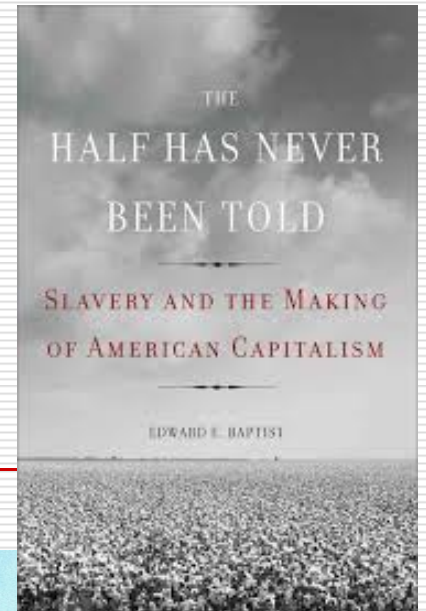


# The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the American Economy



**INTRODUCTION:**  
How the 'peculiar institution' formed us as a people, how some servants became slaves, and how the 'White' and 'Black' races were invented to hold down both.



What is going on here? Depiction of work in early Jamestown, Virginia, about 1630

# The Need for Labor and the Arrival of 'Bondservants'

---

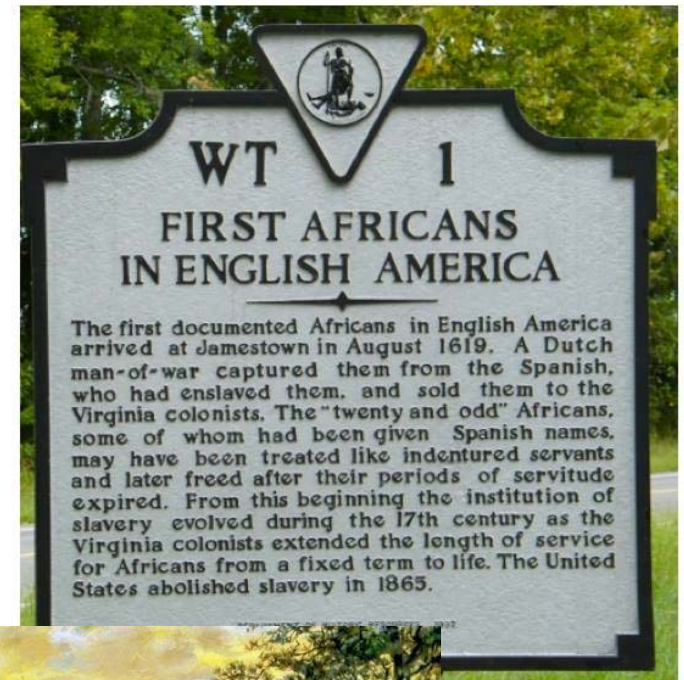
In 1619, a Dutch ship arrived and sold 20 captive Africans to the Jamestown Company in Virginia

'Unfree' labor was initially viewed in terms of English law for bondservants.

Bondage terms were 5, 7 and 12 years—but most died before even five years were up

---

Africans arriving for sale



English poor were captured and sent to the New World for their labor



# Harsh Conditions: The Starving Time

- ❑ Nearly 75% of the settlers starved to death in the Winter of 1610.
- ❑ 'Gentlemen' had refused to work, until Capt. John Smith forced a 6-hour day from them at the point of a gun.
- ❑ Jamestown in these days wasn't much more than a fortified campground with a dock



Girl, age 14,  
who died of  
starvation.  
Reconstructed  
from her skull



# Tobacco to the Rescue

- It was in 1612 that John Rolfe began growing tobacco. But Rolfe shunned the harsh product grown by the local Indians. It would never sell in London. Somehow he obtained seeds from strain then being grown in Trinidad.
- By 1619 Jamestown had exported 10 tons of tobacco to Europe and was a boomtown. The export business was going so well the colonists were able to afford two imports which would greatly contribute to their productivity and quality of life: 20 Blacks from Africa and 90 women from England. The Africans were paid for in food; each woman cost 120 pounds of tobacco.
- By 1639 Jamestown had exported 750 tons of tobacco. Tobacco was the American colonies' chief export. Tobacco had brought the settlement from wretched failure to giddy success. Tobacco had created the need for labor at any price (even institutionalized slavery), and--since it wore out the soil every 4-7 years--the mad rush for land all through the waterways of the Chesapeake



