837), by Sir Thomas Lawrence

Economic Factors

The economic landscape was changing. Industrialization and the rise of the factory system diminished the economic importance of slave labour in Britain.

Additionally, the profitability of slavery was being challenged, and some argued that a shift towards wage labor might be more economically viable.



Revolts and Resistance

- Slave revolts, notably the Haitian Revolution, brought international attention to the brutality of slavery.
- Media coverage and firsthand accounts increased public awareness, swaying opinion against slavery.
- Governments faced pressure to reconsider slavery as revolts and instability loomed.
- Moral and humanitarian arguments gained traction, pushing for the abolition of an indefensible system.
- Fear of further revolts influenced politicians to support legislative changes.



Baptist War, 1831

- In the Christmas holiday of 1831, a significant slave revolt known as the Baptist War erupted in Jamaica.
- It was originally organized as a peaceful strike by Baptist minister Samuel Sharpe.
- The rebellion was brutally suppressed by the Jamaican plantocracy's militia and the British garrison ten days later in early 1832.
- The rebellion resulted in significant property and life losses, leading to two inquiries by the British Parliament.



af der Französischen Colonie St. Domingo von

Parliamentary Reform

- 1800: Union with Ireland created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- Limited franchise in 1800, with a small portion of the population having voting rights.
- Growing calls for reform due to issues of representation and corruption.
- 1832: The Great Reform Act expanded suffrage and addressed electoral issues.
- Impact: Redefined the political landscape, extended voting rights, and initiated future reforms.



Reform and the slave lobby

- Up until 1832, wealthy sugar planters from British colonies like Jamaica and Barbados had significant influence in British politics.
- They purchased "rotten" and "pocket" boroughs, forming the West India Lobby to resist abolitionist efforts.
- The West India Committee later emerged from this lobby as a powerful political force.
- The Reform Act of 1832 abolished many of these "rotten" boroughs, weakening the West India Lobby's influence.
- Many Irish MPs elected from island of Ireland were abolitionist and campaigned for reform (e.g. Daniel O'Connell)



Economic Compensation

The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 did not simply end slavery but also included a provision for compensation to slave owners for the loss of their 'property.' This financial incentive helped secure the support of some influential individuals with vested interests in the continuation of slavery.



Slave Compensation Act 1837 -

- Slave Compensation Act 1837 (1 & 2 Vict. c. 3)
- Passed on 23 December 1837, in the United Kingdom.
- Complementing the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, it authorized compensation to slave owners in British colonies.
- Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt disbursed approximately £20 million for the liberation of slaves.
- Over 40,000 awards were issued, some converted into 3.5% government annuities, lasting until 2015.



Historical Context

- After the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 passed, plantation owners in the Caribbean opposed abolition.
- The 1837 Act paid significant compensation to former slave owners, amounting to 40% of the Treasury's tax receipts.
- The Act empowered the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to oversee compensation payments or transfer government annuities.



Impact and Legacy

- Slave owners received £20 million in compensation for enslaved people freed in colonies.
- Around 40% of the British Treasury's annual spending budget.
- Approximately half went to absentee landlords in the UK, while the rest benefited slave owners in Africa and the West Indies.
- Notable recipients included Sir John Gladstone, father of Prime Minister William Gladstone.
- Payments to descendants of creditors were only finalized in 2015 due to the financial instruments used.

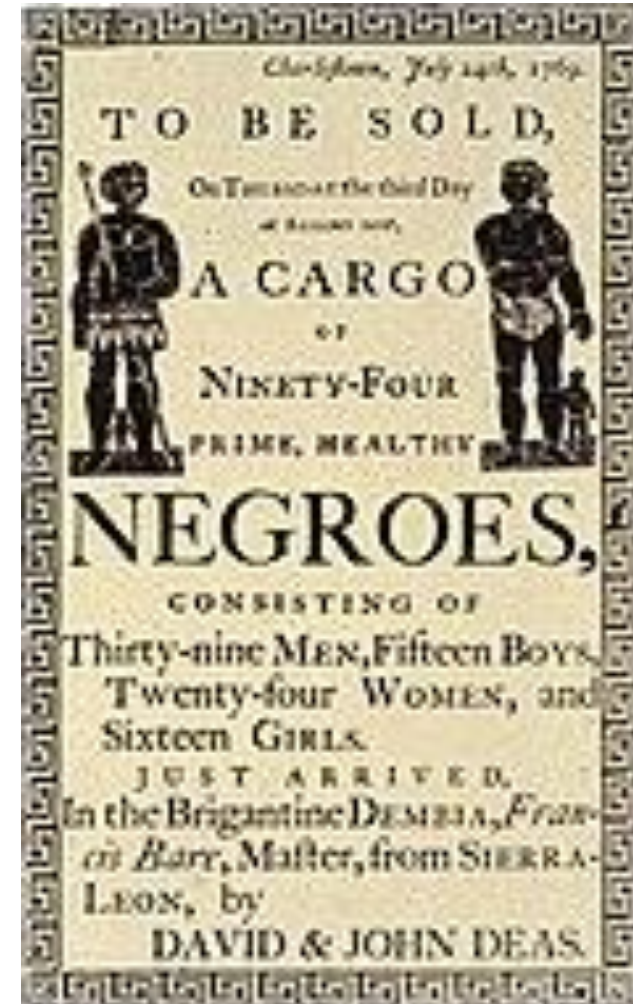




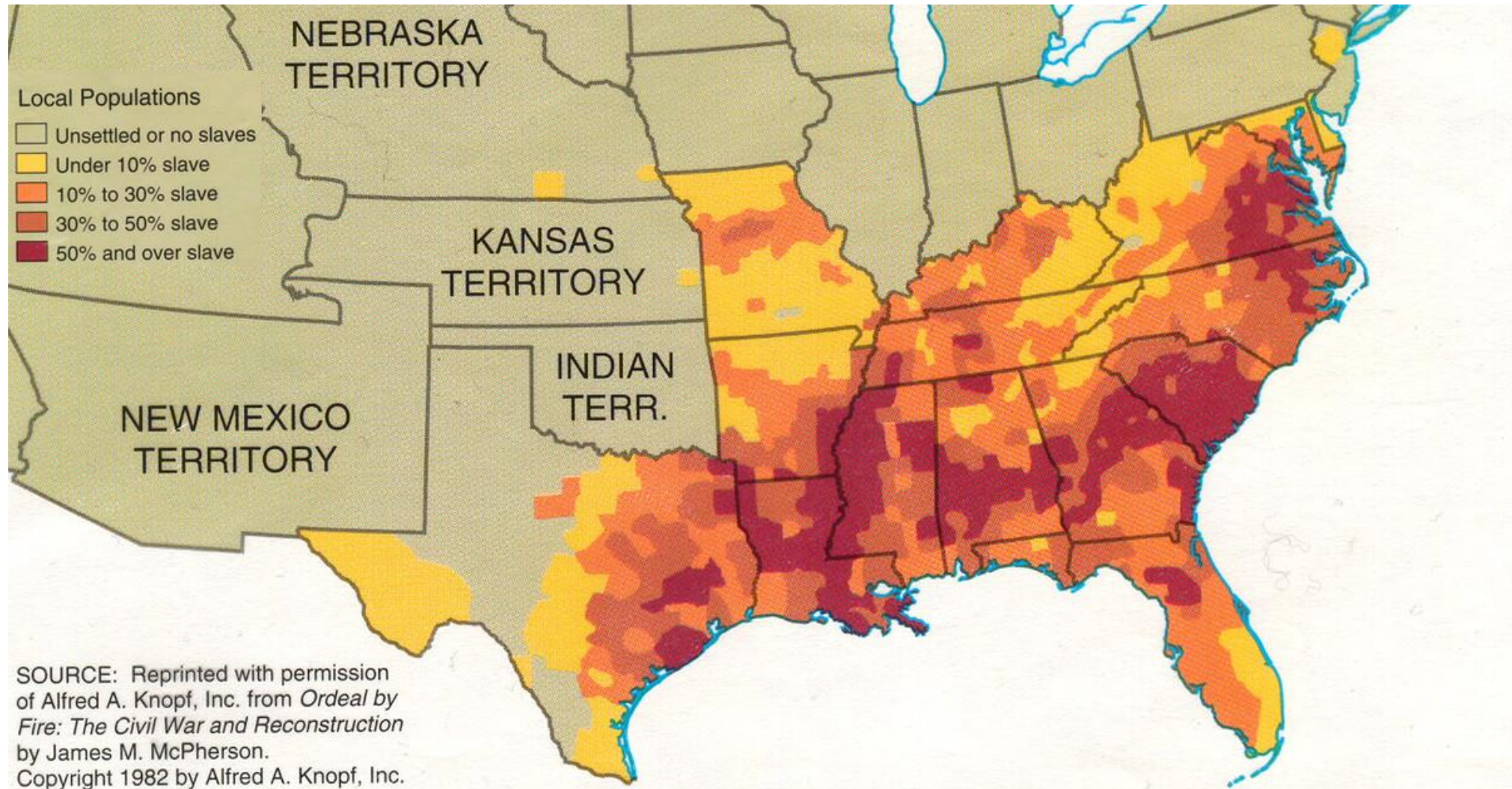
Abolishing slavery in the world (1833-1866)

