International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science

E-ISSN: 2469-6501
VOL: 11, ISSUE: 3
March/2025
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.33642/ijbass.v11n3p3

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The Business of Slavery: The Law, Culture, and International Business World Behind Triangle Trade: and The Case of Anthony Johnson

Larry Moore, JD
Professor of Business Law and Legal Environment
Crews School of Accountancy
University of Memphis, Licensed in Tennessee
BA - Vanderbilt University
MA - University of Memphis, JD- Washington University
Email: lmoore2@memphis.edu; Phone: 901-336-9252

ABSTRACT

The conflict over race has become ever more bitter in the United States despite numerous civil rights laws, court decisions, and social changes over the years. Some current Black leaders condemn the United States today for many conditions in the Black community, making the argument that chattel slavery began in the United States from the moment the first black was brought to these shores in 1619 and is still the root cause of current social and economic problems.

Using legal environmental analytical methods, this paper looks at the nature of colonial law, international law and the trade practices and customs of that 17th century period and how and because of that, it was in 1655 that chattel slavery first appeared in the English Colonies. Second, this paper finds that the cause of chattel slavery was equally divided between European monarchs, African Warlords, and the Americas in a process that was call "Triangle Trade" and except for the African tribes living near powerful warlords, there were no innocent parties.

Finally this paper exams the case of Anthony Johnson v. Robert Parker, which legalized chattel slavery in the Colonies, and is a case which has received remarkably little attention or even mention in the discussion of slave laws or race relations in the United States.

Keywords: Race Relations, Slavery, African-American Business, Triangle Trade, African Slave Markets.

1. Introduction

Today many in the United States accept as fact that 1619 was the year in which America sank into the depths of racism and permanent or chattel slavery. But that account is disingenuously misleading with regards to chattel slavery in the U.S as derived from its colonial past. While it is true that this was the year in which the first African captives were brought to the Americas and entered into the Indentured Servant system already in existence at that time, and until then populated exclusively by white Europeans, [1] chattel slavery as we moderns understand it, did not exist in the British Colonies at that time. [2] The Spanish used some slaves,[3] but it was the Portuguese that flooded the Americas with slaves.[4] But in the English colonies, these Africans entered as part of the existing indenture system, and every one of the 20 African servants bought that year were freed and given their 40 or 50 acres and a mule 7 to 8 years later.[5]

The true date that chattel or permanent slavery began in the Americas was March 8, 1655, in a case handed down by the Northampton County Court of Virginia.[6] And the facts of that case are still shocking and surprising even to this date. This was the case of AAnthony Johnson v. Robert Parker@ involving the runaway indentured servant John Castor and was the beginning of the true kind of slavery for which whites and America are criticized to this day.[7] This case was infinitely more damaging to individual black freedom than ADred Scott@[8] and APlessey v. Ferguson@[9] combined, yet is almost never, mentioned, discussed,

[1] AThe Thirty Year's War had left Europe's economy depressed, and many skilled and unskilled laborers were without work. A new life in the New World offered a glimmer of hope; this explains how one-half to two-thirds of the immigrants who came to the American colonies arrived as indentured servants.@
https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/indentured-servants-in-the-us/

[2] Id.

[3] The Spanish did use some chattel slaves, but the Spanish government strictly regulated them, and placed a high tax on their use. The Spanish were more interested in looting the wealth that had already been processed by the indigent tribes.
Will Durant, THE AGE OF REASON BEGINS, [1961] *p* 31.

[4] It was the Portuguese that used chattels in massive qualities in mining, and sugar productions, and like the galley slaves of the Romans, this was a death sentence and required a constant supply of slaves leading to what was called the great triangle. Black slavers sold their fellow Africans to the Portuguese who shipped them to the new world. The new world produced gold, silver, sugar, and sorghum which was shipped to Europe. Europe, primarily Portugal then shipped firearms, utensils, and other goods to the African slave merchants.
Portugal=s integral relationship with the Powerful warlords of Africa is still reflected today in the language. Ranking nations that speak Portuguese today, Brazil is number 1, but surprisingly, Portugal is not number two or even number three. Number two is Angola in Africa. Number three is Mozambique in Africa, while Portugal is only number 4 while 5 is another African nation, Guinea-Bissau.
https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/portuguese-speaking-countries.html
Also, se, infra note 15, Triangle Trade.