Dried or 'cured' tobacco was packed in casks for rolling onto ships

# Forced Labor: At first for a term, then for some, forever

---

- ❑ John Punch: The 'first slave' in the colonies because of his darker skin
- ❑ In 1640 Virginia three bondservants tried to run away—John Punch, James Gregory and a man named Victor
- ❑ A judge sentenced all three to whippings. He then added four years to the indenture terms of James and Victor, both Europeans. John, an African man, alone was condemned to lifelong servitude



In July 2012, Ancestry.com published a paper suggesting that John Punch was an eleventh-generation grandfather of President Barack Obama on his mother's side



# Bacon's Rebellion, Class Unity and the 'Color Line'

- ❑ In 1676, a mass rebellion took place in Virginia. It started demanding arms for fighting Indians, but also became a revolt of bondservants, African and English, against the upper class.
- ❑ The rebellion was defeated, but to insure against it, the colonial rulers from 1680 to 1710 passed a series of laws to divide African from English, first the right of African servants to bear arms followed by intermarriage.
- ❑ In 1710, the child of an African mother was to be bonded 'in perpetuity,' thus completing the color line enslaving the 'black race' and codifying in law the invention of the 'white race.'
- ❑ Even though defeated, by 1760 Virginia had 18 servant rebellions and six slave revolts

Nathaniel Bacon was related to the governor by marriage, but died of dysentery before complete defeat. Other leaders were hanged



# Tobacco and slave labor spur the growth of other industries

---

- ❑ Getting tobacco to market required both ships and barrels
- ❑ Getting slaves from Africa and servants from Europe required ships as well.
- ❑ Shipbuilding and lumber became industries all along the East Coast



# **Slavery's Impact in Europe with Glasgow as example: The main port of Virginia's tobacco trade turns slave labor into modern industry**

---



**Tobacco ships from the slave plantations grow Glasgow into a modern port, while the profits launch the industrial revolution across England**

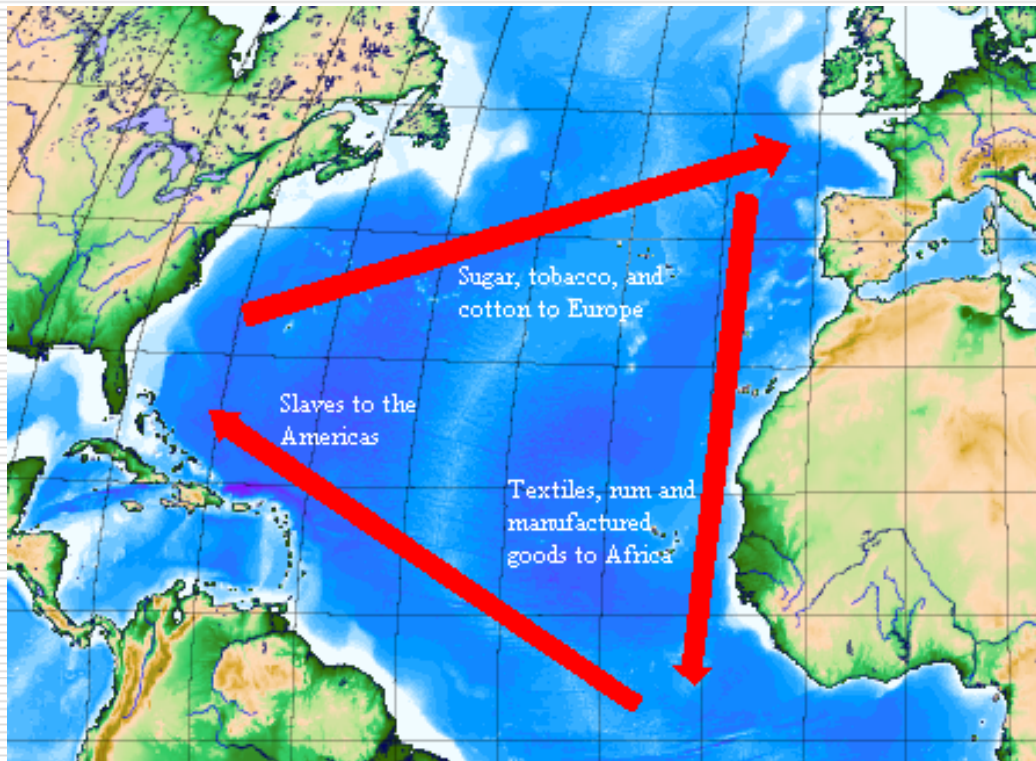
---

# Slavery Grows Far Beyond Tobacco

- ❑ Rice, Sugar Cane, Rum and Cotton soon became major exports
- ❑ Virginia continued to concentrate on tobacco, while the Carolinas also grew rice and sugar cane.
- ❑ Sugar turned into rum also made a valuable commodity
- ❑ Between tobacco, coffee and rum, the 'drug trade' played a major part in the early economy