Focus turns to America: Why?

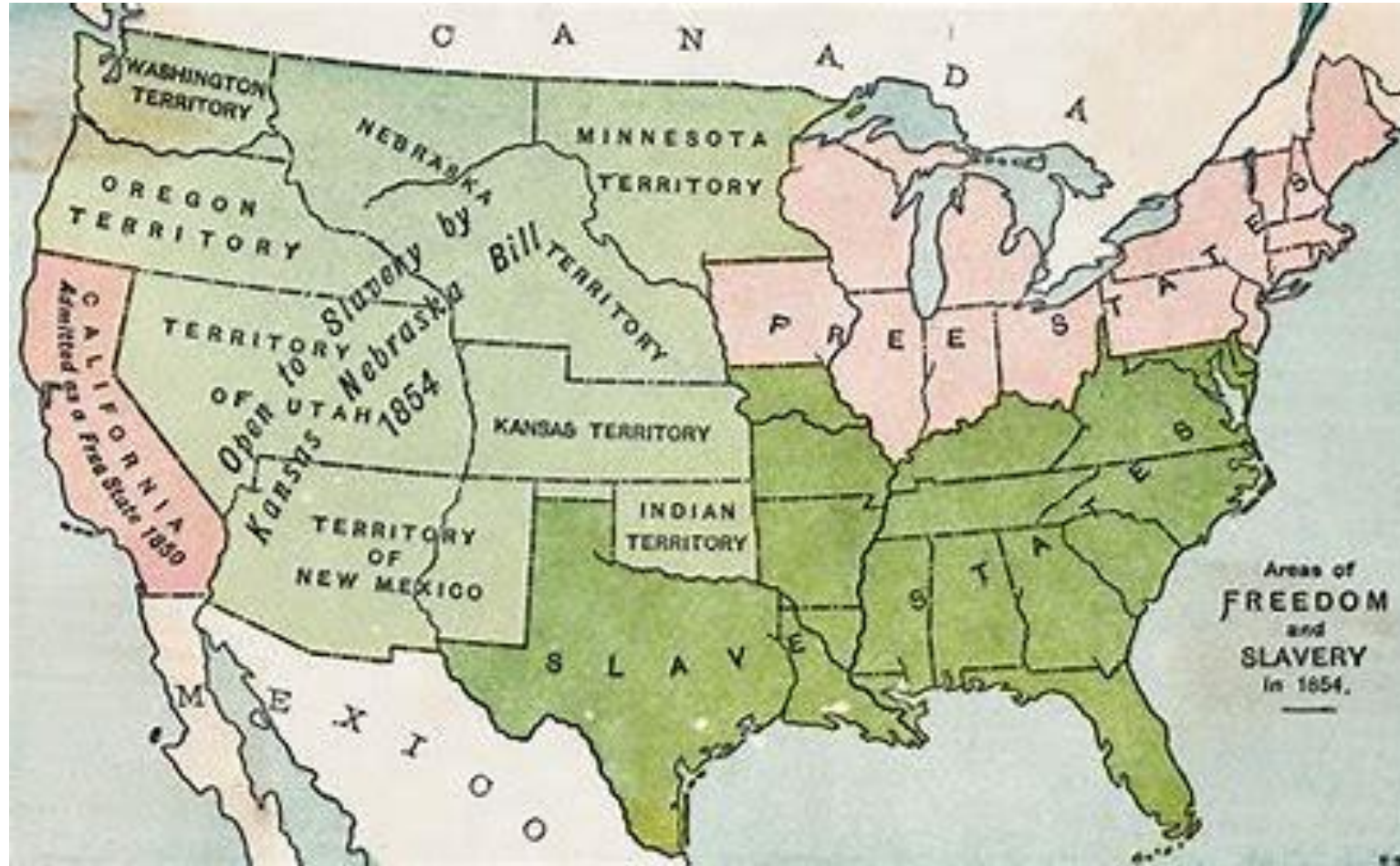
- On 20 December 1841, the first multilateral treaty for the suppression of the slave trade, the Treaty for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, was signed in London by the representatives of Austria, Britain, France, Prussia, and Russia. America does not sign.
- British moral exceptionalism.
- Slavery continues to exist in the continental USA.



Slavery in the continental USA



Slavery in the USA in 1864



Status of slavery in the USA in 1850s

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 had significant implications for slavery in the United States, primarily because it effectively repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The key impacts of the Kansas-Nebraska Act on slavery were:

The act introduced the concept of "popular sovereignty," allowing settlers in the Kansas and Nebraska territories to decide whether they would permit or prohibit slavery when applying for statehood. This overturned the earlier Missouri Compromise, which had established a clear dividing line for slavery in the territories.



Stephen Douglas (D-Ill.) tacked on the concept of "popular sovereignty."

Moral Imperative

The British anti-slavery movement saw it as a moral duty to fight against American slavery. The arguments were:

- Economic. Adam Smith wrote " in 1776. He wrote that enslaved people were the most inefficient and costly form of labour that could be used. Sugar could be produced more cheaply by paid non-slave workers in India.
- Humanitarian. Enslaved people were denied their freedom and their human rights. Many British sailors died on the triangular trade. The slave trade brutalised all who took part in it.
- Christian. The Bible taught that people should treat each other with kindness and love. God created humankind as brothers and sisters - slavery broke the rules of the Ten Commandments.

THE
Sumner Union League Club,
OF HARTFORD, CONN.,
Having secured the services of
HON. FREDERIC DOUGLASS,
Of Washington, D. C.,
FOR A
LECTURE
IN ALLYN HALL,
Wednesday Evening, January 10th, 1883,

Extend an invitation to the Public to come
and hear this Champion of Liberty,
who will have for his subject,

THE LIFE OF JOHN BROWN.

This subject alone is a guarantee of the excellence of the Lecture.