[5] FIRST AFRICANS IN THE JAMESTOWN COLONY (1619)
https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/first-africans-in-the-jamestown-colony-1619/

[6] Virginia Colonial Court Declares Black Man Enslaved for Life
https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/mar/8

[7] Id.

[8] Dred Scott v. Sandford, [a] 60 U.S. (19 How.) 393 (1857)

[9] Plessey v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 (1896)

International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science

E-ISSN: 2469-6501
VOL: 11, ISSUE: 3
March/2025
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.33642/ijbass.v11n3p3

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

or cited in legal studies or case analysis regarding the issue of slavery in the U.S.

2. The Legal, Social and Political Background of the Case

It begins when Anthony Johnson, an African was captured by a rival tribe in 1521 in what is now Angola, located on what was known as the Gold Coast.[10] He was then sold into the slave trade.[11] Islamic merchants had created the trade several centuries earlier capitalizing on the thousands of years of African intertribal warfare with its accompanying slave dealings.[12] The trade was developed first to supply slaves to what was to become the Ottoman empire, and later as a profitable product for sale to South America and the Caribbeans and soon was conducted primarily through the Portuguese[13] who had developed a business relationship with powerful west coast African tribes who soon developed the west coast slave trade as a major industry as they captured members of other weaker tribes and sold them to the Portuguese traders.[14] Thus making these tribes an equal partner in the hideous and notorious practice now known as Triangular Trade.[15] The Gold Coast was in reality the Black Gold Coast as Portugal was buying slaves at a massive rate for their American Empire [16] and creating a wealthy black trading empire in West Africa.[17]

Most of the estimated 11.4 - 15 million Blacks sent to the Americas by their African cousins went into South America with only a few, 400,000 going into North America. The selling of Africans was primarily a black on black business affair, as whites would not be able to enter central black Africa for another 300 years as Europeans had no immunity to its tropical diseases, usually malaria and yellow fever.[18] In fact the interior of the West African coast became known as the Awhite man=s grave.@[19]

One of the greatest misconceptions in current American folklore is that whites went to the shores of Africa, disembarked from their ships and then went in search of potential slaves.[20] An image burnt into the American conscious by that scene in the television miniseries ARoots@[21] where evil white sailors sneak up on Kunte Kinte and throw a net over him. The camera then dwells on the captive as he fights helplessly against the fibers of the net. This scene created the impression that this was how all Black slaves were captured in Africa, that is by whites and is the national image that colors all discussion of race in America even to this date. That whites went to the continent and captured helpless natives. As a Black person myself, even the

[10] ANTHONY JOHNSON
https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/johnson-anthony-1670/
The First Africans
https://historicjamestowne.org/history/the-first-africans/

[11] AIn the Caribbean, Dutch Guiana, and Brazil, the enslaved death rate was so high and the birth rate so low that they could not sustain their population without importations from Africa. Rates of natural decrease ran as high as 5 percent a year. While the death rate of the US enslaved population was about the same as that of Jamaican enslaved persons, the birth rate was more than 80 percent higher in the United States.@
AIn the United States enslaved persons were more generations removed from Africa than those in the Caribbean. In the nineteenth century, the majority of enslaved in the British Caribbean and Brazil were born in Africa. In contrast, by 1850, most US enslaved persons were third-, fourth-, or fifth-generation Americans.@
APlantations in the United States were dwarfed by those in the West Indies. In the Caribbean, many plantations held 150 enslaved persons or more. In the American South, only one slaveholder held as many as a thousand enslaved persons, and just 125 had over 250 enslaved persons.@
Steven Mintz, *Historical Context: Facts about the Slave Trade and Slavery*
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/teacher-resources/historical-context-facts-about-slave-trade-and-slaverycurren
Also see The First Africans
https://historicjamestowne.org/history/the-first-africans/