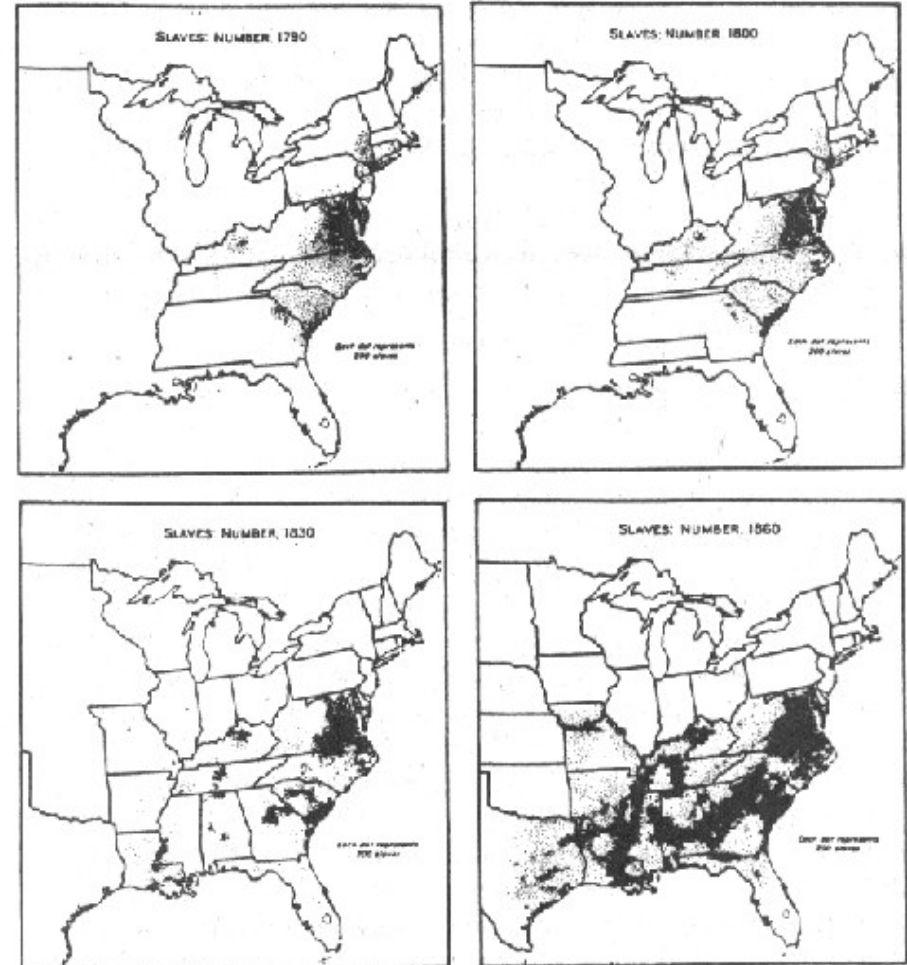


# Trade and Slavery as Engines of Economic Growth



Triangular Trade: Over 300 years, some **12 million Africans** were shipped on the 'Middle Passage', about **650,000** of them to English North America. Profits were the **basis of the industrial revolution** and expanded capitalism in England.

GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION OF THE SLAVE POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES: 1790-1860.



Source: E. Franklin Frazier, *The Negro in the United States*, pp. 31, 33, 35, 37.

# Now We Can Begin:

## Chapter One, 'The Half Has Never Been Told'

---

- ❑ 'Have you been happier in slavery or free?' a young Works Project Administration interviewer in 1937 asked Lorenzo Ivy, a former slave, in Danville, Va.
- ❑ Ivy responded with a memory of seeing chained African-Americans marching farther South to be sold.
- ❑ 'Truly, son, the half has never been told,' he said.



A woman who was born in slavery, photographed in Greensboro, Ala., in 1941. Credit Jack Delano/Library of Congress

---

# Heart and Feet

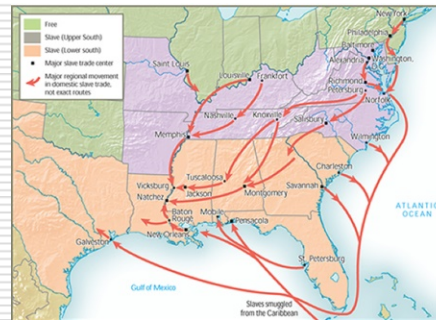
---

- ❑ Baptist invites us to look at a big picture: Slavery is not a disconnected minor part, long over.
- ❑ Instead it is 'the heart' of the matter, and there is no part of it that we can ignore, or think that can't affect us anymore.



