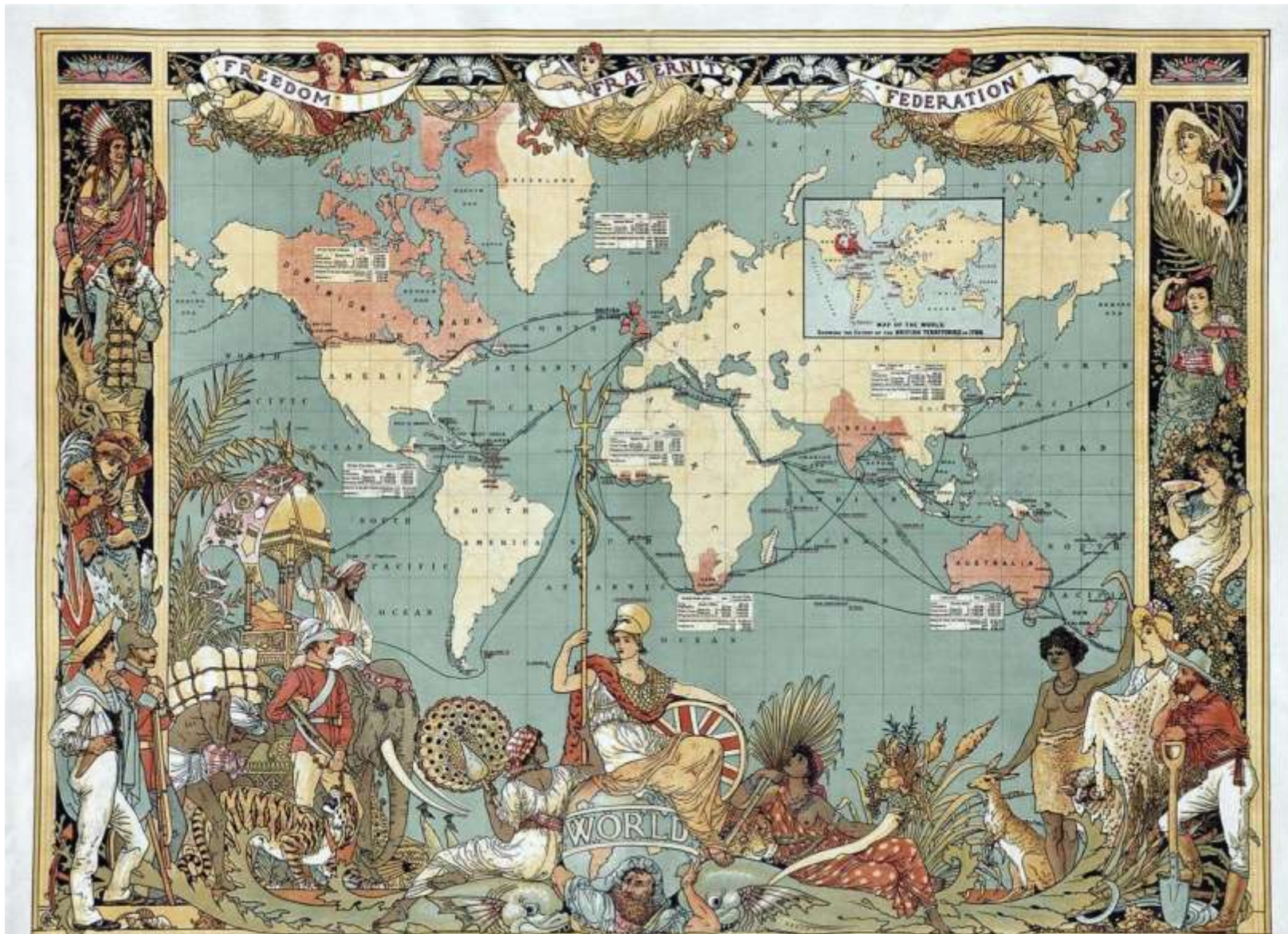




THE IMPACT OF EMPIRE 1815-1914

2. SLAVERY



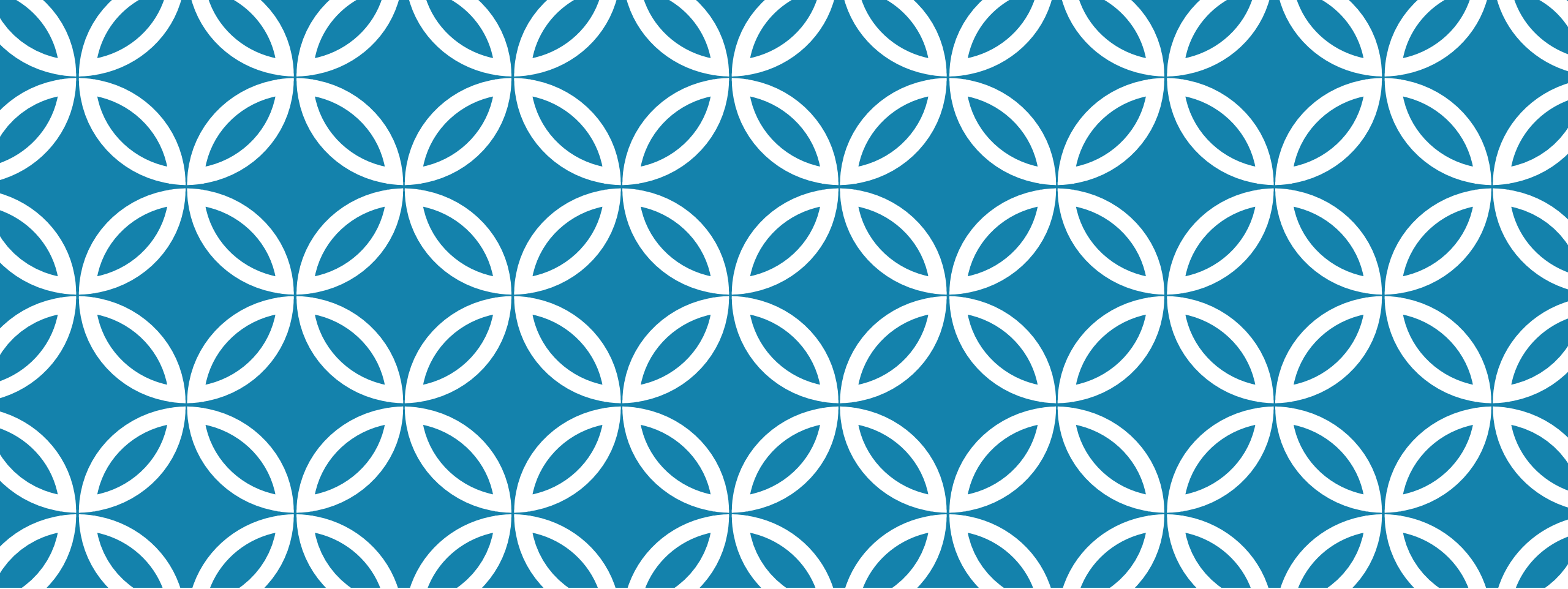
‘Is it not strange to think, that they who ought to be considered the most learned and civilized people in the world, that they should carry on a traffic of the most barbarous cruelty and injustice, and that many ... are become so dissolute as to think slavery, robbery and murder no crime?’
- Ottobah Cugoano, 1787

‘If our slave trade had gone, there’s an end to our lives,
Beggars all we must be, our children and wives;
No ships from our ports their proud sails e’er would spread,
And our streets grown with grass, where the cows might be fed.’
- Liverpool anti-abolitionist election poster, 1790



CLASS OUTLINE

1. Origins of British slavery
2. The Atlantic slave trade
3. Rebellion and resistance
4. All over by 1807?



THE ORIGINS OF BRITISH SLAVERY



What do we remember about the early beginnings of the British (or English) Empire from last week?





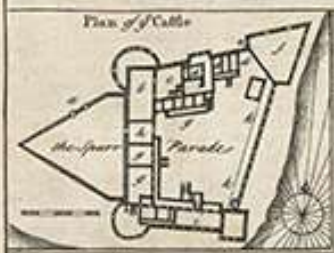
East Prospect of Cape Corle, or Coast Castle, by M. Smith, 1727.



- a. the Gate
- b. Garden Wall
- c. upper door
- d. Druggall & Tavern
- e. upper Hall
- f. Brewhouse
- g. Great Hall
- h. Water Closet
- i. the Race
- k. Cape Wall
- l. Chapel
- m. Prison
- n. only by the post

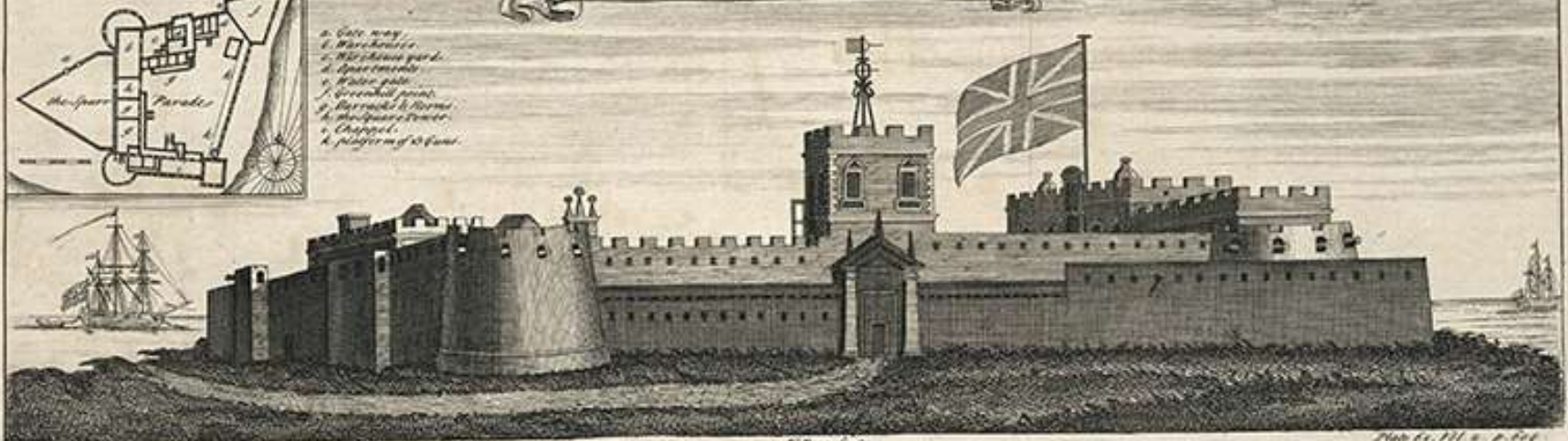


Plan of the Castle



- a. Gate way
- b. Brewhouse
- c. Brewhouse yard
- d. Apartments
- e. Water gate
- f. Greenhall point
- g. Barracks & Store
- h. the square tower
- i. Chapel
- k. playground of guns

North-west Prospect of the same.



THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY

Prince Rupert and James, Duke of York, establish the Company of Royal Adventurers of England Trading in Africa in 1660, excited by rumours of gold and of challenging the Dutch stranglehold on the slave trade

The RAC becomes one of the first joint stock companies, with Charles II a major shareholder. First it seeks gold and ivory, but from 1663 dominates in human trade

Supported by the army and navy, it sets up forts and trading posts, initiates a costly war with the Dutch

Over the 1680s, trade increases, with slaves branded DY (Duke of York) or RAC

Its profits would be decisive for the City of London, and future slave-trade cities like Liverpool and Bristol

Britain also gains the lucrative right to supply African slaves to Spanish America (the *Asiento*) from 1713

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE

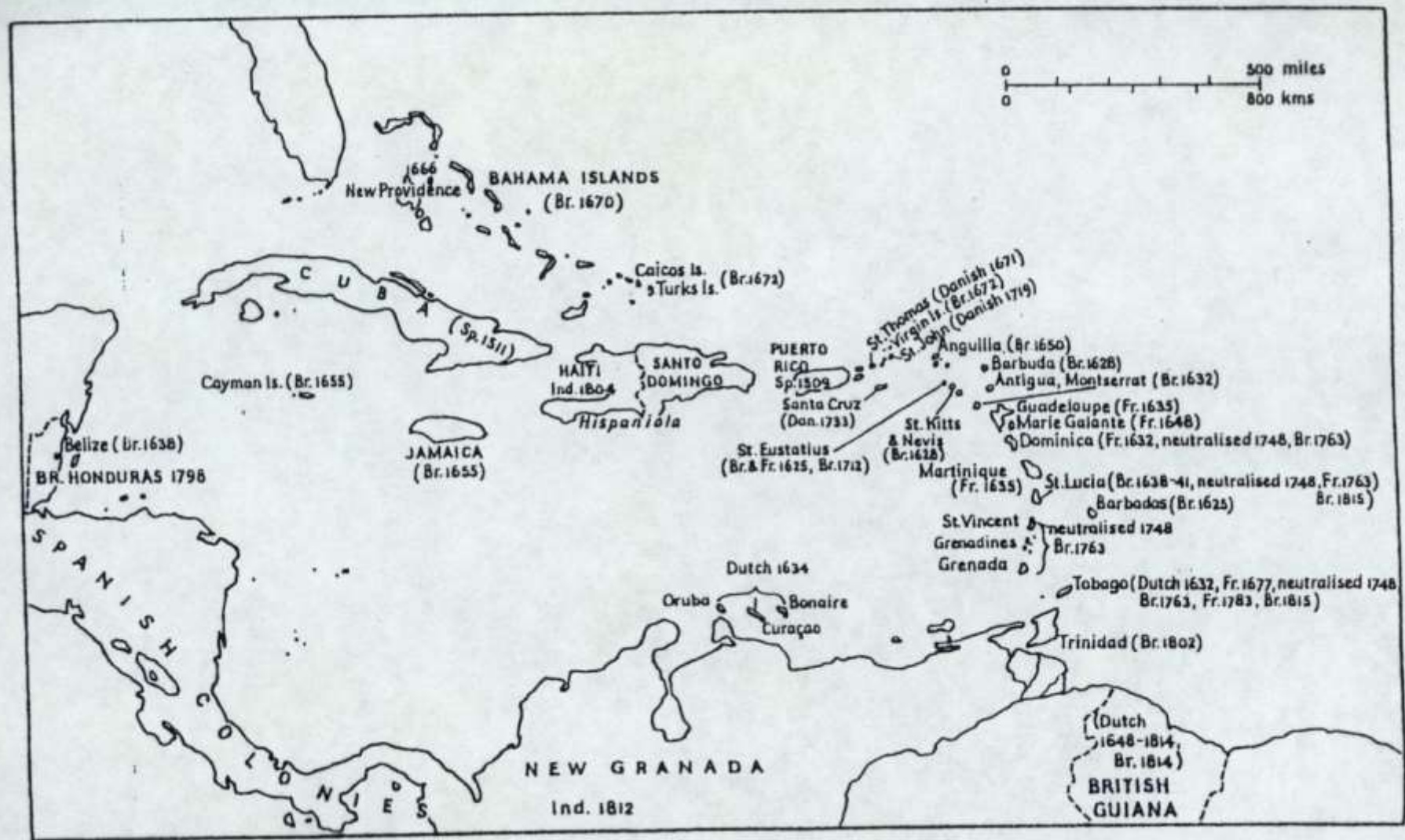
RIC transports 90k Africans to the Americas between 1672-1692

By 1796, around 72k slaves transported per year, half by Britain, and around 85% using British ships

Sugar economies of West Indies

White settler colonies became slave societies e.g. Jamaica, 1675
50% of pop of 18,000 was African origin, 89% in 1713 (80% in Barbados, 75% in Leeward Island)

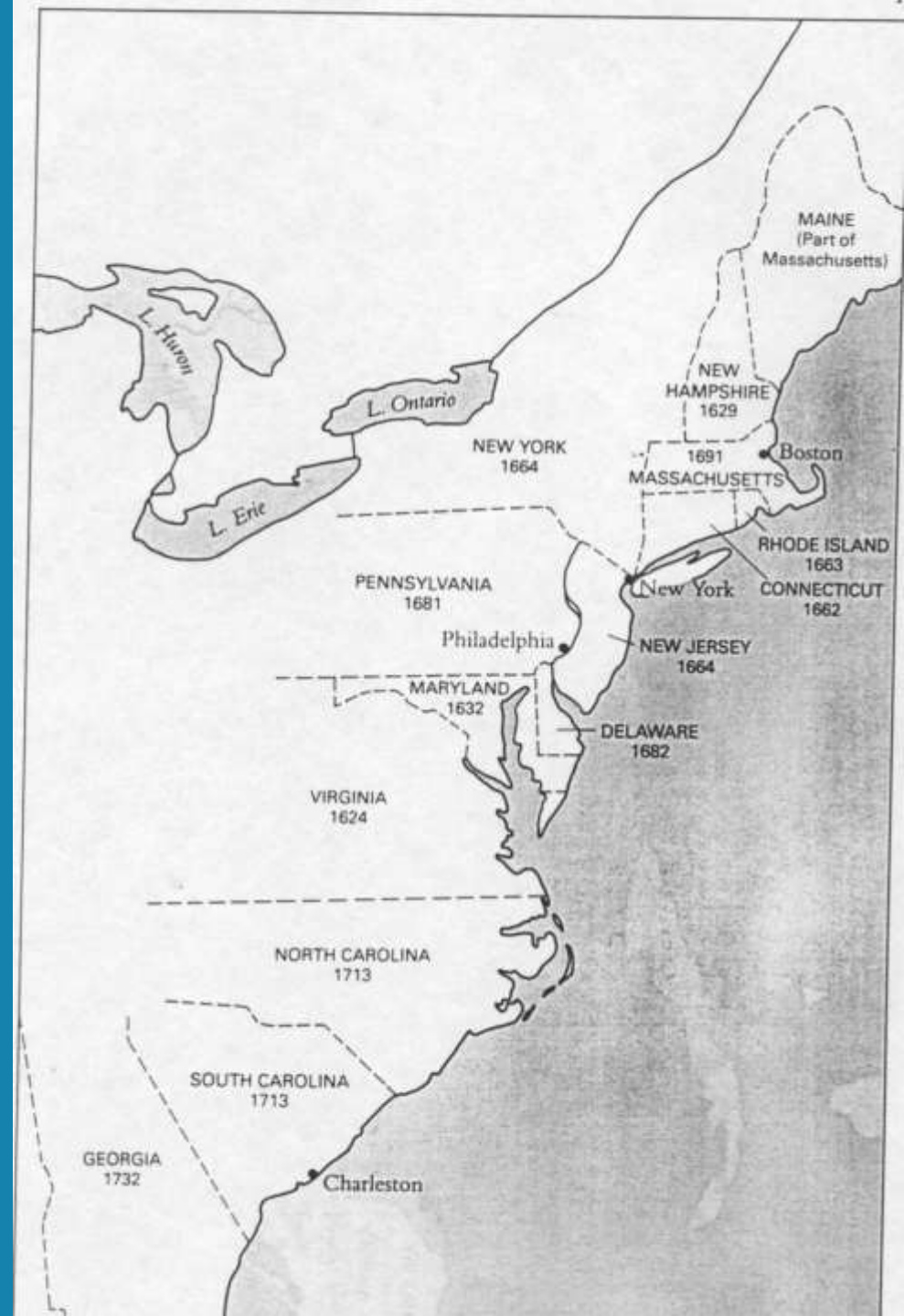
Southern American colonies become plantation economies;
Carolinas (rice and indigo) and Virginia/Maryland (tobacco).