[12] The Role of Islam in Slavery in Africa
Black African captives were transported to the Islamic empire across the Sahara to Morocco and Tunisia from West Africa, from Chad to Libya, along the Nile from East Africa, and up the coast of East Africa to the Persian Gulf. This trade had been well entrenched for over 600 years before Europeans arrived.
https://www.thoughtco.com/the-role-of-islam-in-african-slavery-44532

[13] *Id.*
In 1434, the Portuguese were able to establish their own base in West Africa and thus became able to do business directly with the dominant tribes and thus were able to bypass the Islamic traders. This connection with West Africa was reinforced in 1494 by the Treaty *of Tordesillas* which divided the Atlantic, excluding European nations on the Atlantic coast, between Portugal and Spain [England and France did not make claims until much later]. Spain got most of the Americas excluding Brazil. Portugal got Brazil and the West African coast further aiding their monopoly in dealing with the powerful ruling tribes on that coast who were actively capturing people from rival tribes for sale and thus the beginning of Triangle Trade.
Treaty of Tordesillas
https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/treaty-tordesillas/
https://www.worldhistory.org/Treaty_of_Tordesillas/
Also see infra note 15.

[14] *Also see Supra* Durant note 3.
The Fon People of Benin were such notorious and massive slave traders that the Tofino people, during the 16th century built their village in the middle of Lake Nokoue to escape the Fon tribe, who were hunting and selling other tribesman to the Portuguese. The Fon were not allowed to enter large bodies of water for religious reasons.
Lake Village of Ganvie, Benin
https://thingzafrikan.wordpress.com/2014/12/12/lake-village-of-ganvie-benin/

[15] Triangle Trade - AThe 3 Phases
ABasically, this trade had three phases: Europe to Africa, Africa to North America, and North America to Europe, with each of these phases having peculiar characteristics. Given below are the details of each of these three phases.
The First Phase: The first phase of the trade was the journey from Europe to Africa. In this phase, manufactured goods were loaded onto the ship at the European ports and taken to Africa, where they were exchanged for slaves. The goods in question included cloth, metal goods, spirit, cooking utensils, beads, etc. Of the various finished products, arms and ammunition were important, as they were used by salve traders for their territorial expansion, which, in turn, meant access to more slaves. All these goods were exchanged for slaves in Africa, and these slaves were put on the ships and taken to the American slave market.
The Second Phase: The journey of ships laden with slaves from Africa was the second phase of the Triangular Trade, known as the >middle passage=. A single ship was packed with slaves beyond its capacity, as a result of which they were subjected to terrible conditions on board, with minimal food and water. The conditions were so harsh that approximately 13 percent slaves died in course of the journey. These slaves fetched a decent sum in the American market, so the merchants were not concerned about a few deaths that occurred during the journey. As the ships anchored on the American ports, these slaves were exchanged for raw goods, which were then taken to Europe.
The Third Phase: The third and the final phase of the Triangular Trade was the shipment of raw goods from the American plantations, where they were produced, to the European industries, where they were required to manufacture finished goods. This included cotton, sugar, molasses, tobacco, etc., which were used to produce finished goods. Molasses, for instance, was an important requirement for the European distilleries. As the ships docked at the ports in Europe, raw material was unloaded and finished goods were loaded. Thus started the cycle, all over again.@
The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
https://www.thoughtco.com/the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade-44544
Note, when referring to American ports, over 90% of those ports were South American and the Islands as that was where the massive fortunes were made. North America was small change as their best products were tobacco. Spain was the superpower in those days and took what they considered to be the best of the America properties with Portugal getting the next best. England which at the time was a pretender who got what was left, e.g., Plymouth Rock.
See Supra note 11.