General Admission, - - - 50 Cents.
Reserved Seats, - - - 75 "

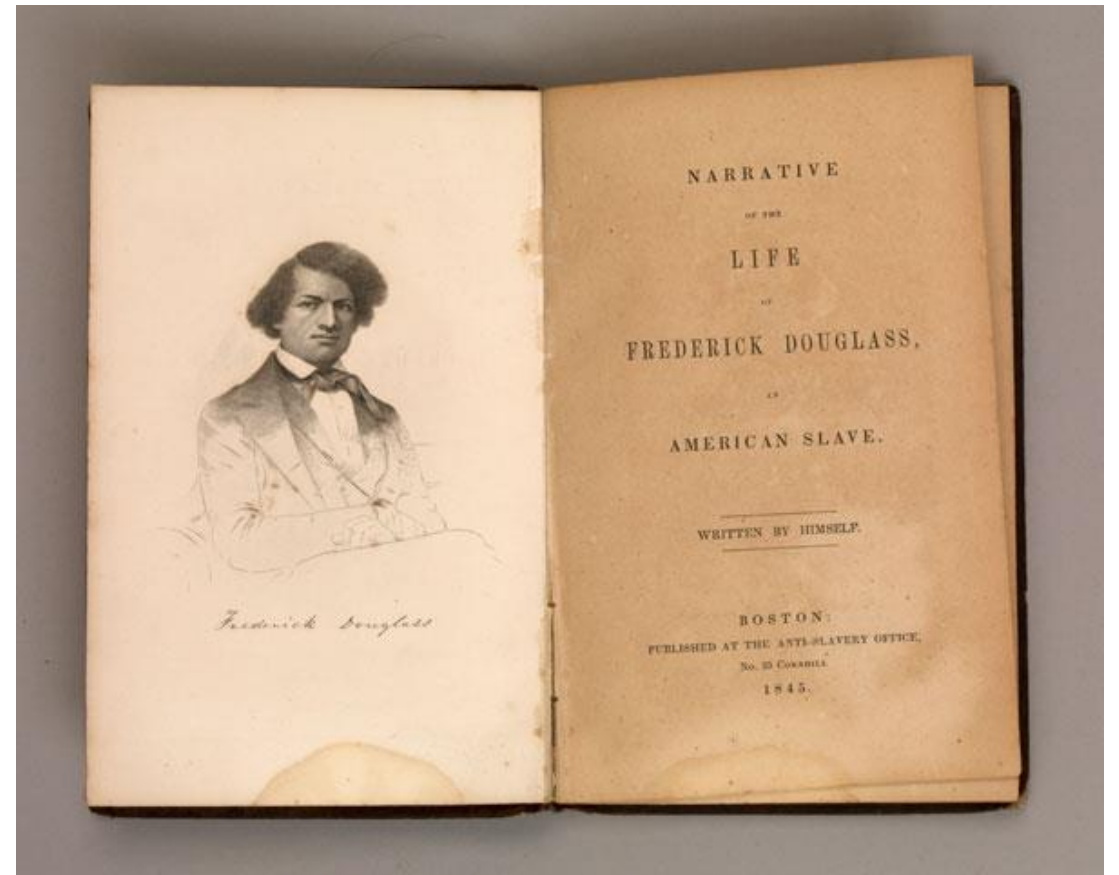
Tickets can be procured after January 5th at the following places:
J. H. Eckhardt & Co.; Pond & Childs; J. G. Rathbun; L. Barker & Co. Reserved seats may also be procured of L. Barker & Co.

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Lecture begins at 7:45 sharp.

Abolitionist Literature

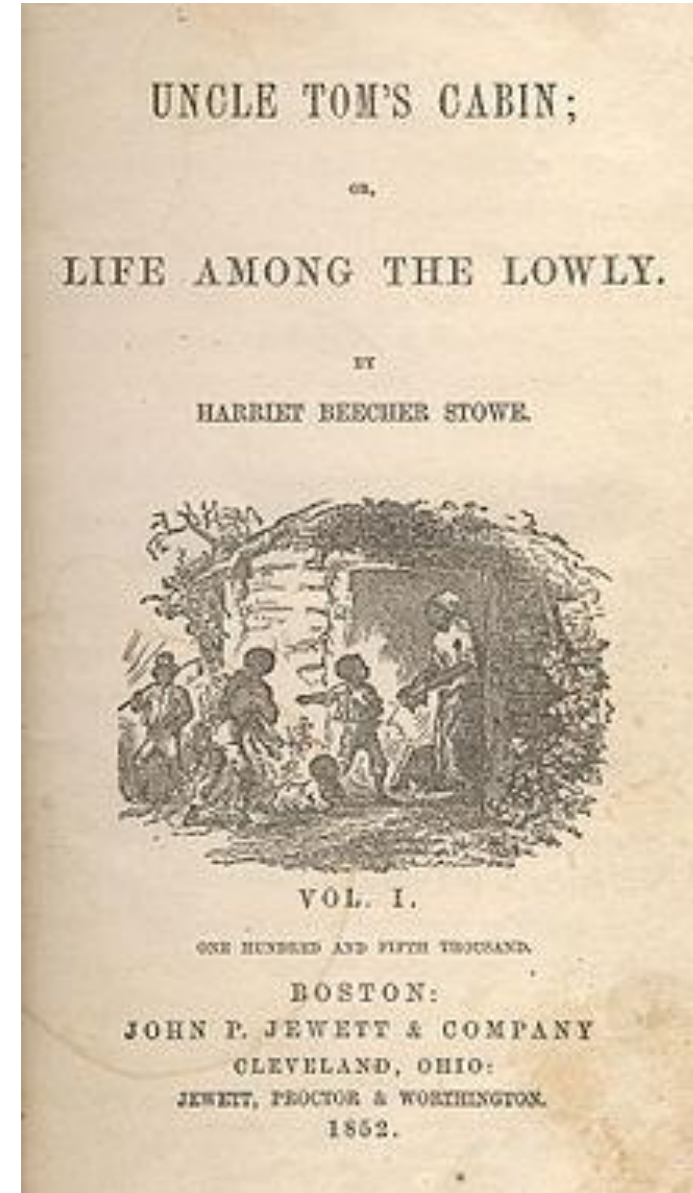
Influential works abolitionist literature and memoirs raised awareness and support for the American abolitionist cause in Britain.

Increasing literacy among population, communications technology (e.g. steam power mail ships, telegraph) and photography helped sell messages in different way, spread knowledge to more people (e.g. cheaper books) and did it quicker.



Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)

- Profoundly influenced attitudes toward slavery in the U.S.
- Wrote the novel to portray the horrors of slavery and the power of Christian love.
- Focus on Uncle Tom, a long-suffering black slave.
- Stories of other characters interwoven with Uncle Tom's experiences.
- Best-selling novel of the 19th century after the Bible.
- Contributed significantly to the abolitionist cause.
- Popularized negative stereotypes, including the term "Uncle Tom" for a subservient person.
- Negative associations have partly overshadowed its historical significance as an antislavery tool.



Third generation of pressure groups

- A successor organization to the Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout the British Dominions, is formed and named the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, also commonly known as the Anti-Slavery Society
- Formed 1839 by English Quaker and activist Joseph Sturge to fight for global abolition of slavery.
- Through mergers and name changes, it is now known as Anti-Slavery International.

Meeting this Day.

—

ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING.
TO SIR STEPHEN MAY,
SOVEREIGN OF BELFAST.

WE, the undersigned, respectfully request you to call a **MEETING** of the Inhabitants of this Town and neighbourhood, on as early a day as convenient, to take into consideration the propriety of forming a Society, whose object shall be to obtain by all lawful and prudent means the abolition of Slavery throughout the British dominions.

(Signed by about 150 respectable Inhabitants.)

Agr-eably to the foregoing Requisition, I call a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town and neighbourhood of Belfast, on **TUESDAY**, the 14th instant, in the Lancasterian School-House, at **ONE** o'clock.