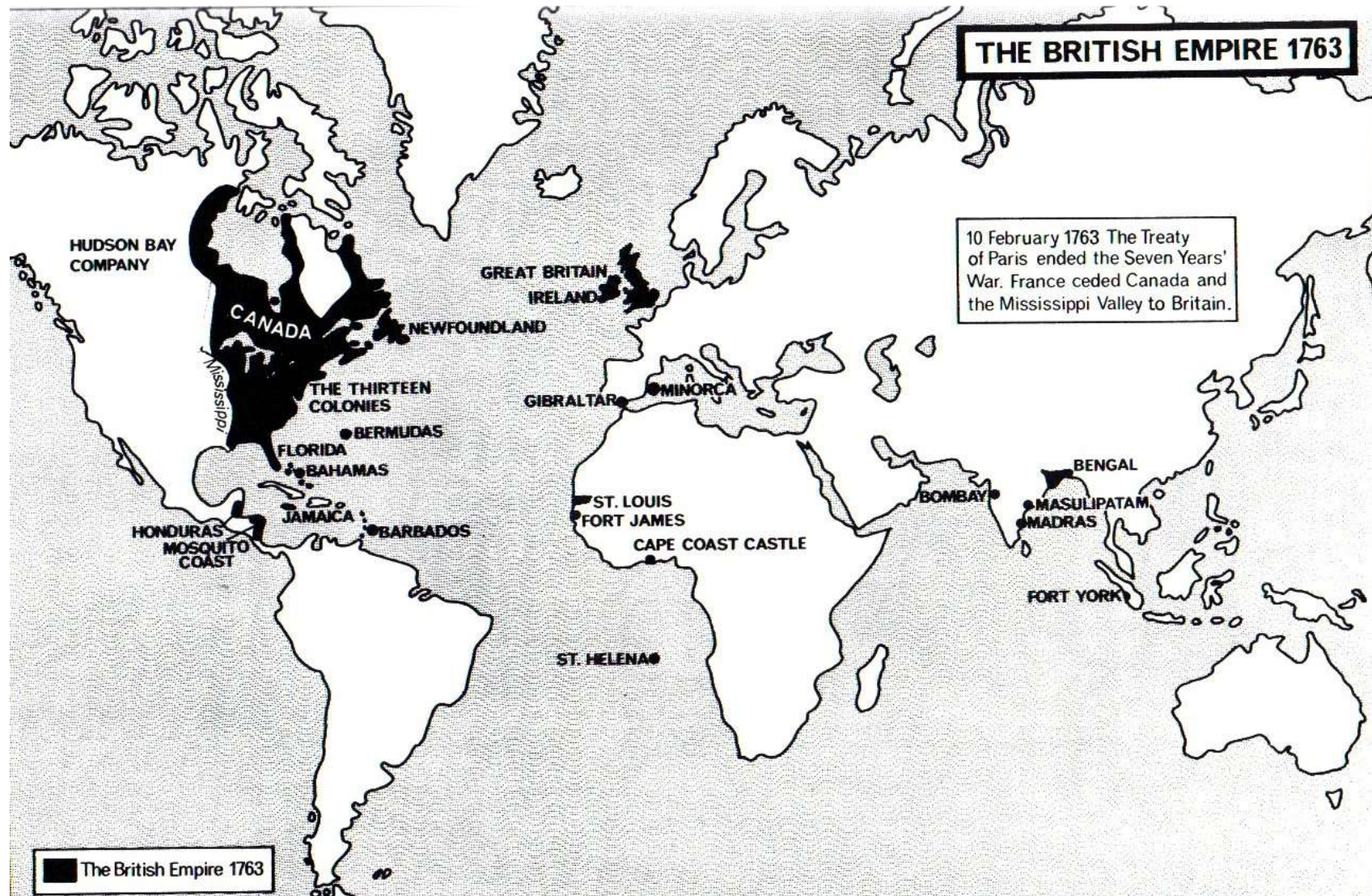


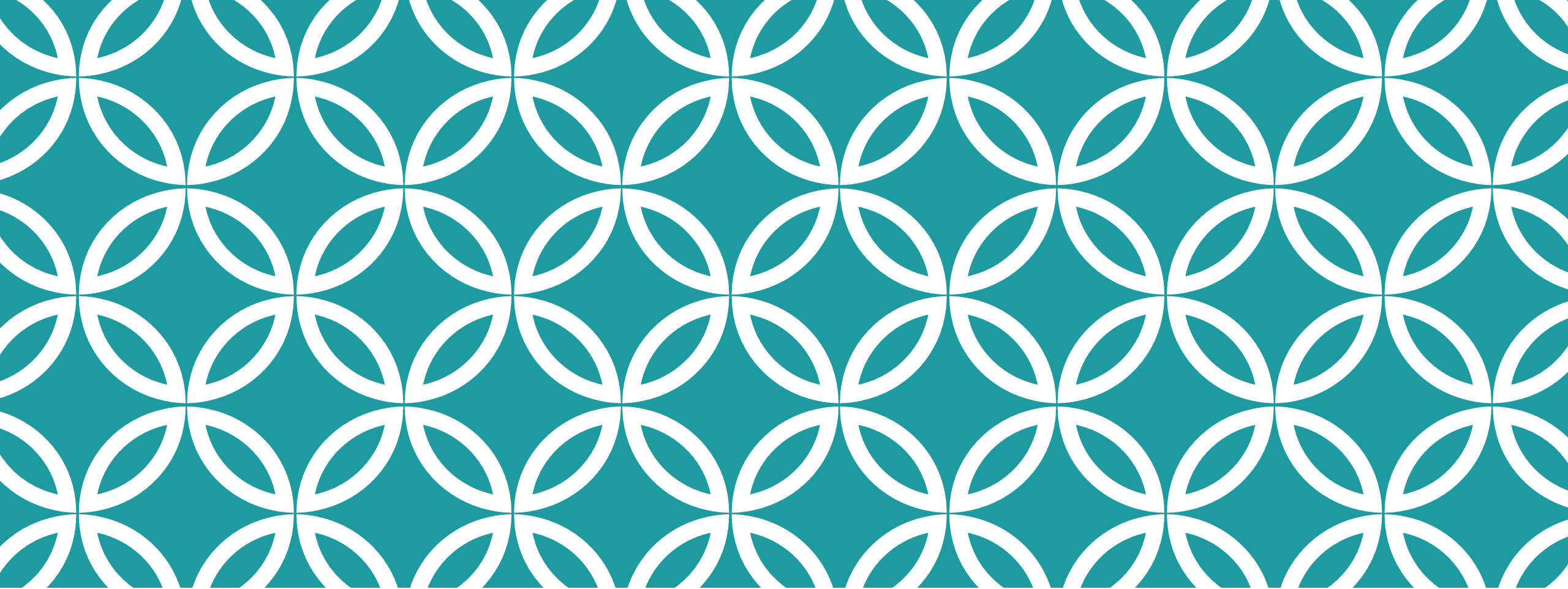
The West Indies in the Eighteenth Century

THE CHARACTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES

- **New England:** puritan, diversified from agriculture into fishing, ship-building and maritime commerce; rapid population growth
- **Virginia and Maryland:** tobacco; royalist emigration in 1650s; nearly 30% of population was African origin by 1730
- **The South (Carolinas):** agricultural plantations, rice and indigo; similar to West Indies. 2/3 of population was African origin by 1730s. Population rose from 26,000 in 1710 to 205,000 by 1760
- **Mid-Atlantic** colonies (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania), agricultural but quickly commercialised and rapid population growth from 63,000 in 1710 to 400,000 by 1760
- **Frontier.** 1747 Ohio Company formed by group of wealthy Virginia and Maryland planters to acquire new territory.

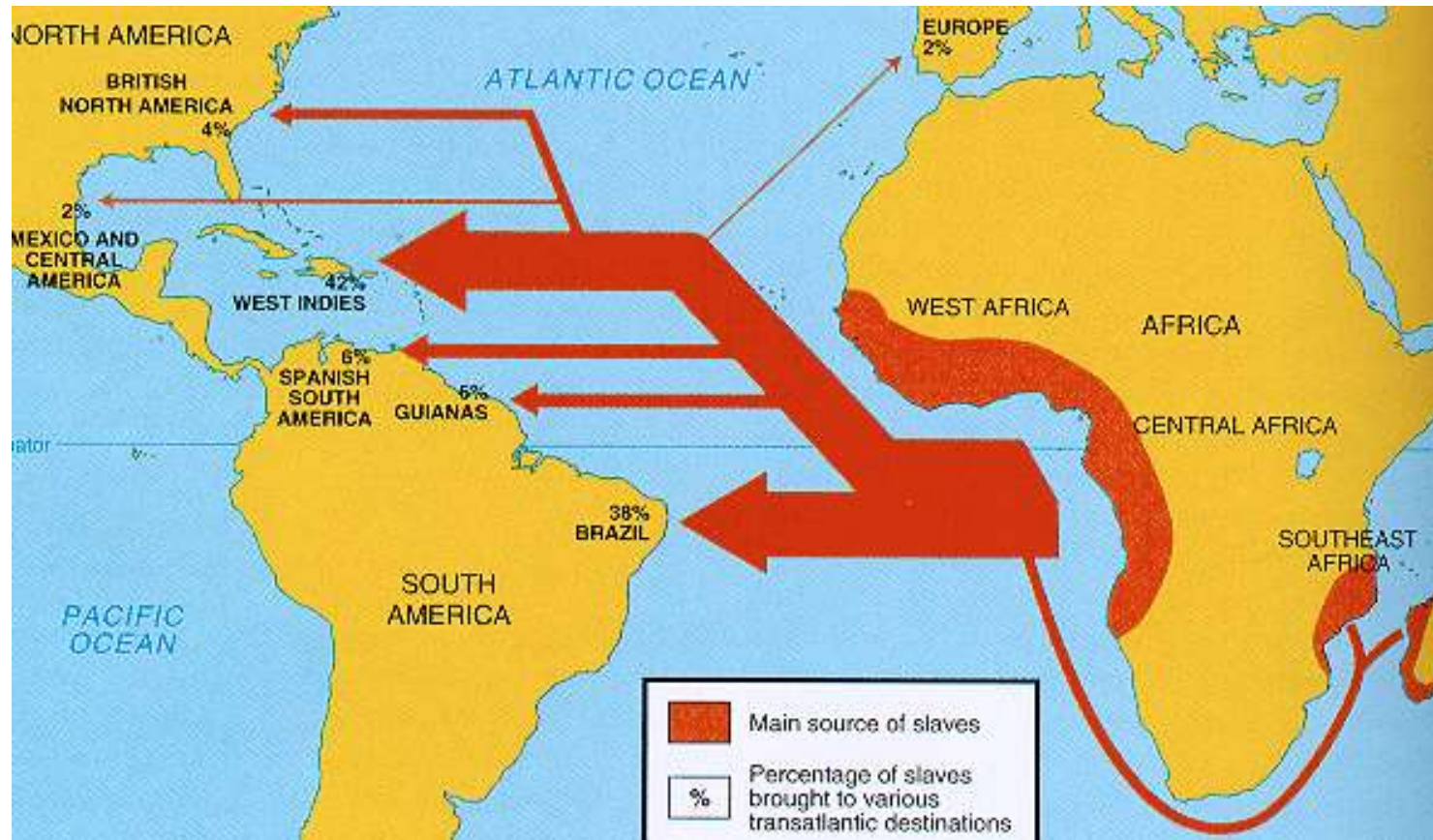






THE TRADE IN THE LIVING





ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

- Economic and Racial factors
- At least 12m Africans transported, 1500-1900
- Only 5% to North America
- Up to 25% mortality during voyage

‘If, upon the whole, we revolve our minds, what an amazing variety of trades receive their daily support, as many of them did originally their being, from the calls of the African and West India markets; if we reflect on the numerous families of those mechanics and artisans which are thus maintained, and contemplate that ease and plenty, which is the constant as well as just reward of their incessant labours; if we combine with these the several tribes of active and busy people, who are continually employed in the building, repairing, rigging, victualling and equipping the multitudes of seamen who earn their wages by navigated, and the prodigious crowds who likewise obtain their bread by loading ships



... we may from thence form a competent idea of the prodigious value of our sugar colonies, and a just conception of their immense importance to the grandeur and prosperity of their mother country.’