[16] *Id.*

[17] *Id.*

[18] Diseases of Sub-Saharan Africa since 1860
https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-world-history-of-human-disease/diseases-of-subsaharan-africa-since-1860/D3021C5DE2288E4893D1AD068A98E384

[19] *Id.*

[20] ADuring the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, Europeans did not have the power to invade African states or kidnap enslaved Africans. Because of this, between 15 and 20 million enslaved people were transported across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa and purchased from traders of enslaved people throughout Europe and European colonies.@
AThe enormous demand for enslaved Africans led to the formation of a few African states whose economy and politics were centered around raiding for and trading enslaved people.
States and political factions that participated in the trade gained access to firearms and luxury goods that could be used to secure political support. States and communities not actively participating in the trade of enslaved people were increasingly at a disadvantage.@
African Traders of Enslaved People
https://www.thoughtco.com/african-slave-traders-4453

[21] *Roots*
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0075572/

International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science

E-ISSN: 2469-6501
VOL: 11, ISSUE: 3
March/2025
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.33642/ijbass.v11n3p3

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

remembrance of that scene from 50 years ago is painful. Except that this would have been a rare occasion as Africans captured for slavery seldom happened that way.[22] Historically a few British pirates did raid the African cost and captured several hundred Africans, and then sailed to the West Indies and forced the Spanish at gunpoint to buy them.[23]

The normal operation of merchants is almost never done that way. Generally, sailors involved in trade dock their ship, turn the cargo over to the local merchants who carry out the trades while the sailor take advantage of shore leave to paint or destroy the town, and doing a little private trade themselves. [24] They did not go in and produce the product. In China, they did not go into the kilns and make the pottery for which they came to trade. Nor did they go into India=s mulberry forest to process the silk from the silkworms to take back to their ships. The normal trade procedure was to pull up to shore, show what they had to trade and then accept whatever of value that was brought forth by the local people, and in Africa, it was almost always other Black people. [25]

The tv movie did show Kinte captured on the beach so it avoided the white man=s grave problem. But it ducked the question with poetic license as to how a tribal warrior was able to let strange looking men in odd clothes carrying a net slip up behind him on a flat beach with visibility for miles in every direction.[26] In reality it was only after quinine was found to give protection to whites and allowed Dr. Livingston to become the first known white to enter tropical Africa and live.[27] In the southern segregated school system of the 1950's and early 60's in which I was educated, we were all familiar with the phrase, ADr. Livingston, I presume@.[28] Of course we didn=t have the slightest idea as to the significance of what it meant.

3. The Johnson Case

Anthony Johnson was one of those Africans caught and later sold to an indentured servant buyer from Virginia where he went to work on a tobacco plantation, the major American farm product at the time.[29] Cotton, usually associated with American slavery was almost none existent as a viable business crop and did not become a viable commodity for another 200 years as it became one of the first products to see their value explode as a result of the industrial revolution.[30] But at all times, the slave trade was primarily a partnership between African tribal chieftains, the Ottoman traders in east and central Africa, the Portuguese traders of Europe in west Africa, and the products being produced or plundered by raiders in South America and the Islands.

The most important facts to keep in mind is that any teaching that slavery began in the US in 1619 is historically, factually, and legally false. Chattel slavery did not exist in the English Colonies at this time,[31] only indentured servitude which was either a voluntary employment agreement or as a criminal punishment.[32] It was not permanent and was open to individuals of all nations and especially from Europe, but the Colonist did on occasion buy Africans from the Portuguese when they were put in the same Colonial markets as Europeans. [33]

However, unlike the Africans sold into South America, those sold into the English indentured system were equally allowed as were whites to earn their own freedom and estates. The term slavery was almost never used and the Colonial Planters treated the indentures as they treated serfs in England.[34]

[22] As the Atlantic Ocean replaced the Mediterranean as the center of European trade, the true powers were Spain and Portugal. England was at best a minor player whose wealth in this new market came from its navy, operation under pirate flags, which robbed Spanish and Portuguese shipping. The APirates of the Caribbeans@ was more than a movie but was a major irritant to the Spanish which sent numerous protests to Queen Elizabeth I, who played innocent while filling her coffers with the plundered wealth. It should be noted that it was these raids that caused the Spanish to build and launch their great armada against the English in 1588.
The history of the Spanish Armada
https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/spanish-armada-history-causes-timeline

[23] *See Supra* Durant note 3.