(Signed) **STEPHEN MAY**, Sovereign.
8th September, 1830. (3)

American 'fugitive slave'

- Fugitive slaves inspired British abolitionists and shared their stories, strengthening the antislavery movement.
- They became prominent abolitionist speakers and activists in the United Kingdom, delivering powerful speeches and mobilizing support.
- Their presence influenced British politics, shaping the discourse on slavery in the British Parliament.
- Fugitive slaves faced the risk of kidnapping by American slave hunters, especially after the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.
- British communities provided safe havens and support for fugitive slaves, offering protection from recapture.
- Their presence created diplomatic tensions between Britain and the United States, as the U.S. sought cooperation in capturing and returning fugitives.



Henry 'Box' Brown

- Brown escaped from slavery by mailing himself in a crate to Philadelphia in 1849.
- He became a notable abolitionist speaker in the northeastern United States.
- Faced increased danger after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.
- Lived in England for 25 years, touring as an anti-slavery advocate and becoming a magician and showman.
- Started a family with an English woman, Jane Floyd, while his first wife remained enslaved.
- Returned to the U.S. in 1875 with his English family and continued as an entertainer.
- Spent the last decade of his life in Toronto, Canada, where he died in 1897.



Moses Roper

Born around 1815 in North Carolina, was a notable African American abolitionist, author, and orator.

- He endured a traumatic upbringing as a slave, escaping from enslavement after multiple attempts and suffering severe abuse.
- Roper successfully reached the United Kingdom, where he settled in London and published his influential narrative titled "Narrative of the Adventures and Escape of Moses Roper from American Slavery," which contained graphic descriptions of the horrors of slavery.
- As an abolitionist speaker, Roper toured extensively in Great Britain, Ireland, and other parts of the United Kingdom, lecturing over 2,000 times and challenging conventional perspectives on American slavery.
- He highlighted the brutality of American slavery by displaying tools used for torture during his lectures, including whips, chains, and manacles.
- His commitment to telling the truth about his experiences and refusal to compromise on graphic descriptions of violence faced by the enslaved earned him respect among supporters.
- Despite his family life in the UK, Roper returned to the United States and continued to lecture and travel until he fell ill and passed away in 1891 in Boston, Massachusetts.



End of slavery in the USA

- The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 declared the freedom of enslaved people in Confederate-held territory, effectively ending slavery in the rebelling states.
- The British abolitionist movement helped frame the debate around slavery in moral and humanitarian terms, influencing international opinion and contributing to the ultimate demise of American slavery through the Civil War and the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

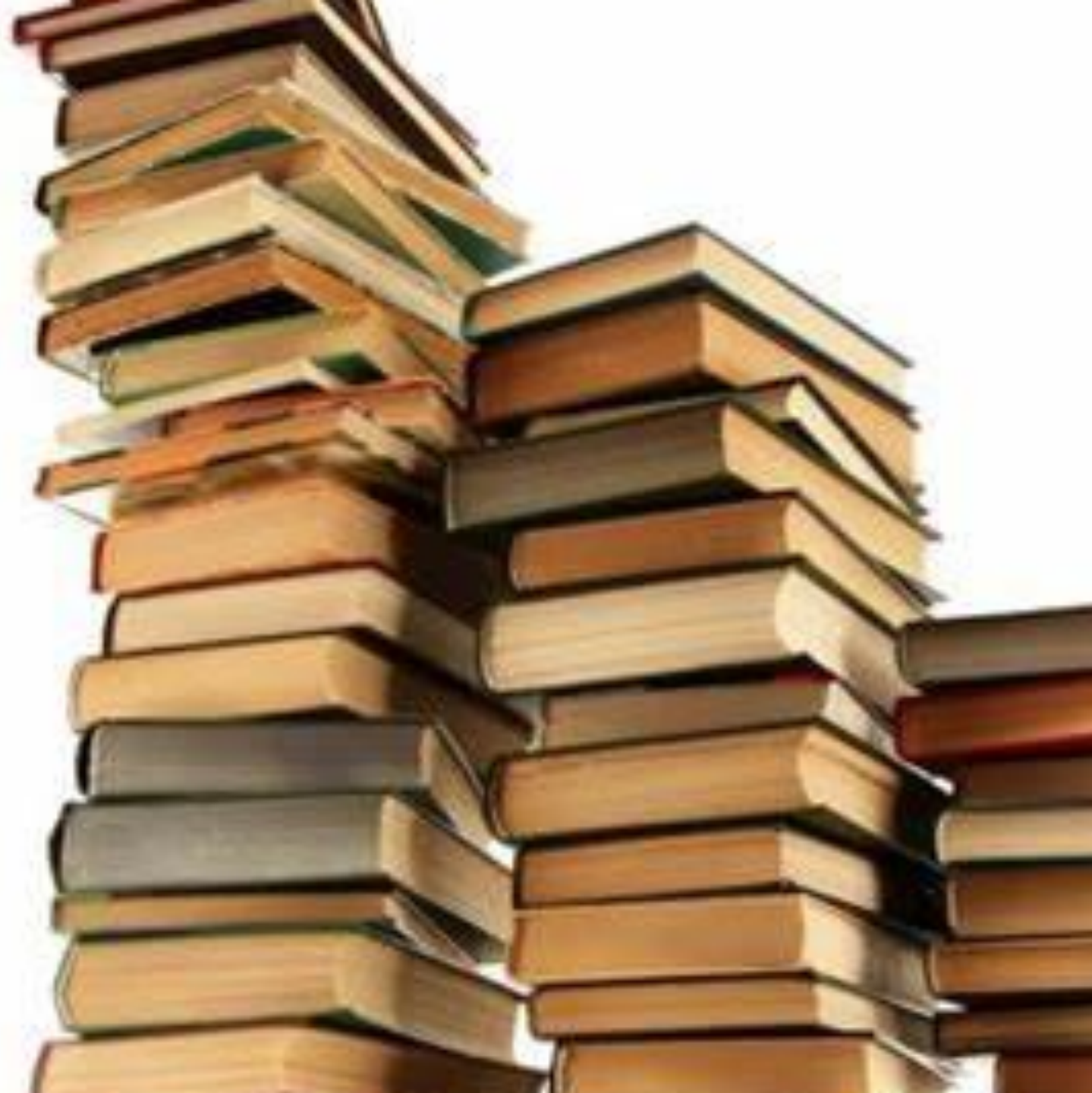


What impact did British abolitionist activity have on slavery in the US?