– Edward Long, *The History of Jamaica*, 1774

JUSTIFICATIONS

Economic: need for labour on plantations

Plantations in America produced rice and tobacco. In British Caribbean mainly produced sugar although some produced coffee

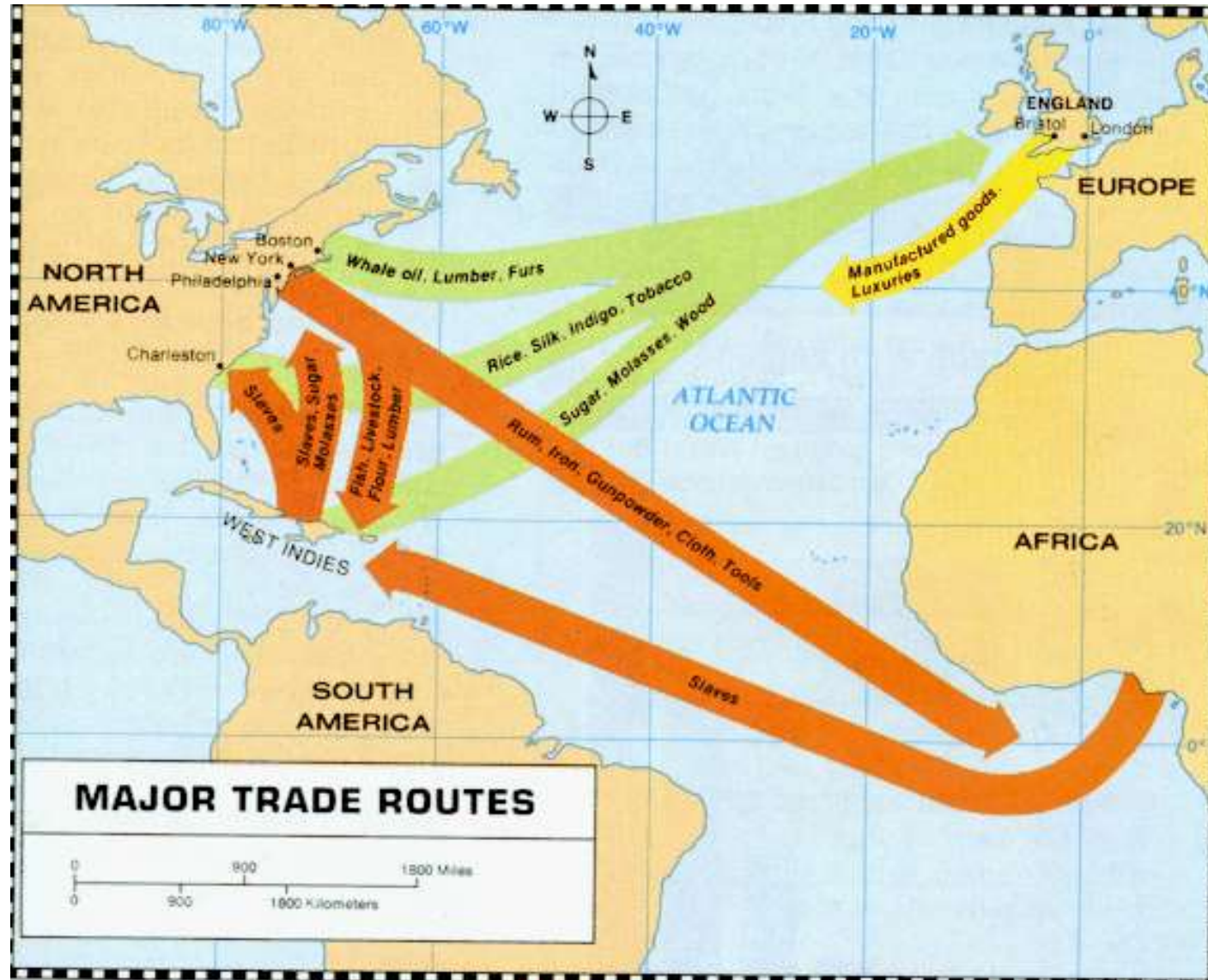
Cultural: based on blatant racial prejudice against black Africans

Justified because of its presence in the ancient world and in the scriptures.

Hobbes and Locke both accepted slavery

But helped that slaves generally resided overseas. Thus values of freedom and liberty could be upheld on English soil

TRIANGULAR TRADE



Take a look at the excerpts under 1)

In small groups, I'd like you to focus on the primary sources in either a) or c).
What does it tell us about the conditions of the slave trade?

The Bloody Triangle

How Royal African Company ships trafficked gold, guns and human misery

Jamestown

The Royal African Company maintained a business agent in Jamestown, Virginia to oversee the sale of slaves to the colonists. In 1671, the eve of the company's birth, the slave population of Virginia was approximately 2,000. By 1700, and the end of the Royal African Company monopoly, it had reached about 16,390.

1. Outward Passage

Until 1698, London held the monopoly and the Royal African Company sailed to West Africa with British-made trade goods, such as guns, cloth and iron with which to barter for slaves and trading rights with local rulers.

3. Inward Passage

Finally the ships returned to London with the spoils of that slave labour: tobacco, rice and sugar grown on plantations, many of which were owned by the London-based worthies whose seals adorned the founding charter of the Royal African Company.

James Island

A complex in the mouth of the River Gambia and originally used by colonists. Initially used as a waypoint in the trade of ivory and gold, it was under England that James Island obtained real infamy as the centre for RAC enterprise.

York Island

The swampy Royal African Company base in the Sierra Leone River was fortified in 1686 as a reaction to harrying by the French and extortion and aggression from African neighbours. Slavery from York and nearby islands was deeply unprofitable, succeeding in curtailing this cruel trade where decency failed.

Port Royal

Formerly an underdeveloped Spanish colony, from 1664 Governor Thomas Modyford focused on the rapid growth of large scale sugar plantations and placed slave labour at the system's heart – the more slaves a planter owned, the greater his land grant. Not only this, but the geography made Port Royal the ideal berth from which slave ships could off-load their cargo.

2. Middle Passage

Slaves were then marched aboard those trade ships and transported to English colonies in North America and the Caribbean. Seen as mere trade goods, between 1680 and 1688, 23 out of every 100 Africans transported on Royal African Company ships died in transit.

Cape Coast Castle

Built by the Swedish Africa Company and captured by the English in 1664, Cape Coast Castle was significantly reinforced, becoming the capital of Royal African Company operations on the Gold Coast and centre for the trade in gold and slaves from forts up and down the shoreline.

ALL ABOUT
HISTORY

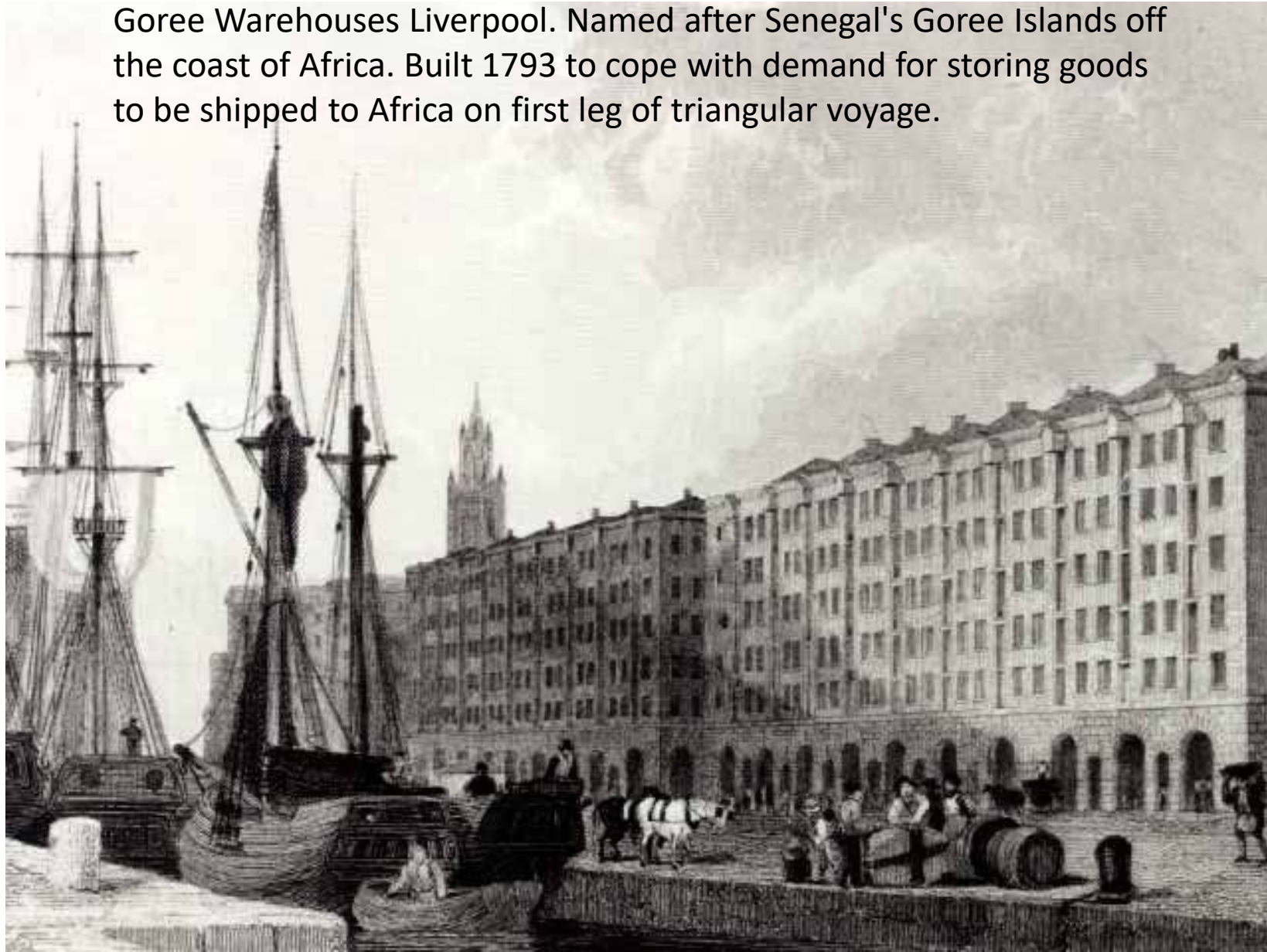
NUMBERS OF SLAVE SHIPS LEAVING BRITISH PORTS

| Port | 1725 | 1730 | 1772 | 1800 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| London | 87 | 25 | 39 | 20 |
| Bristol | 63 | 39 | 24 | 5 |
| Liverpool | - | 21 | 92 | 106 |

By 1790s, Liverpool accounted for 60% of British trade and 40% of European whole.