[24] *Supra note 20.*
Also see How Sailors Brought the World Home.
How Sailors Brought the World Home - JSTOR Daily

[25] *Id.*

[26] *Supra note 21.*

[27] *Supra note 18.*

[28] In October 1871, by another explorer and journalist, Henry Stanley who upon finding Dr. Livingstone, allegedly uttered those famous words.
Dr Livingstone I presume?
https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Dr-Livingstone/

[29] *Supra,* note 10.

[30] In 1781 Boulton and Watt invented a steam engine that was easy to use within a cotton factory. By the 1790's, the steam engine was used in increasing numbers in cotton factories.
By the late 1700s cotton products would account for around 16% of Britain's exports; a few years later in the early 1800s this would multiply to around 42%. Britain was dominating the world market.
The Cotton Industry and the Industrial Revolution - History Learning Site
Did Cotton Drive the Industrial Revolution?
https://www.thoughtco.com/textiles-during-the-industrial-revolution-1221644
"In many respects, cotton's financial and political influence in the 19th century can be compared to that of the oil industry in the early 21st century."
On the eve of the American Civil War in the mid-1800s cotton was America's leading export, and raw cotton was essential for the economy of Europe. The cotton industry was one of the world's largest industries, and most of the world supply of cotton came from the American South.
Before the American Civil War, cotton produced in the American South had accounted for 77 percent of the 800 million pounds of cotton used in Great Britain.
https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/cotton-and-the-civil-war
Cotton made the American southern states the wealthiest nation in the world and Mississippi the Wealthiest state in the nation.

Per Capita Wealth by State 1860 In Order of Wealth

1	Mississippi	2128
2	South Carolina	2017
3	Louisiana	1677
4	Alabama	1497
5	Virginia (Current borders)	1204
6	Georgia	1153
7	Texas	1075
8	Florida	1050
9	Tennessee	1005
10	North Carolina	832
11	Kentucky	814
12	Arkansa	811

Was the South Poor Before the War? – Abbeville Institute

[31] Though chattel slavery was rampart throughout Portuguese South America and the Islands. *Infra note* 11.

[32] *Id.*
In ACaptain Blood@ Errol Flynn=s first starring role, he is an innocent English doctor arrested during the Monmouth Rebellion and falsely convicted of treason and sentenced to indenture servitude on the Islands. He escapes and becomes one of the Pirates of the Caribbean.
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0026174/

[33] *Supra note* 1.

34https://legalhistorymiscellany.com/2019/08/15/how-to-tell-a-serf-from-a-slave-in-medieval-england/
However, to say this is not to mean that slavery was not that harsh, but that serfdom was not that good.

International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science

E-ISSN: 2469-6501
VOL: 11, ISSUE: 3
March/2025
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.33642/ijbass.v11n3p3



https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

In fact the entire plantation system was modeled on the English manor system.[35] The term used was Aheld to service@ and the individuals were generally called AServants@ if they worked in the manor, or Afield hands" for the outside laborers.[36] Even at the height of chattel slavery, unlike what is generally shown in the movies, the individuals were almost never referred to as a slave but as a AServants@ or Afield hand@.[37] Seven years was the average contract term and occasionally after eight years, the individual was freed of his contract and given 40 or 50 acres and a mule to start their own farm business.[38]

