

Brief Synopsis of economic impact of slavery in USA 1619 – 1863-> 244 years. [Followed by Slavery Time line.VM]

The First shipment of 94 involuntary migrants from Africa arrived in Jamestown, VA in 1619 94 healthy men, women and children were bought and sold like chattel. By 1860's there were 4 million contributing to the wealth and power of the USA e.g. 4 million bales of cotton were produced annually.

About the time the Constitution was adopted in the final state Rhode Island in 1790 about 4,000 bales of cotton were produced and 700,000 involuntary migrants from Africa were being bought and sold like one of the bales of cotton. VM

Slavery Timeline 1901-2003

A Chronology of Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation

WARNING! Page under Construction!

Some useful information may be available, but there are large gaps

This page will, over time, develop into a detailed timeline of the main historical, literary, and cultural events connected with British slavery, abolition, and emancipation between 1901 and the present day. It also includes references to the most significant events taking place outside of the British zone of influence. At the start of the twentieth century Britain, despite being the world's largest empire, was officially opposed to slavery wherever it could be found. In reality, other forms of coerced labour had emerged around the world. In many areas slavery remained - and remains to this day - a serious problem. Click on a date in the list below, or scroll down the page, for information. Links are given to pages on this website only. For my sources and for further reading, look at the page [Further Reading: Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation](#).

1601

1601

- **1601:** The Jesuits build their first sugar mill in Brazil.

1604

- **1604:** Shakespeare's play *Othello: the Moor of Venice* first performed. The play features the figure of Othello, an African general, now working for Venice, who has previously suffered enslavement.

1607

- **14 May 1607:** Jamestown, the first permanent British colony in North America, is founded in modern Virginia.

1611

- **November 1611:** Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* first performed. The play includes the figures of Caliban and Ariel, both enslaved.

1612

- **1612:** The first permanent, although non-official, British colony is founded in Bermuda.

1613

- **1613:** Lorenzo Pignoria publishes *De Servis et Eorum apud Veteres Ministeriis*, a history of slavery in classical Rome.

1614

- **23 November 1614:** Bermuda colony becomes a Crown possession.

1617

- **1617:** first records of slaves in Bermuda.
- **1619- Jamestown, VA- 94 able bodied men, women and children were enslaved, bought and sold as common chattel and became members of a “ Peculiar Institution’ that could never be openly talked about.** [I am very glad Harvard Law School is the nidus of the liberating forces and the Crest with the three sheaves of Wheat is being retired. VM

1621

- **3 June 1621:** Dutch West India Company chartered and granted a monopoly to trade in the Caribbean. (Dutch slave traders had been operating with varying degrees of success since about 1600.)

1624

- **28 January 1624:** Thomas Warner founds the first British Colony in St Christopher, now normally known as St Kitts.

1625

1625

- **1625:** Foundation of the Danish West India Company.
- **14 May 1625:** Captain John Powell lands on Barbados and claims the island for **King James I.**

1627

- **1627:** a Spanish-Peruvian Jesuit, Alonso de Sandoval, publishes *Naturaleza, Policia, ... Costumbres i Ritos, Disciplina, i Catechismo Evangelico de todos Etiopes* (*The Nature, Policy, ... Customs and Rituals, Disciplines, and Gospel Catechism of all Ethiopians*), which argues that slavery combines all the world's evils.
- **17 February 1627:** Henry Powell, John Powell's brother, along with 80 British settlers and 10 African slaves, found a colony on Barbados at Jamestown (modern Holetown).

1632

- **1632:** Montserrat, originally claimed by Christopher Columbus for Spain in 1493, falls under English control (although there may have been earlier small English settlements).
- **1636. Harvard University founded in Cambridge, MA. VM**

1635

- **1635:** Foundation of the French Compagnie des Îles de l'Amérique (Company of the Isles of America). The organisation is not a financial success and is restructured in 1642.

1644

- **25 February 1644:** A group of 11 enslaved people in New Amsterdam (modern-day New York) successfully petition the government there in what is the first group manumission in a North American colony.

1647

- **1647:** Foundation of the Swedish African Company.

1650

1651

- **1651:** First written mention of slaves being imported into Montserrat.

1655

- **May 1655:** British forces under the control of Admiral Sir William Penn take control of Jamaica.

1657

- **1657:** Richard Ligon publishes *A True and Exact Historie of the Island of Barbadoes* in London. The book contained one of the first detailed descriptions of a British slave plantation, and gave rise to the story of Inkle and Yarico.
- **1657:** George Fox, the Quaker leader, writes a letter 'To Friends beyond seas that have Blacks and Indian Slaves'. This is the first letter written by a Quaker expressing some doubts about slavery in the New World.

1660

- **1660:** The newly restored King Charles II of England charts the 'Royal Adventurers into Africa', the first English state-sponsored slave trading company.

1664

- **1664:** The financially troubled French Company of the Isles of America is replaced by the Compagnie des Indes Occidentales (West India Company). This survives for less than ten years.

1671

- **1671:** A group of Quakers, including George Fox and William Edmundson, visit Barbados and appear to have come into conflict with the Barbadian plantocracy for suggesting that slave-owners should treat their slaves with humanity and attempt to convert them to Christianity.

1672

- **1672:** The financially troubled Royal Adventurers into Africa, founded in 1660, is restructured and given a new charter as The Royal African Company. The company remains England's major slave-trading organisation into the 1730s.

