

Review: American Slavery and the Fates of Native Peoples

- By 1750 the population of African people on the Atlantic Coast of North America is greater than the Native American population east of the Mississippi.
- In a generation there will be more African peoples on the Atlantic Coast than there are Native Americans in all of the territories that will become the continental United States (Eastern, Mid-Western, Southern, Great Plains, and Western Indians combined).
- These enslaved people are concentrated in the agricultural and manufacturing regions that are driving the economic expansion and population growth in the Thirteen Colonies.
- Historians have documented **33,387** slaving voyages, between 1514 and 1866, of the type described in class. These ships transported **12,521,336** men (64.6%), women (35.4%), and children (20.9%) into the Americas. The Caribbean and Brazil were the primary destinations for slave ships but thousands of ships embarked from the British North American mainland. The average death rate on a ship (for the enslaved) was 11.9%.
- After 1800 there are more Africans in the American slave colonies and nations than indigenous peoples in all of the Americas. The Native population of the Americas has dropped from **53,904,000** in 1492 to **8,470,000** in 1820.

Markets and Modernity



Slavery and the Rise of the Atlantic World

Savages and Slaves

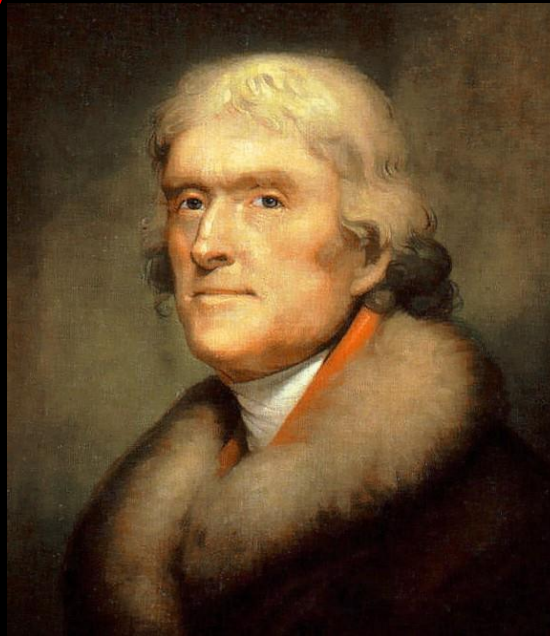
. . . the number of purely white People in the World is proportionably very small. . . . why Should we in the Sight of Superior Beings, Darken its People? why increase the sons of Africa, by Planting them in America, where we have so fair an Opportunity, by excluding all Blacks and Tawneys, of increasing the lovely White and Red? But perhaps I am partial to the Complexion of my Country, for such kind of Partiality is natural to Mankind.

--Benjamin Franklin, 1751



The Racial Destiny of Colonial America

Enlightened Racism



The first difference which strikes us is that of colour. . . . And is the difference of no importance? Is it not the foundation of a greater or less share of the beauty in the two races? Are not the fine mixtures of **red** and **white**, the expressions of every passion by greater or less suffusions of colour in the one, preferable to that eternal monotony, of **black** which covers all the emotions of the other race? Add to these, flowing hair, a more elegant symmetry of form, their own judgment in favour of the **whites**, declared by their preference of them, as uniformly as is the preference of the Oranootan (orangutan) for the **black** women over those of his own species. The circumstance of superior beauty, is thought worthy attention in the propagation of our horses, dogs, and other domestic animals; why not in that of man?

. . . They secrete less by the kidnies, and more by the glands of the skin, which gives them a strong and disagreeable odour. . . . They seem to require less sleep. . . . They are at least as brave, and more adventuresome. But this may perhaps proceed from a want of fore-thought, which prevents their seeing a danger till it be present.

--Thomas Jefferson

Notes on the State of Virginia, 1781-82



There has been in town a conspiracy of the negroes. At present it is kept pretty private, and was discovered by one who endeavoured to dissuade them from it. He being threatened with his life, applied to Justice Quincy for protection. . . . I wish most sincerely there was not a slave in the province; it always appeared a most iniquitous scheme to me to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have.

--Abigail Adams,
Boston Garrison
22 September 1774

The Dirty Business of the Empire



The Triangular Trade and the European Perception of America

Race and Liberty

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of the new appropriations of lands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

[He has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow citizens, with the allurements of forfeiture and confiscation of our property.

He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur a miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of INFIDEL powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people for whom he also obtruded them: the paying off former crimes committed against the LIBERTIES of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the LIVES of another.]

--The Declaration of Independence, 1776

Race and Revolution

His Royal Highness George III, King of Great Britain, the World's Largest Empire



This is supposing the present race of kings in the world to have had an honorable origin; whereas it is more than probable, that could we take off the dark covering of antiquity, and trace them to their first rise, that we should find the first of them nothing better than the principal ruffian of some restless gang, whose savage manners or pre-eminence in subtility obtained him the title of chief among plunderers; and who by increasing in power, and extending his depredations, over-awed the quiet and defenseless to purchase their safety by frequent contributions.

--Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

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21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution
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