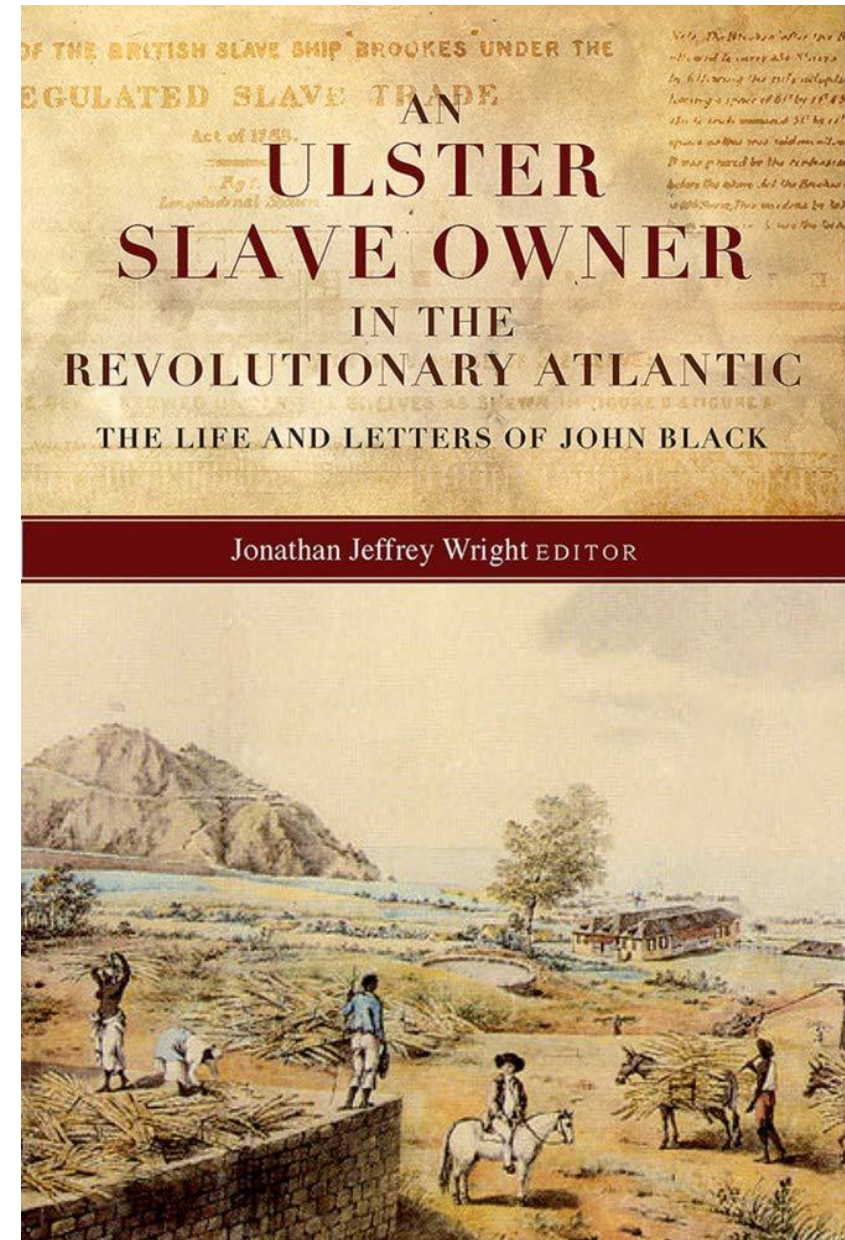
- British abolitionist activity played a significant role in shaping the global conversation around slavery, indirectly influencing the abolition of American slavery during the period from 1833 to 1866.
- The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 in the United Kingdom, which marked the beginning of the end of slavery in the British Empire, had ripple effects on the global abolitionist movement.
- British financial support for American abolitionist causes, such as the sending of funds to support the Underground Railroad, provided crucial resources for the anti-slavery movement in the United States.
- The British public's growing disapproval of American slavery put pressure on the U.S. government to address the issue, especially during international discussions and diplomatic relations.