1673

- **1673:** The Puritan Richard Baxter publishes antislavery material in *A Christian directory, or, a summ of practical theologie, and cases of conscience* (London, 1673).
- **1673:** The financially troubled French West India Company is replaced by the Compagnie du Sénégal (Senegal Company). Under various name changes, this remains the main French slave trading company into the 1720s.

1675

1676

- **1676:** the Quaker George Fox publishes *Gospel Family-Order, being a short discourse concerning the Ordering of Families, both of Whites, Blacks and Indians*, which urged Quakers in America to treat their slaves humanely. The book, although published in London, appears to have been based on a sermon he delivered in Barbados in 1671.
- **1676:** the Quaker Alice Curwen visits Barbados and, in a letter to the slave-holding Barbadian Friend Martha Tavernor, becomes the first Quaker to unambiguously denounce slavery.

1680

- **1680:** the Anglican Morgan Godwin publishes *The Negro's and Indians advocate, suing for their admission into the Church* (London, 1680).

1681

- **4 March 1681:** Pennsylvania Colony, later to become a centre of antislavery thought, was founded by a grant to William Penn by King Charles II.

1682

- **26 January 1682:** Birth of Benjamin Lay in Colchester. Lay would later move to Pennsylvania and become an important antislavery campaigner in the 1730s.

1684

- **1684:** In London, Thomas Tryon publishes two tracts on slavery: 'The Negro's Complaint of Their Hard Servitude, and the Cruelties Practised upon Them' and 'A Discourse in Way of Dialogue, between an Ethiopian or Negro-Slave and a Christian, That Was His Master in America'. These

appeared as parts II and III of *Friendly Advice to the Gentlemen-Planters of the East and West Indies* (London, 1684).

1688

- **18 February 1688:** *The Germantown Protest*, sometimes also referred to as *The German Mennonite Resolution against Slavery*, the first formal protest against slavery to be made in the British American colonies, is delivered in Germantown, Pennsylvania.
- **1688:** Aphra Behn publishes *Oroonoko, or, the Royal Slave*, the first novel to discuss the rights and wrongs of slavery.

1689

- **1689:** John Locke publishes *Two Treatises of Government* (London, 1689) which arguably offers a justification for slavery - although few scholars now believe that Locke's arguments were intended to be applied to the Atlantic slave trade.

1691

- **1691:** Cotton Mather's biography of John Eliot includes antislavery sentiment: *The life and death of the renown'd Mr. John Eliot, who was the first preacher of the Gospel to the Indians in America* (Boston?, 1691)

1693

- **1693:** The anonymous *An exhortation and caution to Friends concerning buying or keeping of Negroes* (New York, 1693) becomes the first printed pamphlet explicitly denouncing slavery and the slave trade. Arising from political controversies in early Pennsylvania, it is directed towards Quakers in Philadelphia.

1696

- **1696:** Thomas Southerne in London publishes his dramatic version of Behn's *Oroonoko, or, the Royal Slave*.
- **23 October 1696:** Philadelphia Quakers rule that Friends 'be Careful not to Encourage the bringing in of any more Negroes, & that such that have Negroes be Careful of them, bring them to Meetings, or have Meetings with them in their Families, & Restrain them from Loose, & Lewd Living.' This is probably the first institutional attempt to limit slave trading in America.

1698

- **July 1698:** Five ships of the Company of Scotland for Trading to Africa set sail from Leith to found a colony in Darien (modern Panama). The venture was a disaster, with the death of most of the colonists.

1701

1725

1729

- According to [Joseph Jekyll](#), his biographer, [Ignatius Sancho](#) is born aboard a ship in mid-Atlantic.

1750

1755

- By his own account, [Olaudah Equiano](#) is born in present-day Nigeria.

1775

1780

- **14 December 1780:** [Ignatius Sancho](#) dies at his home and shop in Charles Street, Westminster

1782

- **August 1782.** Publication of *The Letters of the Late [Ignatius Sancho](#), an African*

1789

- **24 March 1789:** Publication of *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of [Olaudah Equiano](#), or Gustavus Vassa, The African.*
- **12 May 1789:** [William Wilberforce](#) delivers first major abolition speech before the House of Commons.

1797

- **31 March 1797:** [Olaudah Equiano](#) dies at his home in Cambridgeshire.

1801

1807

- **23 February 1807:** British Parliament votes to abolish the trade in slaves.
- **1817- Harvard Law School Founded- Oldest Continually operating Law School in the USA.**
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1825

1850

1862

- **22 September 1862:** Emancipation Proclamation issued by US President Abraham Lincoln.

1863

- **1 January 1863:** US Emancipation Proclamation comes into force.

1865

- **31 January 1865:** Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed. The amendment stated that: 'Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, nor any place subject to their jurisdiction.'
- **6 December 1865:** Ratification of thirteenth amendment completed.

1901

1925

1948

- **10 December 1948:** General Assembly of the United Nations adopts Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 4 states: 'No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.'

1950

1975

2000

2016- Retire the Crest of Harvard Law School with three sheaves of Wheat. Hon. Rep. John Lewis to install a Plaque in Wadsworth place a home of Harvard Presidents to honor and memorialize the service of four slaves who worked there

2017 Radcliffe Institute - Planned major conference on Universities and Slavery