Britain's slavers made a profit of around £12m on 2.5m Africans sold between 1630-1807, half between 1750-90.

Goree Warehouses Liverpool. Named after Senegal's Goree Islands off the coast of Africa. Built 1793 to cope with demand for storing goods to be shipped to Africa on first leg of triangular voyage.



‘Almost every man in Liverpool is a merchant ... The attractive African meteor has ... so dazzled their ideas, that almost every order of people is interested in a Guinea cargo

... It is well known that many of the small vessels that import about an hundred slaves, are fitted out by attornies, drapers, ropers, grocers, tallow-chandlers, barbers, taylors, &c'. (1795)



John Pinney's house, Great George St, Bristol. Pinney earned his fortune from his sugar plantations on the Caribbean island of Nevis from where he returned in 1783.



PROFITS OF SLAVERY

Some estimate British merchants made a return of 30% on the capital they invested

More recent analysis has revised this figure to around 8-10%

Nonetheless, the profits of slavery transformed Britain. By the 1790s, a quarter of its national income came from the West Indies

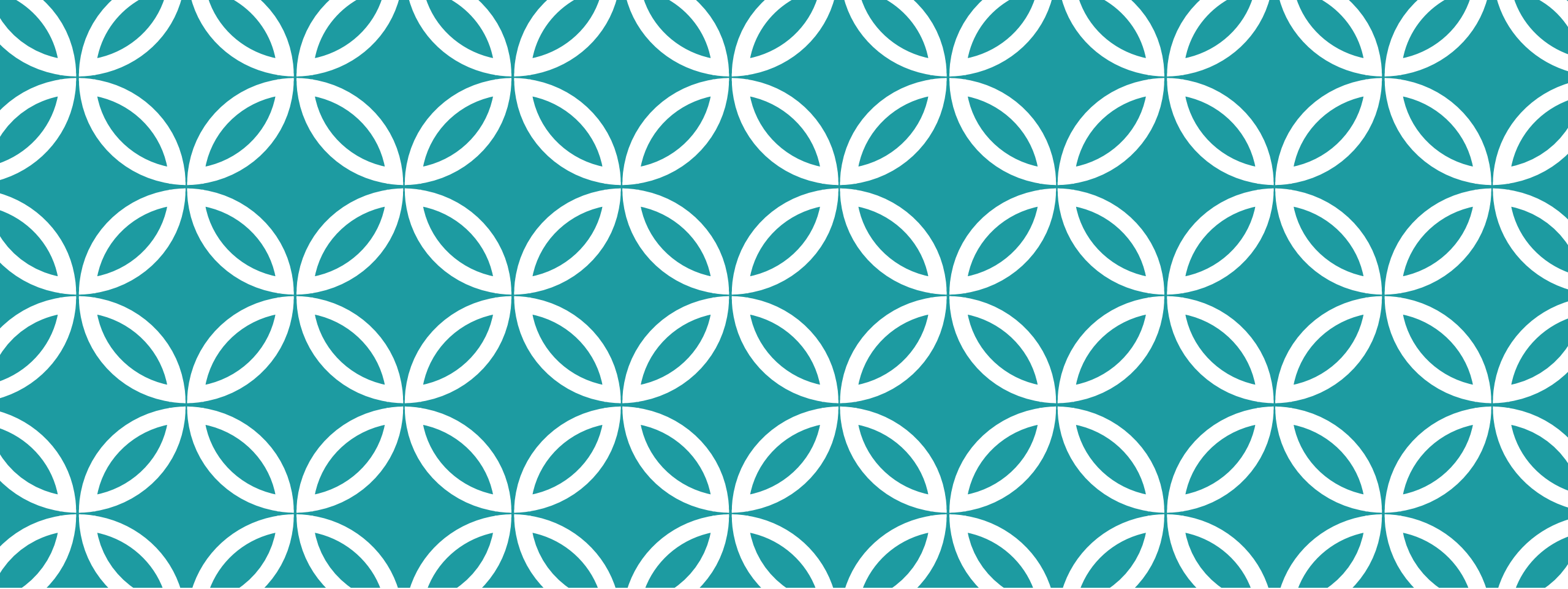
Expensive items became mass consumer tastes: tobacco, sugar, cotton

Much of the built environment of London emerged at this time too, while the Bank of England developed in part through its ability to finance slave-trading missions.

Eric Williams *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944): gains were substantial and key to financing industrial revolution

What changes then...?





REBELLION AND RESISTANCE



FOUR FACTORS

1. The Sons of Africa
2. Maroon rebellions
3. Haiti and the Rights of Man
4. The British abolitionist movement



BLACK GEORGIANS

Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780), born on a mid-Atlantic slave ship. Self-taught, later a friend of the Duke of Montagu

Opens a grocer's shop in Westminster and composes music, and becomes a leading anti-abolitionist campaigner

Francis Barber (1735-1801), valet and later companion of Samuel Johnson

Phillis Wheatley (1753-84), a child prodigy and poet

Sons of Africa: inc. Equiano, Cugoana and others...

OLAUDAH EQUIANO (1745-1797)

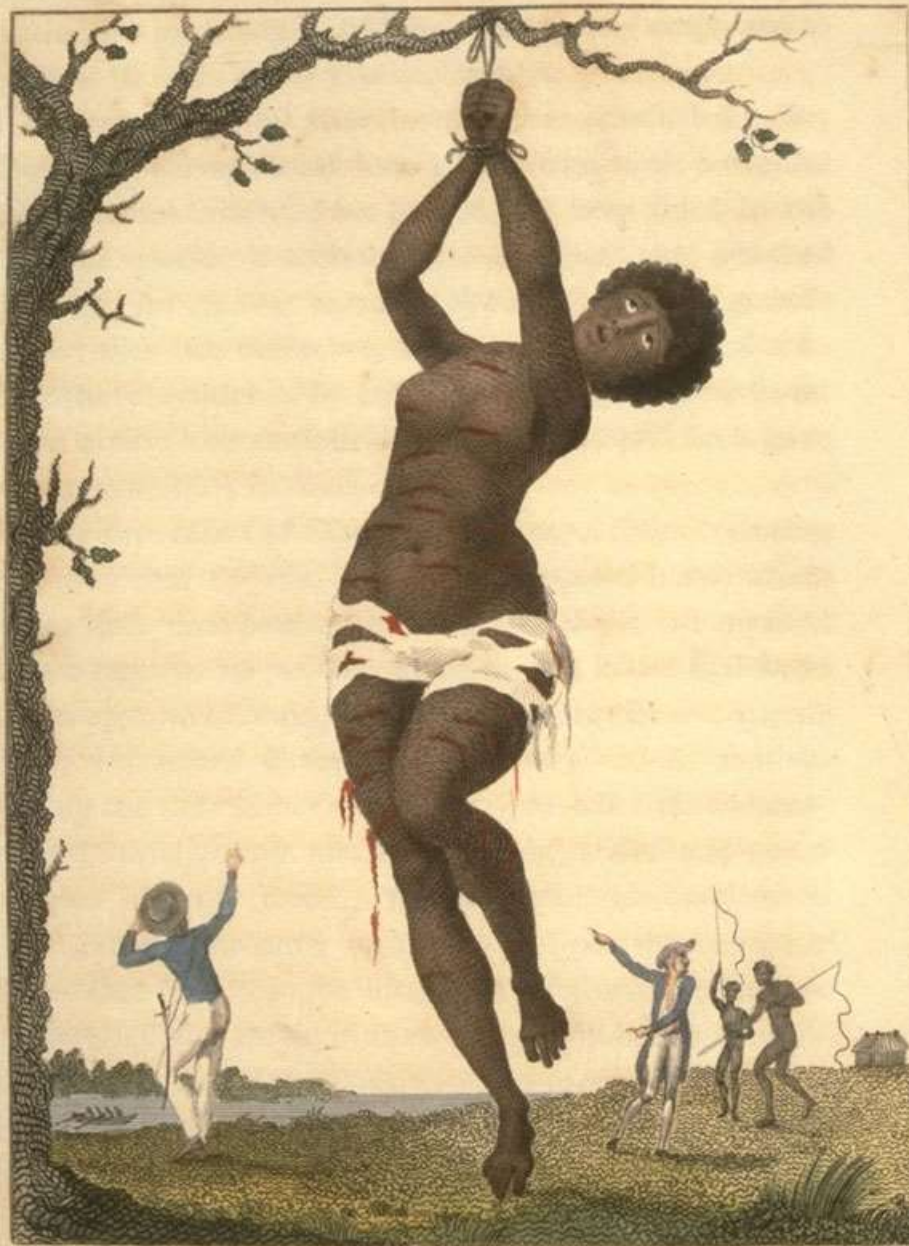


Born in Eastern Nigeria, and kidnapped into slavery
Named Gustavus Vassa, he buys his freedom for £40 and becomes a leading political figure in the black community and slave abolitionist