Johnson was among these first Africans brought to Colonial America.[39] He completed his indentured period and according to some historians, married an indentured woman on the same plantation and together they received their lands and eventually accumulated hundreds of acres and numerous indentured servants of their own.[40] One of their African servants in 1655, John Castor, completed his term of indenture, He then requested and was denied his freedom, land and mule by Johnson.[41] Castor then ran away to the plantation of a white planter named Robert Parker.[42] Johnson apparently confronted Parker and demanded that Parker return Castor, thus making Castor history=s first known runaway chattel slave in U.S. history.[43] Parker refused as the law, custom, and Christian traditions of the times held that Castor should have been and was free.[44] Johnson sued Parker for the return of his property but Parker won in the trial court.[45] Johnson appealed.[46]

On appeal Johnson argued and the court agreed that the terms of the contract would be determined by the law of the nation from which the party came.[47] In Europe, this was limited to 7 years, but in Africa [and in the Ottoman states], slavery was forever. Since Castor was from Africa, the Court ruled, based on African custom and tradition, in favor of Johnson holding that as an African, Castor was a slave for life, and ordered the return of Castor to Johnson plus payment of Court cost.[48]

So on the date of March 8, 1655, Johnson, a black man who was captured and sold by his own African people, but who was freed, given land and had become a wealthy plantation owner himself, became the first chattel or permanent slave owner in American history and John Castor, another black man asking of Johnson, the same benefits that Johnson had received from whites plantation owners, became the first colonial permanent lifelong chattel slave. If the purpose of the 1619 project is to teach all about the birth of the evil of chattel slavery in this nation, then the name should be changed to the 1655 project. It should also note that this constituted the most devastating black on black crime in U.S. history as it not only made a black man a permanent slave to another black man, when under the customs of the time he would have been both free and a land owner, it closed the door on black freedom in North America for 200 years until the War between the States and was justified as based upon African law, custom, and tradition. [49] It should also be noted that Parker a white planter fought through two trials for the freedom of Castor.

4. Conclusion

Following this decision, over the next 50 years indentured faded as a business model, and Europeans and other whites were no longer contracted for the most obvious of financial reasons.[50] Contract with people from Europe and the law required the planter to obtain land and put the indentured into business after their contractual term was over, and after which again buy new indentures whom the planter would then later have to finance so as to put them into their own farm business. This would have to be done every seven years or so,

AAnd as the Gollyng case implies, serfs were understood to be a form of property. Richard Fitz Nigel=s Dialogus de Scaccario ... states this point matter of factly: Athe villein is a thing without rights, a mere chattel of his lord.@ ...Lords could also sell their serfs. More often than not, they were sold as part and parcel of an estate; that is, a villein was considered tied to the land. But it was possible (although not common) for a lord to sell one of his serfs individually.@
How to tell a Serf from a Slave in Medieval England

[35]House Slaves: An Overview
https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/house-slaves-overview

[36]https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/house-slaves-overview*Id.*

[37]https://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/house-slaves-overview*Id.*

[38] *Supra note* 5.

[39]ABenin and other West African nations are struggling to resolve their own legacies of complicity in the trade. Benin=s conflict over slavery is particularly intense.
For over 200 years, powerful kings in what is now the country of Benin captured and sold slaves to Portuguese, French and British merchants. The slaves were usually men, women, and children from rival tribes C gagged and jammed into boats bound for Brazil, Haiti, and the United States.@
An African country reckons with its history of selling slaves.
https://ibw21.org/news/benin-slaves-african-countrys-history-selling-slaves/

[40]*Supra note* 10.

[41]*Id*

[42]*Id*

[43]*Id*
There had been others who ran away, but in those cases, they were either breaking their contract, or if there pursuant to a criminal conviction were jail breakers.

[44]*Id*

[45]*Id*
Supra note 6.