# Moving the Enslaved Workers to the Workplace

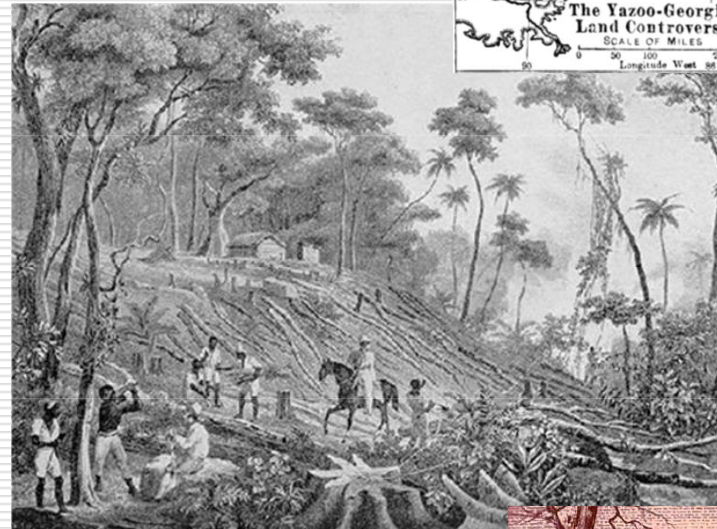
- Between 1783 and 1810, the trade and movement of slaves is shifting from slaves brought from Africa to the selling and transport of 'surplus' slaves raised on breeder farms in Virginia and the Carolinas.
- They were transported South and West largely on foot, in slave 'coffels,' groups of slaves anywhere from a few dozen to a few hundred, with the men bound together in heavy chains, with women bound in ropes walking behind.
- A few 'white' slave drivers rode on horses, making frequent use of the lash and swallows of whiskey to keep the line moving and less aware of pain.



Above: Slaves moved 1000s of miles by foot, chained in a 'coffle'. Below: 'Coffle' is a word from the enslaved, borrowed from the Arabic for 'caravan'

# Clearing and Planting New Land

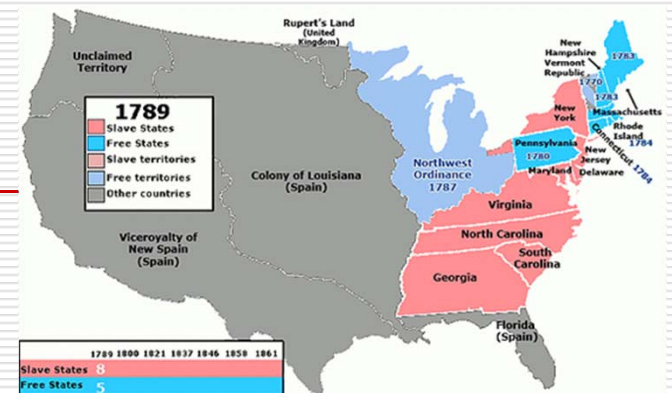
- ❑ In this period, the upper classes were making money from slavery, even if they never owned a single slave.
- ❑ Myriad land speculation schemes prevailed, with the prices rising as the land was made profitable by and for slave labor, and the commercial paper for these sales became bonds, traded and sold in New York and New England.
- ❑ Immense profits going into the family coffers of many of the Founding Fathers and their friends. The slave economy and the commercial economy were linked like breathing in and breathing out.



Top: Yazoo Land Scandal.  
Center: Slaves clear land. Below: Burning Yazoo claims



# Not All Whites Favored Slavery



- As the 'coffels' came into Western PA near what is now Pittsburgh, a 'white' group called 'The Negro Club' would lure flatboats laden with slaves to the shore with a promise of rum. They would then attack the overseers and free the Blacks to take off into the woods.
- The other tells about Abraham Lincoln, the president's grandfather, killed by a Native American, who was in turn shot by the president's uncle. The son Thomas tried to keep the farm going in Kentucky, but kept being cheated by enslavers and their land agents. He then took his wife and young son, Abraham, away from Kentucky and north of the Ohio. The two incidents surely had a conflicted impact on the thinking of young Abe