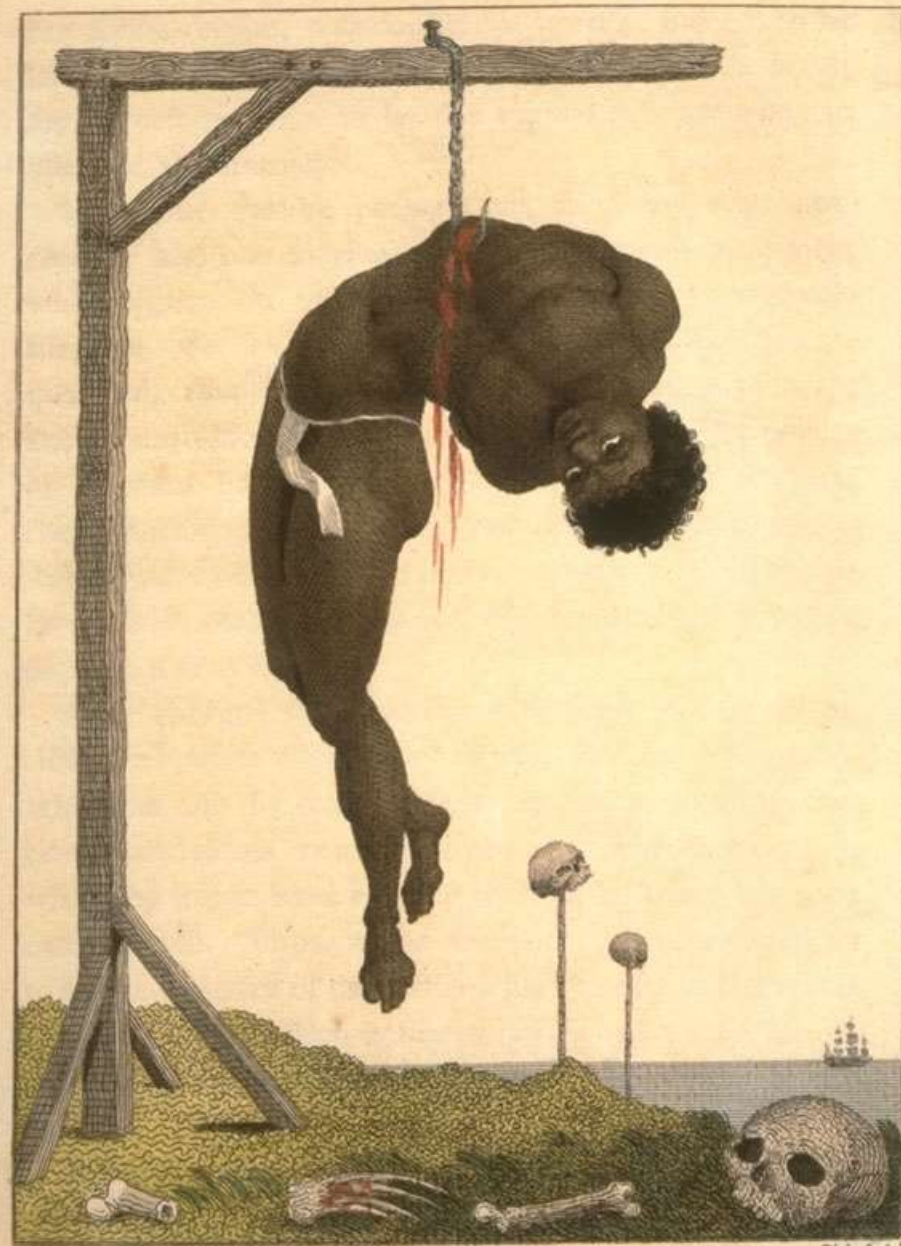
Writes and tours *The Interesting Narrative* around the UK in 1791-2

In 1786 he became involved in the movement to abolish slavery as a prominent member of the 'Sons of Africa', a group of 12 black men who campaigned for abolition.

In 1792 he married an Englishwoman, Susanna Cullen, having two daughters. Equiano died on 31 March 1797.



Flagellation of a Female Samboe Slave.



A Negro hung alive by the Ribs to a Gallows.

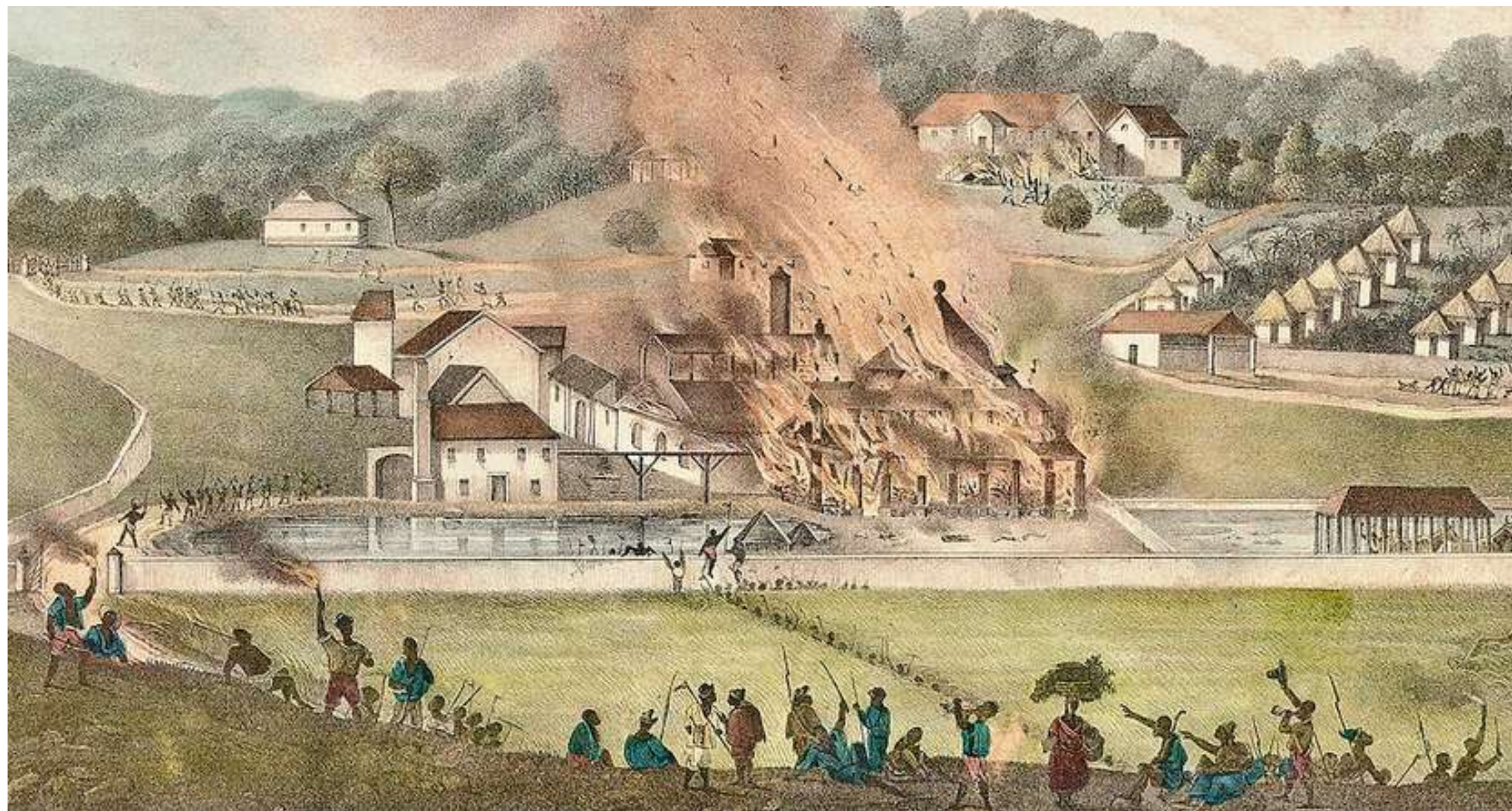
Printed April 23. 1792. by H. Humphreys, No. 18. Old Broad Street.



BARBARITIES in the WEST INDIES

At Funchal, Major. Among numerous other acts of cruelty daily practiced, an English Negro driver, because a young Negro boy refused to work, threw him into a Copper bog, boiling Sugar juice, & after boiling him, staked over head & ears for about three quarters of an hour in the boiling liquid, while him with such severity, that it was near Six Months before he recovered of his Wounds & Scalding.
Video. M. Francis speak, corrected by M. Fox. M. Wetherston. &c.





THE MAROONS

Communities of escaped slaves gathered in rural central Jamaica, later towns, living autonomously and defending themselves from British encroachment

1728-39: First Maroon War, British defeated

1795-6: Second Maroon War, rebels transported to Nova Scotia

At this stage, many plantations destroyed and suppression costly

1831-32: Baptist War, 11-day uprising as part of an international general strike – British victory (with Maroon support!)

But expense of putting down (£1.15m) and brutal executions of thousands by planters accelerate the Slavery Abolition Act 1833



PRE-REVOLUTION ON SAINT DOMINGUE

French colonists brought West African slaves to develop large sugar and coffee plantations in the most lucrative colony in the world

40% of world's sugar

50% of world's coffee

By 1788 – 500k slaves, 30k free people of colour, 15k gens de couleur, 20k-40k colonists (outnumbered 10: 1)

Death rate of around 50%, mostly through overwork. Torture common

Yet slaves allowed to retain their old religious customs, out of which emerges Vodou, a mix of Catholicism and tribal religions of Western Africa, particularly Benin



Dess. p. Jouques. gr. p. Christian inv. du Thyr. Cloître St Honoré. en 1795



A BLACK JACOBIN: TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE

White planters wanted home rule, while freed slaves wanted full equality and citizenship

1790, Vincent Ogé visits France and secures these rights, but is brutally killed by white planters upon returning

1791, Dutty Boukman, a Voudou priest, leads a revolt of Maroons against planters across the colony, killing 15k

1793, Toussaint organises the rebel slaves into disciplined military units. He allies with the Spanish to defeat the French, and when France abolishes slavery, represents France to defeat the Spanish and British

Louverture: 'opening', one who 'breaks through enemy lines'

He rules the colony as French Governor-General until Napoleon captures him in 1802 in an effort to reinstate slavery...



TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE
Chef des Noirs Insurgés de Saint Domingue.
A Paris chez Jean rue Jean de Beauvais, N° 10.

‘Such are the Negroes whom Vaublanc accuses of being ignorant and uncouth. No doubt they are, for without education there is only ignorance and crudity. But should they be criminalized for this lack of education, or should we accuse those who used terrible punishments to prevent them obtaining it? Is it only civilized people who can distinguish right and wrong, and know charity and justice? The men of Saint Domingue have been deprived of education, but thereby have remained closer to nature, and they do not deserve, because they lack the refinement that comes with education, to form a group separate from the rest of humanity and to be confused with the animals....’

— Toussaint, Letter to the Directory



Josiah Wedgwood's
famous medallion: 'Am I
not a man and a brother?'

ABOLITION

1787: Quaker-dominated Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade

Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, 1748: 'The state of slavery is in its own nature bad. It is neither useful to the master nor to the slave; not to the slave because he can do nothing through a motive of virtue; nor to the master, because by having an unlimited authority over his slaves he insensibly accustoms himself to the want of all moral virtues'.

Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*: 'there is not a Negro from the coast of Africa who does not ... possess a degree of magnanimity which the soul of his sordid master is too often scarce capable of receiving.'

RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION TO SLAVERY

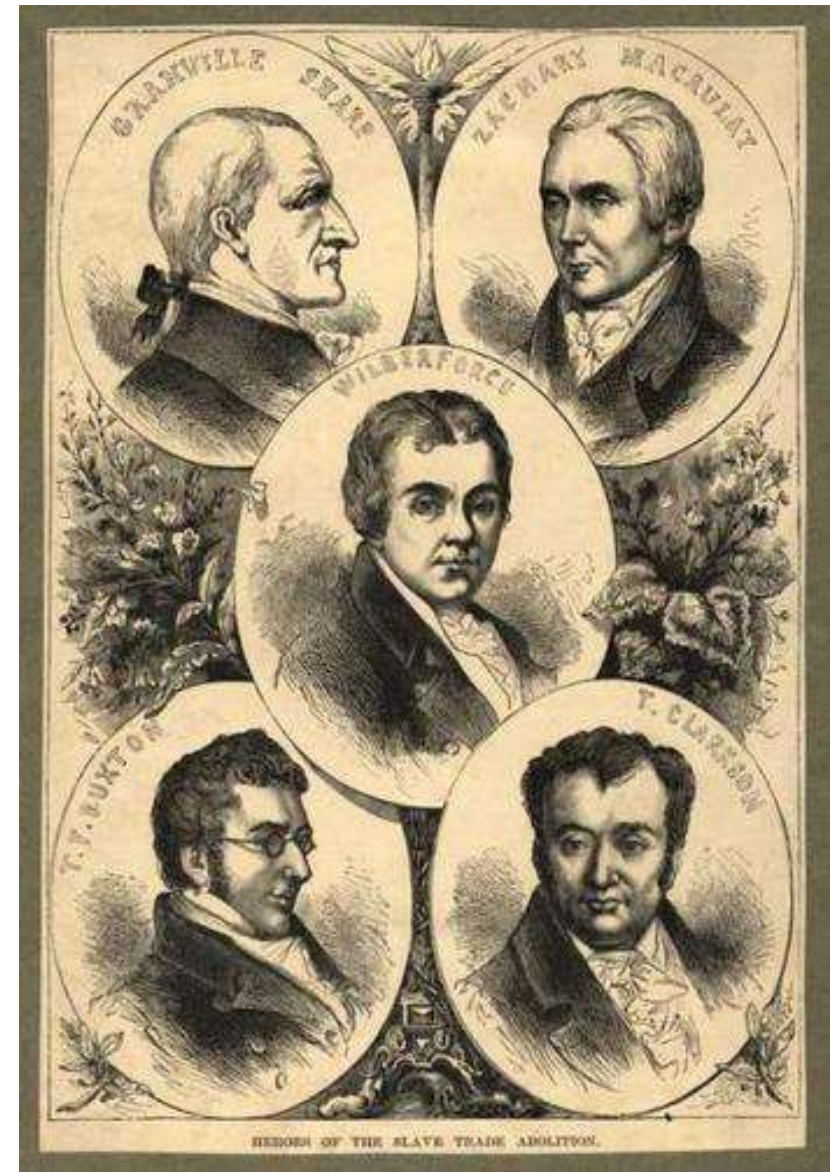
John Wesley (Methodism) travelled to Georgia in the 1730s and saw slaves on plantations. *Thoughts upon Slavery* (1774) very critical

Quakers played the largest role in the abolition movement.

Evangelical Anglicans were also firmly committed to abolition: the Clapham Sect

William Wilberforce decisive in building the parliamentary campaign from 1789

Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharp also key figures



ABOLITIONIST TACTICS

Petitioning movement. Between 1787 and 1792 petitions were signed by 1.5 million people in Britain (almost 1/6 of the total population)

Abolitionists established a free black colony in Sierra Leone

Outpouring of anti-slavery tracts, hymns, novels, poems and pamphlets.

Olaudah Equiano and Ottobah Cugoana

Equiano wrote a best-selling autobiography and Cugoana authored *Thoughts and Sentiments* which described the afflictions of being forcibly enslaved

Political messages propagated in tokens, medals, engravings and paintings.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE EXTRACTS

In small groups, look at 2. Abolitionism – and focus on either a), b) or c)

How does the author attempt to persuade us? What kinds of ideas are invoked?
What does it tell us about the character of the abolitionist movement?

MANSFIELD JUDGMENT

Legal decision made in 1772 by Lord Chief Justice Mansfield on slavery on English soil.

African born slave James Somerset brought to London by his owner Charles Stewart from Boston.

1771 Somerset ran away from his master. Caught and placed in irons on a ship bound for Jamaica.

Mansfield ruled that English law did not support the keeping of a slave on English soil

1781: case of the Zong

1788: Dolben Act introduces more regulation



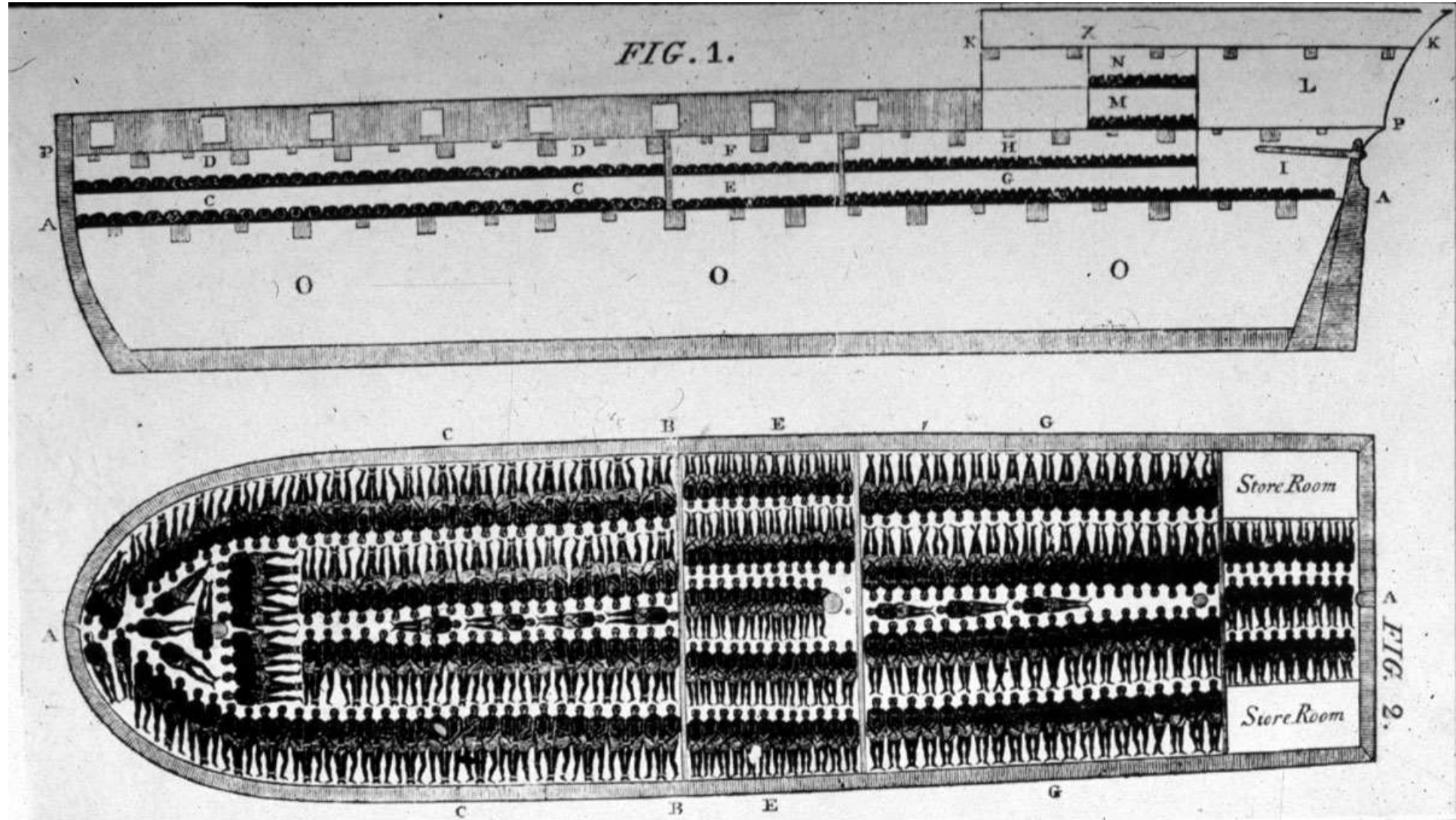
548. The Case of JAMES SOMMERSETT, a Negro, on a Habeas Corpus,* King's-Bench : 12 GEORGE III. A. D. 1771-72.

Of this Case only a Statement of the Facts, and Mr. Hargrave's learned Argument were inserted in the former edition of this Work. I have here added the other Arguments, and the Judgment of the Court, from Loft's Reports, in which is a Note of the Case under the name of Sommersett against Stewart.

ON the 3d of December 1771, affidavits were made by Thomas Walkin, Elizabeth Cade, and John Marlow, that James Sommersett, a negro, was confined in irons on board a ship called the Ann and Mary, John Knowles commander, lying in the Thames, and bound for Jamaica; and Lord Mansfield, on an application supported by these affidavits, allowed a writ of Habeas Corpus, directed to Mr. Knowles, and requiring him to return the body of Sommersett before his lordship, with the cause of detainer.

Mr. Knowles on the 9th of December produced the body of Sommersett before Lord Mansfield, and returned for cause of detainer, that Sommersett was the negro slave of Charles Stewart, esq. who had delivered Sommersett

Plan of the Liverpool slave ship, the *Brookes*





Wilberforce had a model of the *Brookes* made as evidence to the Commons

Why if I have my Run of
Sugar and my Tobacco at the old
price - I don't care if the Slave
Trade is abolished.

You may depend upon it there
will be abundance to make for us
any old Trade with - if we will only
bring the Slave Trade as over and
across the Population.

Went, Mapha, me lick-a you, and
make you working while me be Gentleman.
— curse a heart.

By gee den, we all have
all be Thwarted to ourselves
and by understanding we all read
Strong Calls Capital and
America to be Trade.

You shall have the
Slaves at your own
price.



ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE, OR THE MAN THE MASTER.



George III was opposed to abolition. Gillray's cartoon hints the king was more interested in saving money than promoting the abolition of the slave trade: '... you'll save the poor Blackamoors by leaving off the use of it! and above all, remember how much expence it will save your poor Papa!'

PRO-SLAVERY LOBBY

Organised print campaign to counter abolitionist propaganda

Simon Taylor, the Jamaican sugar tycoon compared abolition to Pharaoh decreeing the Israelites should make bricks without straw: 'they want us to make Sugar without Negroes, and Negroes are as necessary to make sugar as the straw was to burn the bricks.'