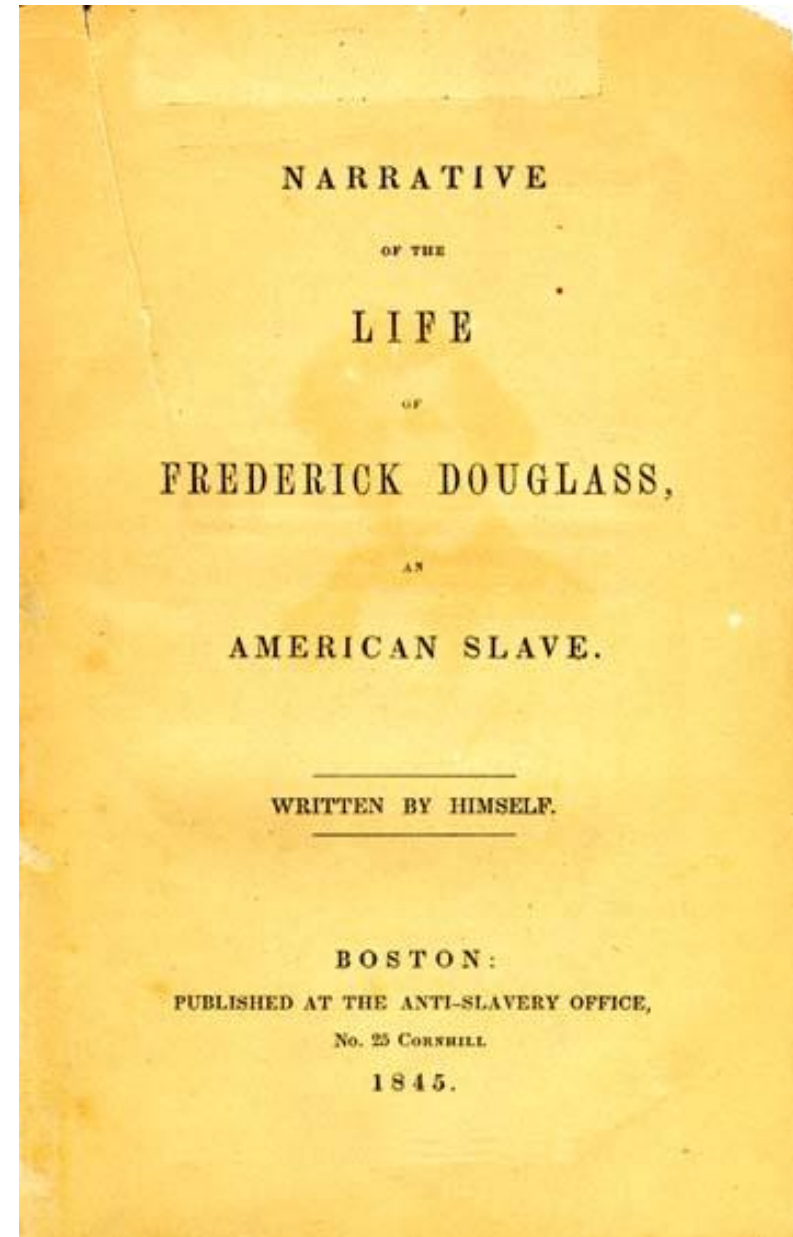
Books to read



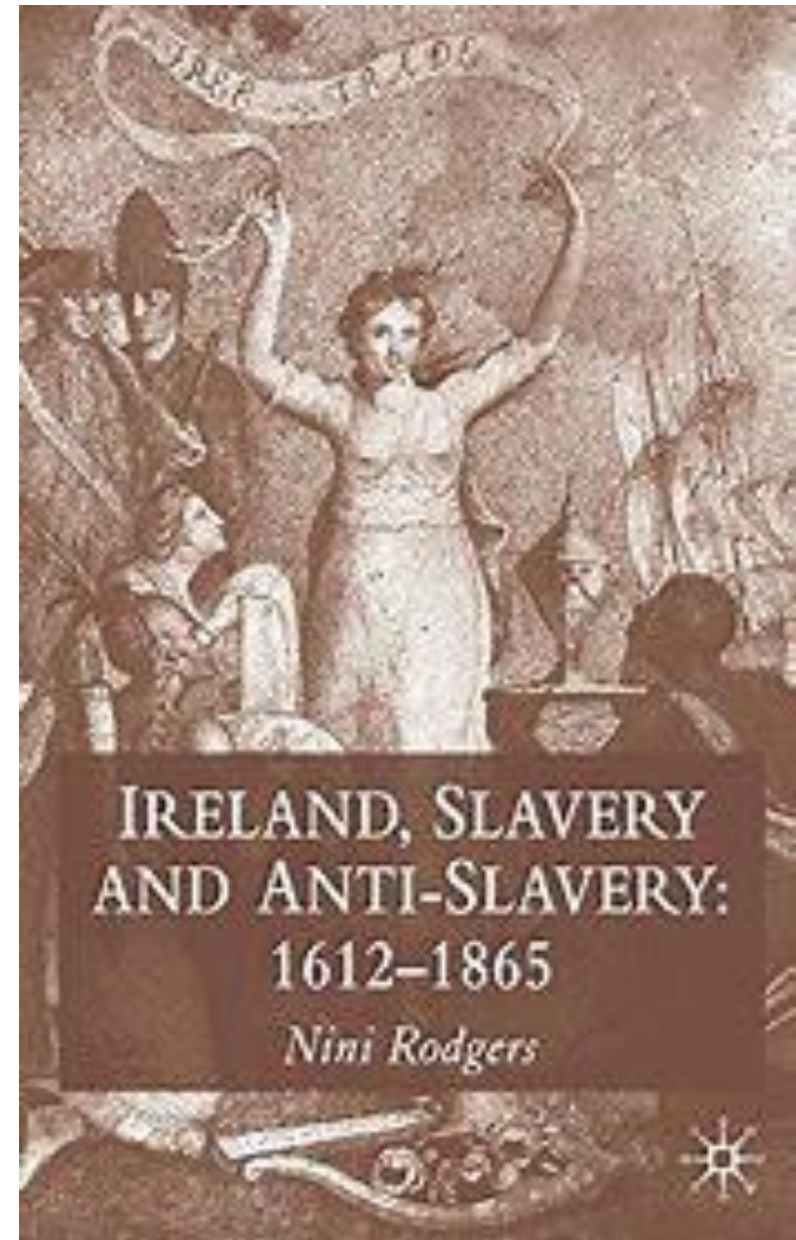
The text discusses a collection of twenty letters written by John Black, a slave owner from Ulster, during the years 1799 to 1836. These letters, addressed to his brother George in Belfast, serve to maintain family ties across the Atlantic. They also highlight the strong connections between Ulster and the West Indies in the early 19th century. The letters reveal the challenges of mercantile life during a period of political and economic turmoil, and they prominently depict a society deeply entwined with the institution of slavery, in which Ulster played a significant role.



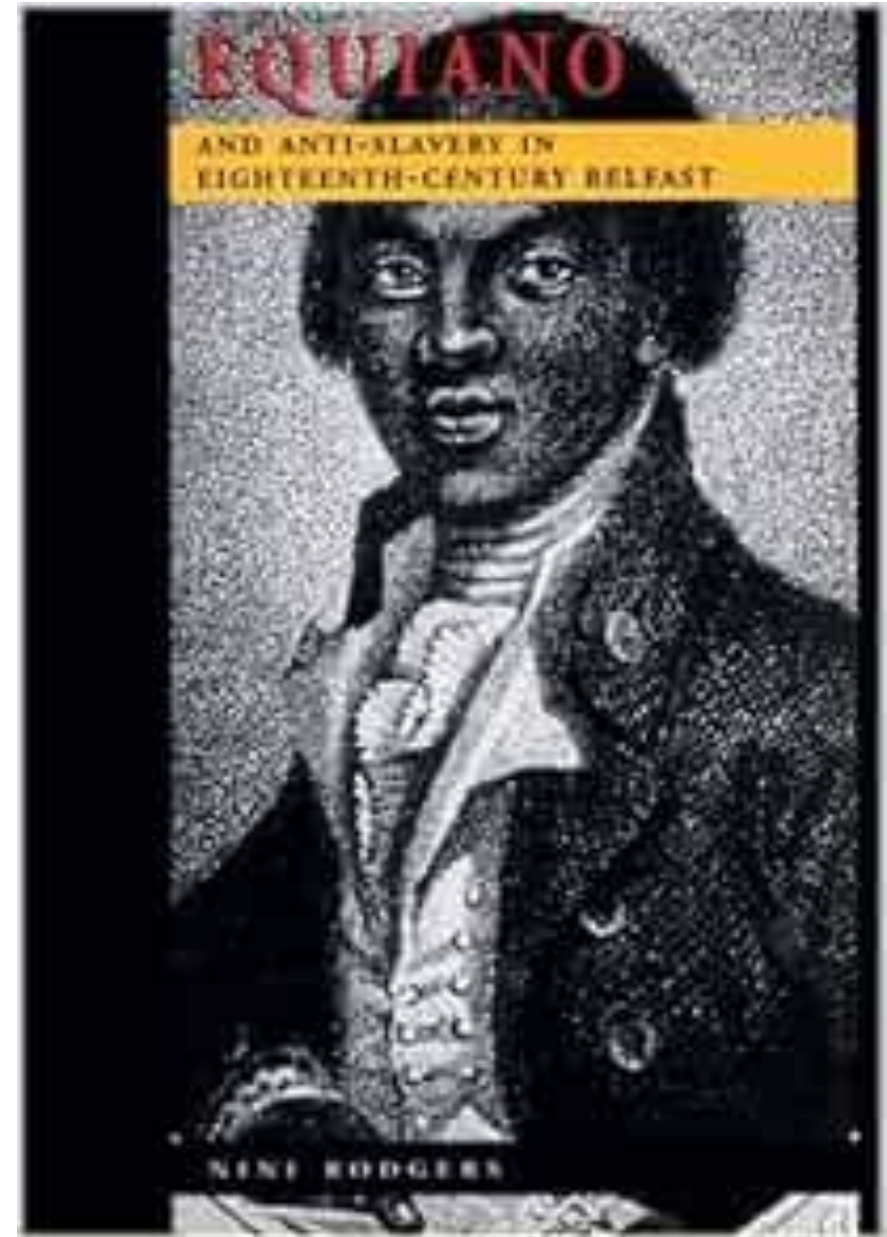
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" is a powerful autobiographical account of Frederick Douglass, an American slave who escapes to freedom and becomes a prominent abolitionist, providing firsthand insight into the horrors of slavery and his journey to liberation.



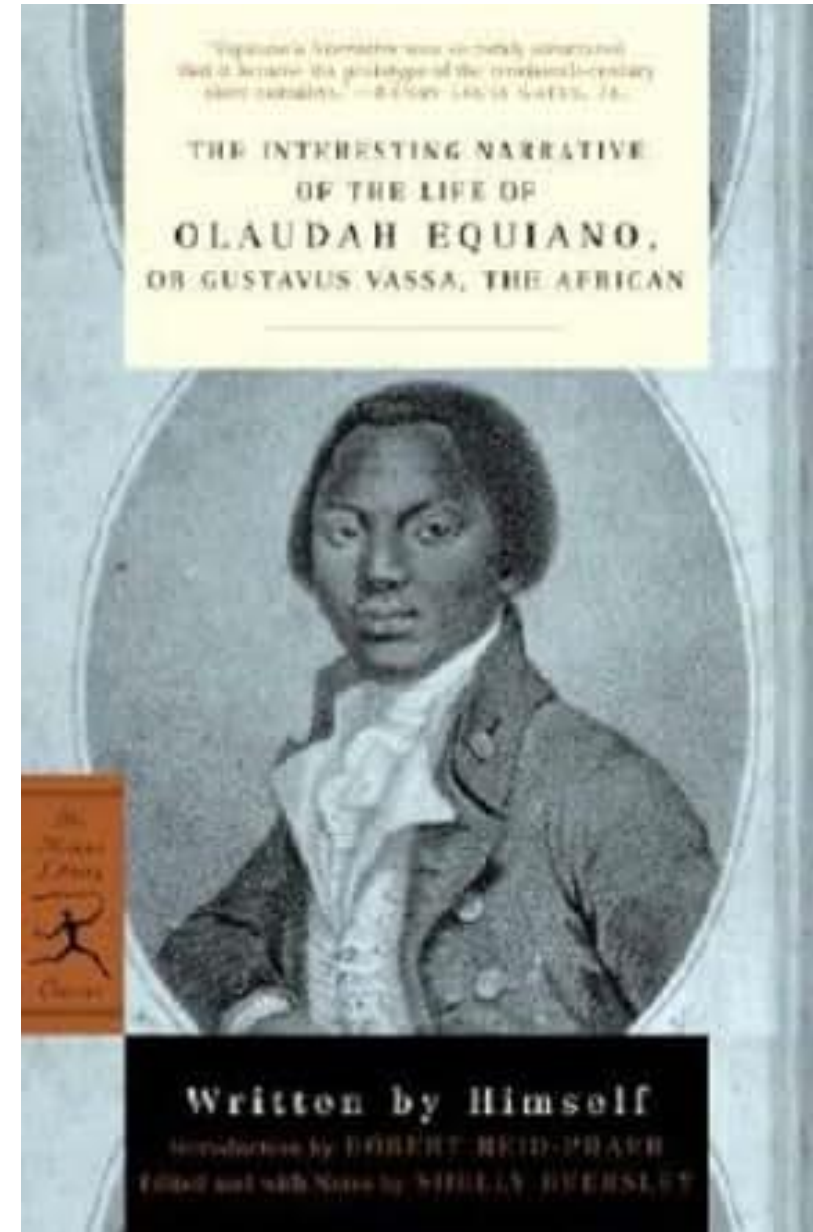
This book tackles a hitherto neglected topic, showing how slaves and sugar produced economic and political change in eighteenth-century Ireland and discussing the role of Irish emigrants in slave societies in the Caribbean and North America. It traces the development of the Irish anti-slavery movement explaining why it appealed to such prominent figures as Olaudah Equiano, Fredrick Douglass, and Daniel O'Connell.