[46]*Id*

[47]*Id.*

[48]*Id.*

[49] Another irony is that since the Black liberation movement of the 1960's, there has been an intense focus on African culture and tradition, but the customs and tradition used by Blacks to survive slavery are almost never mentioned. However, many African nations have now publicly and honestly begun to accept their responsibility for the slave trade in the Americas.
AFor the first time since the end of the slave trade, African leaders have offered apologies for the wrongdoings of their ancestors. On Wednesday 28 September 2022, African delegates converged at the Quindaro Township Site in Kansas City, Kansas for a ceremony...
At the ceremony, the African delegates read out letters of apology from their tribal leaders and chiefs for the role of their ancestors in the slave trade of fellow Africans...@
African Delegates Offer Apology For Africa=s Role In The Slave Trade
https://africanvibes.com/african-delegates-offer-apology-for-africas-role-in-the-slave-trade/
AThe president of the West African nation of Benin has a message for African-Americans: His compatriots are sorry for their ancestors= complicity in the slave trade...
An often-overlooked facet of slavery=s ugly historical stain is that Black Africans sold other Black Africans into slavery. When rival tribes made war, the victors took prisoners and made them indentured servants, often selling them to white slave merchants. Tribal animosity seethed.
Benin president Matthieu Kerekou says intertribal hostility over the slave trade still exists. Many of his people have never seen descendants of their forebears who were shipped off to the Americas.@
West Africans to African-Americans: AWe Apologize for Slavery@
https://probe.org/west-africans-to-african-americans-we-apologize-for-slavery/
AApologies for the African slave trade should come from the chiefs who sold their people and not from President Clinton during his tour of the continent, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said Sunday.
Asserting that "Black traitors" were more to blame than European slavers, Museveni rejected the view of some African Americans that Clinton should publicly atone for a traffic that forcibly took millions of Africans to America in the 17th and 18th centuries.@
Don't apologize, African tells Clinton.
https://www.tampabay.com/archive/1998/03/23/don-t-apologize-african-tells-clinton/
African Traders of Enslaved People
https://www.thoughtco.com/african-slave-traders-44538

[50] Supra see note 1.
Indentured Servants
https://www.ushistory.org/us/5b.asp

International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science
E-ISSN: 2469-6501
VOL: 11, ISSUE: 3
March/2025
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.33642/ijbass.v11n3p3
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

forever. While some planters, on Christian grounds continued for a few generations to release and subsidize their servants after 7 years, business was still business, and it became widely known that if you bought an Africa, you would only have to buy once, and then not only would you own the person for life but also owned their children and their children=s children forever, which not only saved a fortune in the cost that would be incurred if the owner continued to buy and then subsidize a European, but added valuable assets in owning the children of African slaves without any further cost.[51] Thus, by about the early 1800's, the indenture system, though still on the books up until the time of the War Between the States, was officially dead.

However, the knowledge that at one time they would have not only been freed but would have been given their own land and equipment to become prosperous themselves remained a part of the memory of those chattel slaves even up to the time of the Revolutionary War some 50 odd years later. Thus after the King of England did what all powers at war did prior to the industrial revolution which put an end to both slavery and serfdom in Western nations, and that was issued an Emancipation Declaration in this case entitled the ALord Dunmore=s Proclamation on Slave Emancipation@ (1775).[52] This proclamation, unlike the results of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, sparked the greatest slave revolt in all of American history.[53] Slaves banded together in armies larger than anything Nat Turner was able to muster, and fought pitch battles with Colonial forces, destroyed plantations and killed plantation owners throughout the southeast.[54] The Slaughter was so horrific that Britain, after the war moved almost 20,000 Blacks from the south fearing for their lives at the hands of devastated plantation owners. Many were moved to the islands, and others to England beginning the basis of its Black population.[55]

Totally unlike Lincoln=s Emancipation Declaration which was a total dud.[56] In her defense of black men from lynching, the legendary civil rights icon, Ida B. Wells used as evidence the fact that every able bodied white male left their plantations in the hands of their black slaves and unlike the revolutionary slave revolt, there was not one report of violence to the slave owners plantation or family by the blacks left in charge.[57] But by this time the concept of indentured freedom was long dead. Ironically the only revolt that Lincoln=s proclamation created was an uproar among northern white troops who never saw this as a war about slavery and did cause several northern units to stop fighting with the threat to go home as they were not fighting to free slaves but to save the Union[58]. The revolt against the proclamation was so bad that Lincoln=s generals asked him to not mention emancipation again unless he wanted to cause the northeast to succeed or loose half of his troops.[59] For this reason, it was not mentioned again until June 19, 1865 when the war for all practical was over and slavery as an issue was dead. [60]