50 MPs were tied to the pro-slavery lobby and supporters included George III.

Other prominent firms include Camden, Calvert and King, and George Hibbert

Ultimately managed to push for vast compensation for planters (£18.5 million or 5% of national GDP)

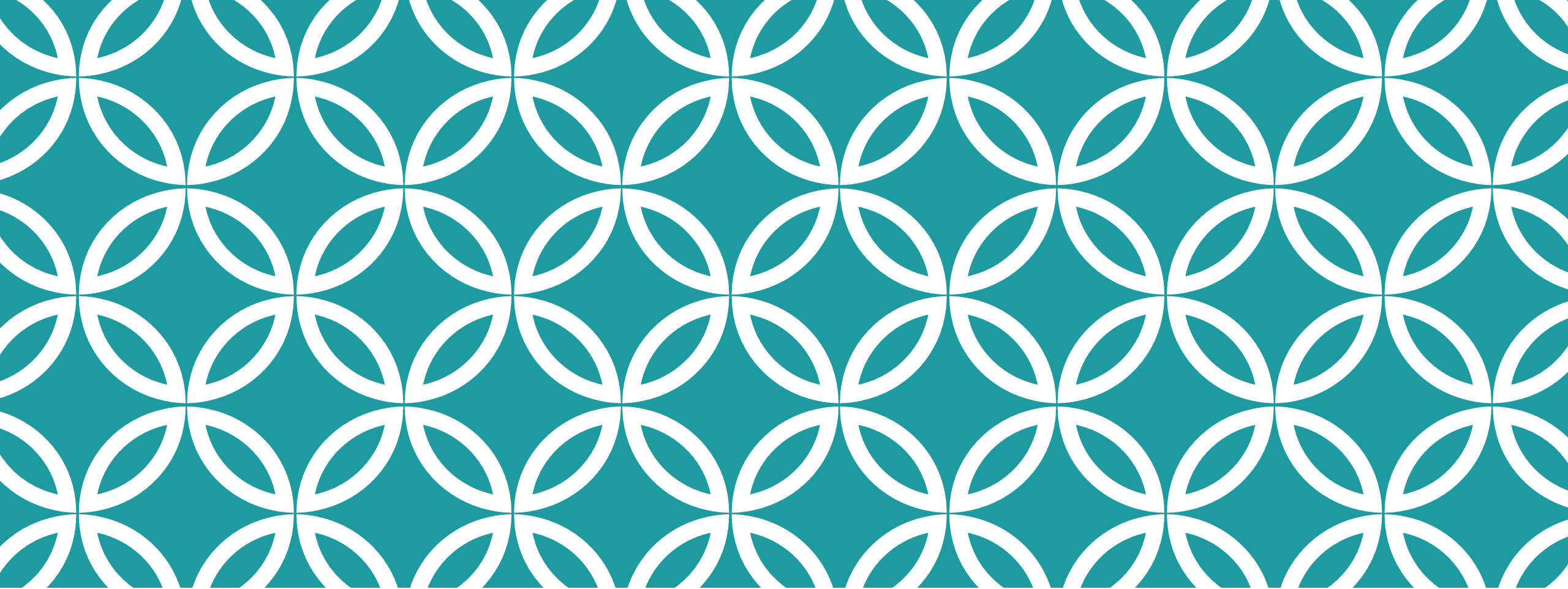
1807 ABOLITION

Changed parliamentary and international context.

Wilberforce's bill argued abolition in the 'national interest' and re: collective guilt

Foreign Slave Trade Bill stopped 1/3 of the existing British slave trade overnight.

Followed by general motion to abolish the slave trade on the grounds of humanity, justice and sound policy (283 MPs voted in favour)



ALL OVER BY 1807?



AFTER 1807

1811: Movement of slaves at sea made an offence

1819: Register of all existing slaves, to trace any illegal additions

1820s: illegal in most European countries

But: slavery was still legal in the British Colonies.

1823 of the Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout the British Dominions (known as the Anti-Slavery society) was founded.

1830: 2600 anti-slavery petitions to parliament

1831: Baptist War

1833 Emancipation Act was passed (in effect by 1838...)

1833: EMANCIPATION?

1834: Abolition of Slavery Act

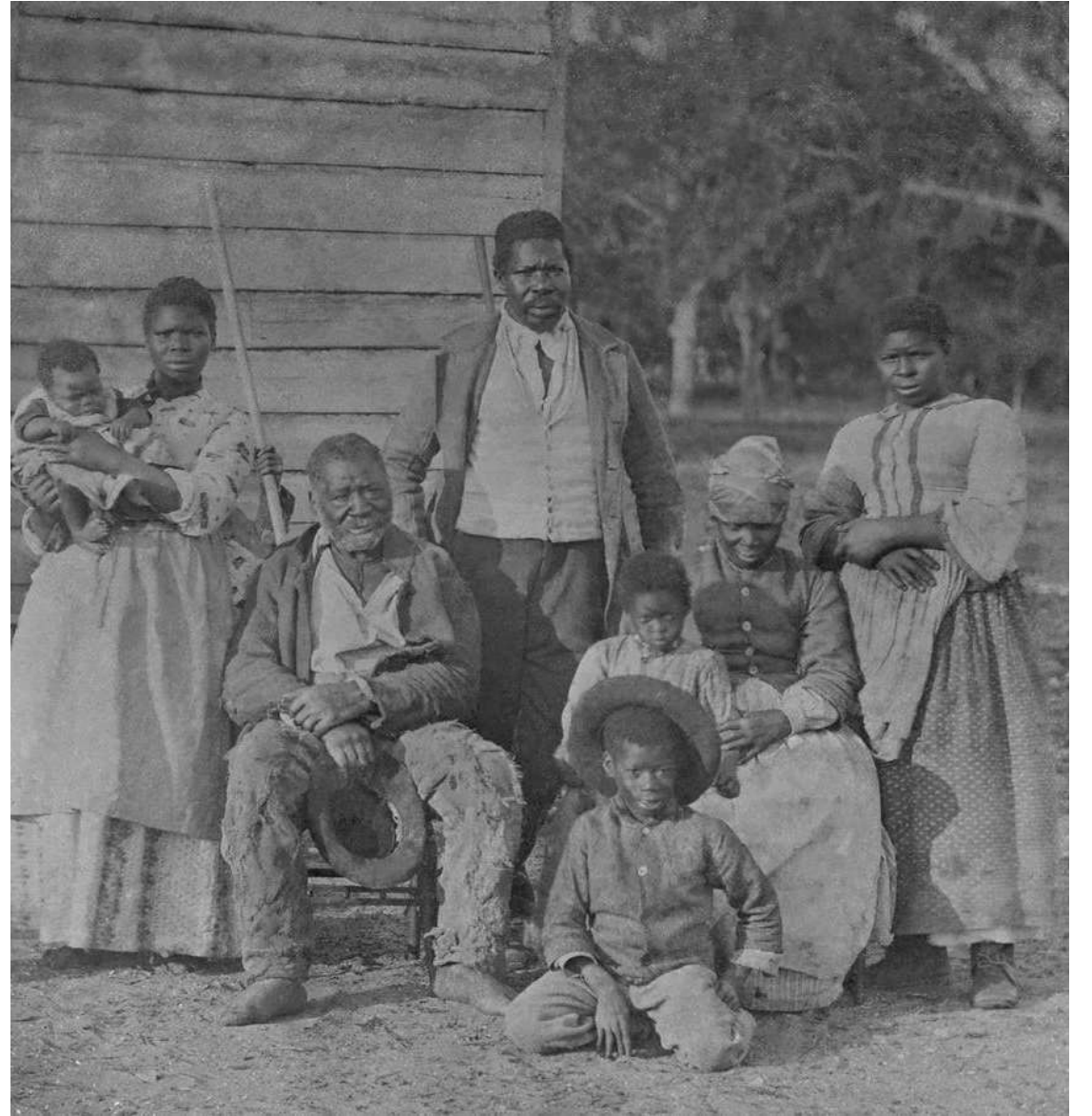
= vast compensation, with slaves over 6 kept in slavery til 1838

Full freedom was granted in 1838

Colonial Office: part of a general wish to 'transfer to distant regions the greatest possible amount of civil liberty for which Britain is deeply indebted for the rank she holds among civilisation'







SLAVERY THROUGHOUT THE 19TH CENTURY

The 1833 Act permitted slavery in East India Company territory

Around 2 million Indians were transported as 'indentured servants' to Mauritius, the Caribbean, Malaysia and South Africa, up until 1917

Slavery abolished in the French Colonies in 1848...

... In the US in 1865

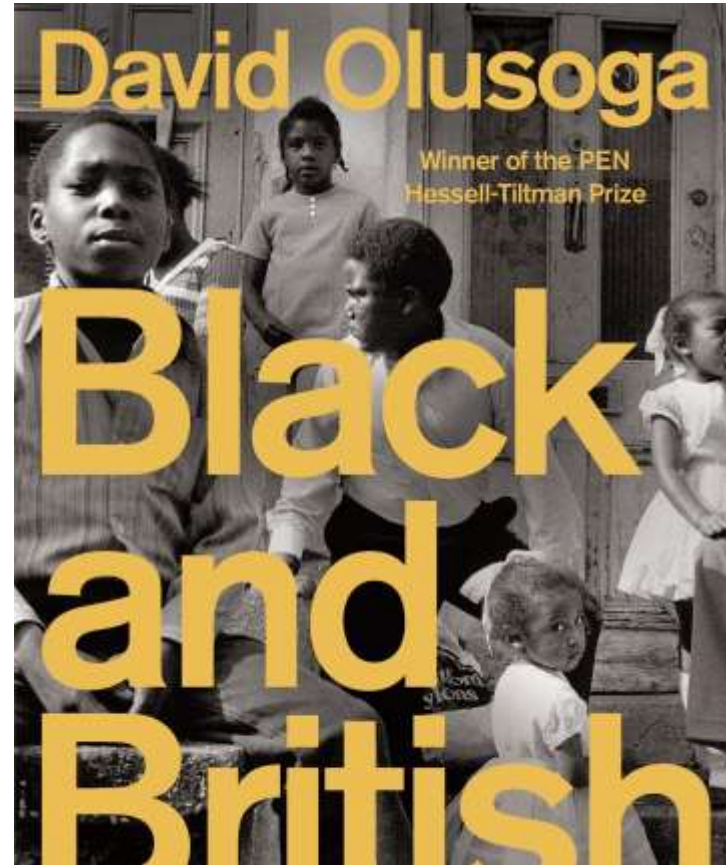
... And in Brazil in 1888

SUMMARY

What drove the rise and fall of the British slave trade?

Capitalism, international competition, or culture and ideas (racism and abolitionism)?

What factor do you think is most important?



ASSIGNMENT 2 (30TH SEPT)

Write a 300 word review of David Olusoga's *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (TV version – Episode 3). In it, compare Olusoga's perspective with what you have learned in class or on our trip to the Docklands Museum

View it on YouTube via here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc7E9PEjVAc>

If you haven't already, please email me Assignment 1 by tonight



TRIP: MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

Meet me at Westferry station at the ticket barriers at **2.30**
It's on the DLR – take Central Line from TCR and change at Bank

Any issues, call me: 07784 084754