In 1791-2, Olaudah Equiano, a renowned former slave, visited Ireland and received a warm welcome in Belfast. This period saw a radical discourse in Ireland addressing political oppression, influenced by Thomas Paine's "Rights of Man," extending its focus to oppressed groups such as black people and Catholics. Although Belfast's economic and industrial growth empowered radical movements, it was closely connected to trade with the slave economies of the West Indies. Nini Rodgers, an expert in slavery and the Atlantic economy, offers a more nuanced perspective on Belfast's role in slavery issues, moving beyond a simplistic "black and white" portrayal.



"The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano" is a compelling autobiographical work by Olaudah Equiano, an African who was enslaved and later gained his freedom. It vividly depicts the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery while also serving as a powerful abolitionist tool, contributing to the eventual end of the British slave trade. Equiano's narrative is a testament to the resilience of those who endured slavery and the impact of personal storytelling on advocating for social change.



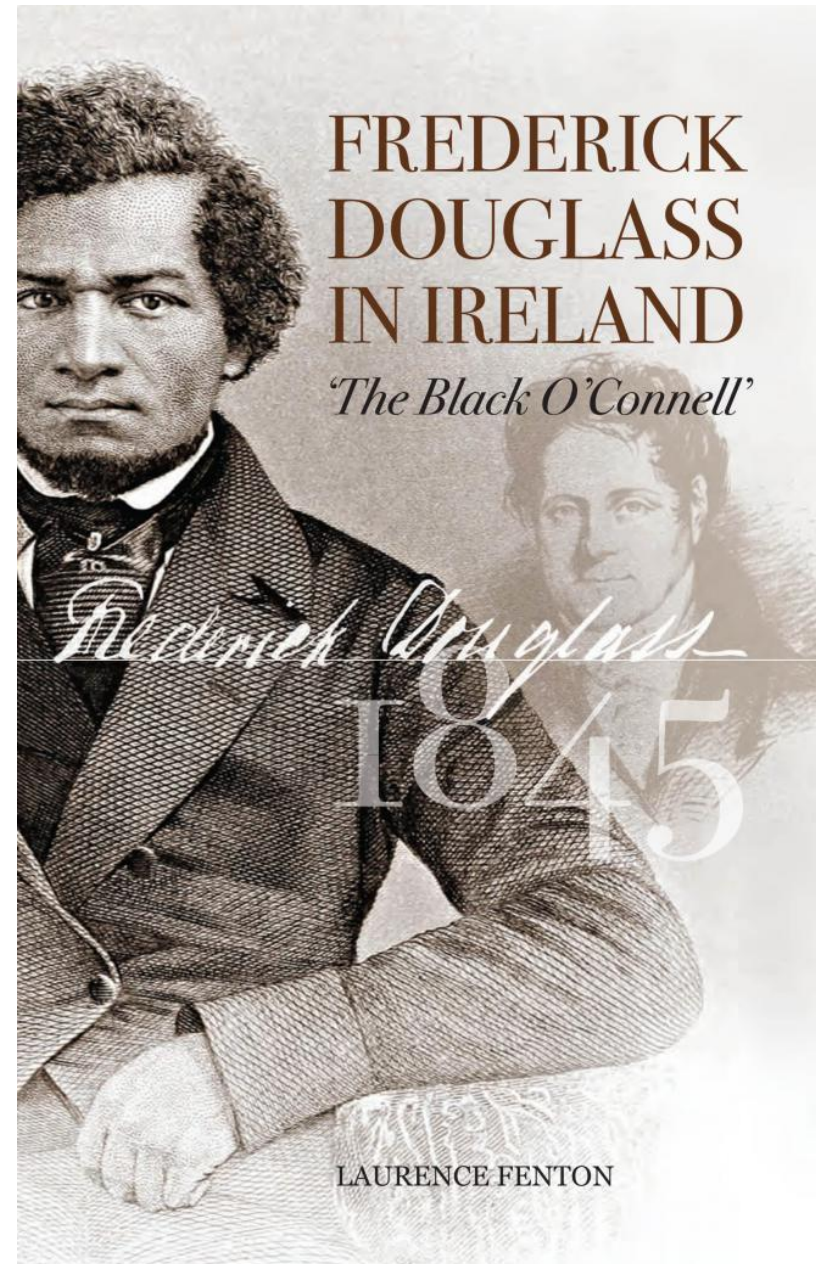
"Equiano's narrative was so truly interesting that it became the prototype of the nineteenth-century slave narratives." —RICHARD L. HAYES, JR.