Chattel or total slavery for life was now the rule. To hold that this totally derived African system, that was enacted in this nation based upon African law in a suit brought by a black African, was uniquely the sin of English America has become one of the greater shifting of blame in world history and has created an America that now takes full blame for creating this system without acknowledging any role Africa played in this system in America.[61] Indeed as late as 1860, One out of every 100 free blacks was a slave owners in the US and in New Orleans one of every three free blacks owned slaves.[62]

Because any discussion of slavery in the US can quickly become emotional and out of hand, I always leave my students with this observation, that is until after the Civil War, almost everyone that came to the Americas or was a part of the Americas was a loser. European nobles who came here had titles but no cash, African tribal people were not kings and queens as preached by 1960s radicals, but were the losers in the African tribal wars, Asia and European peasants just had nowhere to go in their own lands for advancement, and all of these people then bumped the American Indians who had been engaged in their own tribal conquest onto less favorable lands. I then use a quote that a judge gave in a case I tried during my 48 years as a trial attorney, AEverybody=s hands got a little dirt on them, so let=s not waste time talking about clean hands and innocent victims@

[51] *Id.*
[52] Like most Emancipation proclamations, it only free the slaves of the other side. In these cases, in those colonies in revolt against the king.
(1775) LORD DUNMORE=S PROCLAMATION
https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/lord-dunmore-s-proclamation-1775/
How Enslaved Men Who Fought for the British Were Promised Freedom
https://www.history.com/news/the-ex-slaves-who-fought-with-the-british
[53] *Id.*
Turner was only able to muster between 50 and 100 rebels.
Nat Turner - Rebellion, Death & Facts (biography.com)
Nat Turner - Rebellion, Death & Facts | HISTORY
[54] *Id.*
[55] *Id.*
[56] AThere is no telling how many editors and how many other penmen within these past few days have undertaken to assure him that this is a war for the Union only, and that they never gave him any authority to run it as an Abolition war. They never, never told him that he might set the negroes free, and, now that he has done so, or futilely pretended to do so, he is a more unconstitutional tyrant and a more odious dictator than ever he was before. They tell him, however, that his Y. venomous blow at the sacred liberty of white men to own Black men is mere brutum fulmen [empty threat], and a dead letter and a poison which will not work. They tell him many other things, and, among them, they tell him that the army will fight no more, and that the hosts of the Union will indignantly disband rather than be sacrificed upon the bloody altar of fanatical Abolitionism."
Evidence for The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln
https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/evidence-unpopular-mr-lincoln
[57] ADuring all the years of slavery, no such charge was ever made, not even during the dark days of the rebellion, when the white man, following the fortunes of war went to do battle for the maintenance of slavery. While the master was away fighting to forge the fetters upon the slave, he left his wife and children with no protectors save the Negroes themselves. And yet during those years of trust and peril, no Negro proved recreant to his trust and no white man returned to a home that had been despoiled.@
The Truth Will Unite Us: Ida B. Wells and Her Civil War Theory
https://discover.hubpages.com/politics/The-Truth-Will-Set-Us-Free-Ida-B-Wells-and-Her-Civil-War-Theory
[58] *Supra see note* 56.
[59] *Id.*
[60] The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture (si.edu)
[61] *Also see Supra note* 49.
[62] One percent of all free Black people in the U, S. owned slaves. There were Black slave owners in every state of the Union by 1790, a few even owned white slaves.
9 'Facts' About Slavery They Don't Want You to Know
https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/facts-about-slavery/27
Id.
Black People Own Slaves?
https://www.theroot.com/dId.-black-people-own-slaves-1790895436