THE INTERESTING NARRATIVE
OF THE LIFE OF
OLAUDAH EQUIANO,
OR GUSTAVUS VASSA, THE AFRICAN

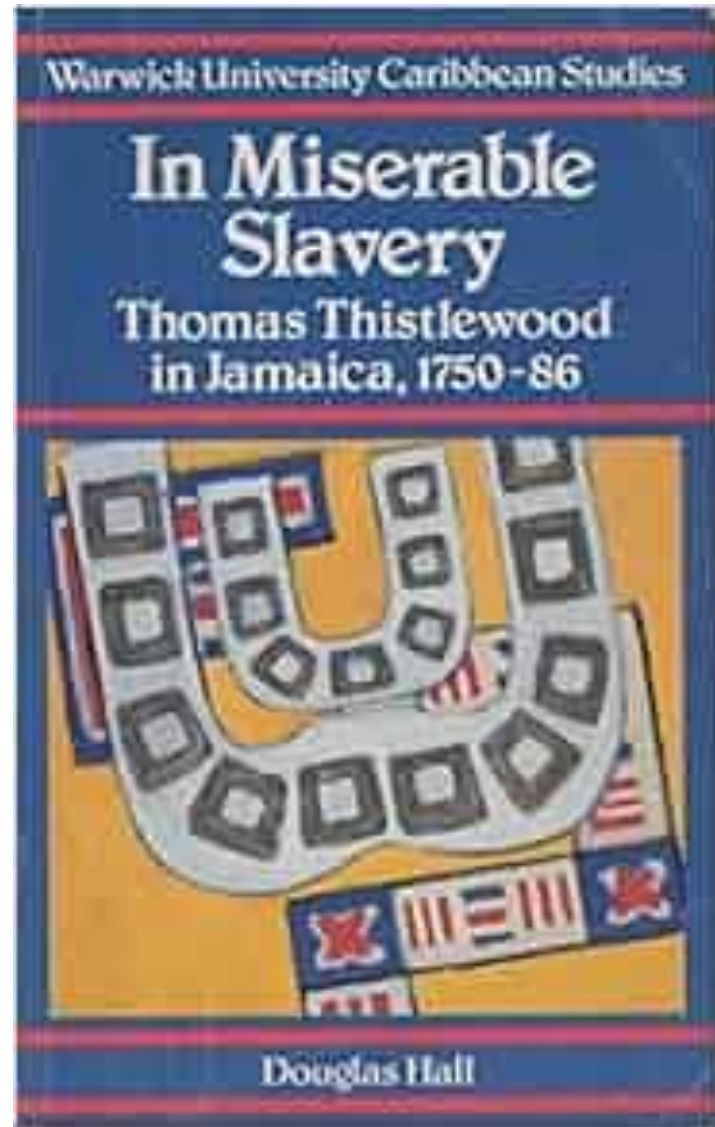
Written by Himself

Introduction by DOBERT REID-PRABH
Edited and with Notes by SHILLY BUELSLEY

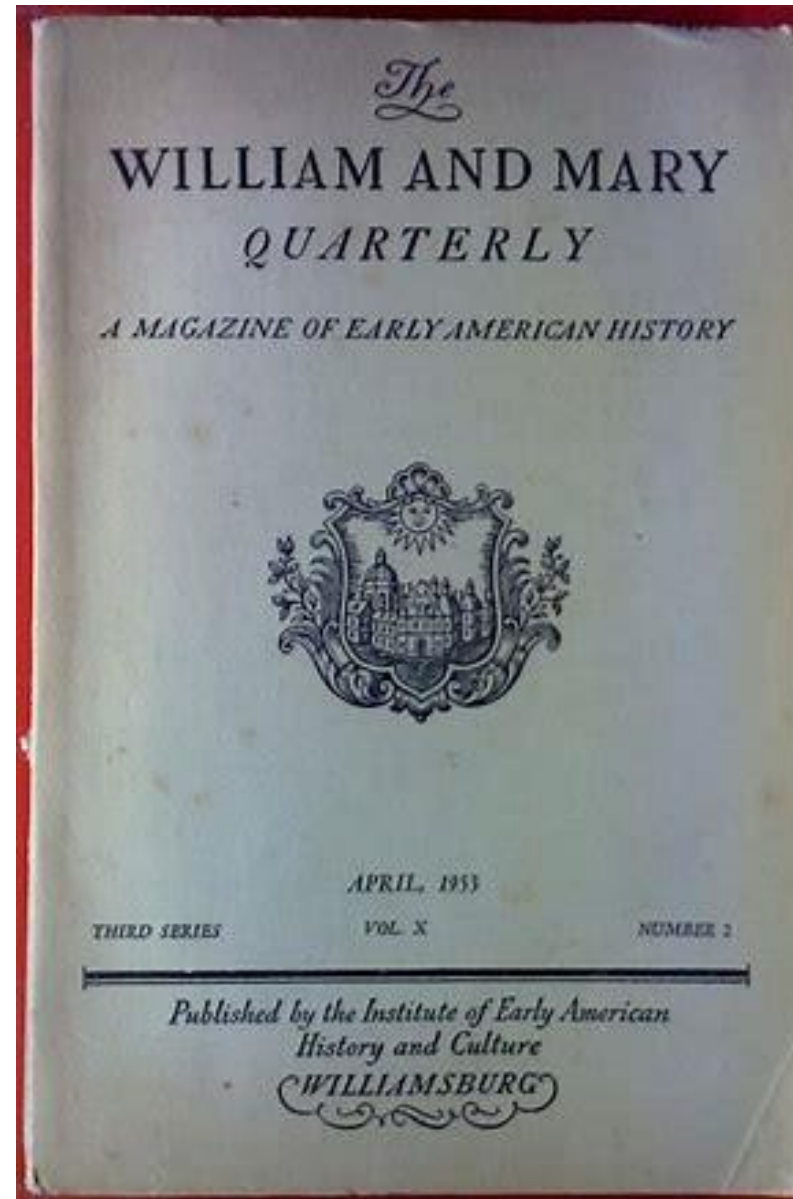
Fenton's book explores Frederick Douglass's visit to Ireland in 1845, during a two-year lecture tour of Britain and Ireland to advocate for freedom from slavery. Douglass, an escaped slave and renowned abolitionist, formed a surprising friendship with the Irish liberator Daniel O'Connell. During his four-month stay in Ireland, Douglass passionately condemned slavery in public lectures, shared the stage with O'Connell, and embraced the temperance movement. The book provides a unique perspective on Douglass's formative years and offers a vivid portrayal of a country on the brink of famine.



Thomas Thistlewood, an Englishman who arrived in Jamaica in 1750, lived as an estate overseer and small landowner in western Jamaica until his death in 1786. He meticulously documented his daily activities and life observations, resulting in a collection of about 10,000 pages of diaries deposited in the Lincolnshire Archives. These diaries offer a valuable insight into plantation life, encompassing the people, social aspects, agricultural practices, medicinal remedies, and relationships between slaves and owners. Professor Hall has used this wealth of information to provide a comprehensive account of Jamaica's sugar plantation era, offering a fresh perspective on the social history of mid-eighteenth century Jamaica, including the Tacky Rebellion and the complex relations between planters and the Maroons. The reprint of these diaries includes a revised index for the convenience of historians and students of history.



Transoceanic Mortality: The Slave Trade in Comparative Perspective by Herbert S. Klein, Stanley L. Engerman, Robin Haines, and Ralph Shlomowitz*
Published in the William & Mary Quarterly, LVIII, no. 1 (January 2001), pp. 93-118. The study may delve into the historical context, examining the conditions on slave ships, the impact of the slave trade on different populations, and the variations in mortality rates among enslaved individuals. The authors might employ a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on historical, demographic, and economic perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding of transoceanic mortality during the era of the slave trade.



PhD - Abolitionism in Belfast - An Understudied Aspect of History - Krysta Beggs-McCormick

- This thesis explores the development of abolitionism in Belfast from the late 18th to the late 19th century.
- Examines the transformation of Belfast from a small Presbyterian town to a leading industrial city in Ireland.
- Highlights the multiple sources of Belfast abolitionism, with a focus on the concept of the 'Irish slave'.
- Considers the impact of local, national, transnational, and international events on Belfast's abolitionist movement.
- First longitudinal study to analyse Belfast abolitionism in various contexts, shedding new light on local, national, and international history.
- Discusses the formation of the Irish slave mentalité and its influence on the appeal of abolitionism in Belfast.
- Investigates the impact of local changes, such as the development of 'Britishness', on abolitionist attitudes.
- Identifies strong continuity in ideas of liberty and natural rights, contributing to the endurance of abolitionism in Belfast.
- Positions Belfast as a significant centre of abolitionism on both national and transatlantic stages.

"Methinks I see grim Slavery's Gorgon form":
Abolitionism in Belfast, 1775-1865

By
Krysta Beggs-McCormick
(BA Hons, MRes)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
of Ulster University

A Thesis submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

October 2018

I confirm that the word count of this thesis is less than 100,000 words.

Questions?