

THE ROOTS OF SLAVERY

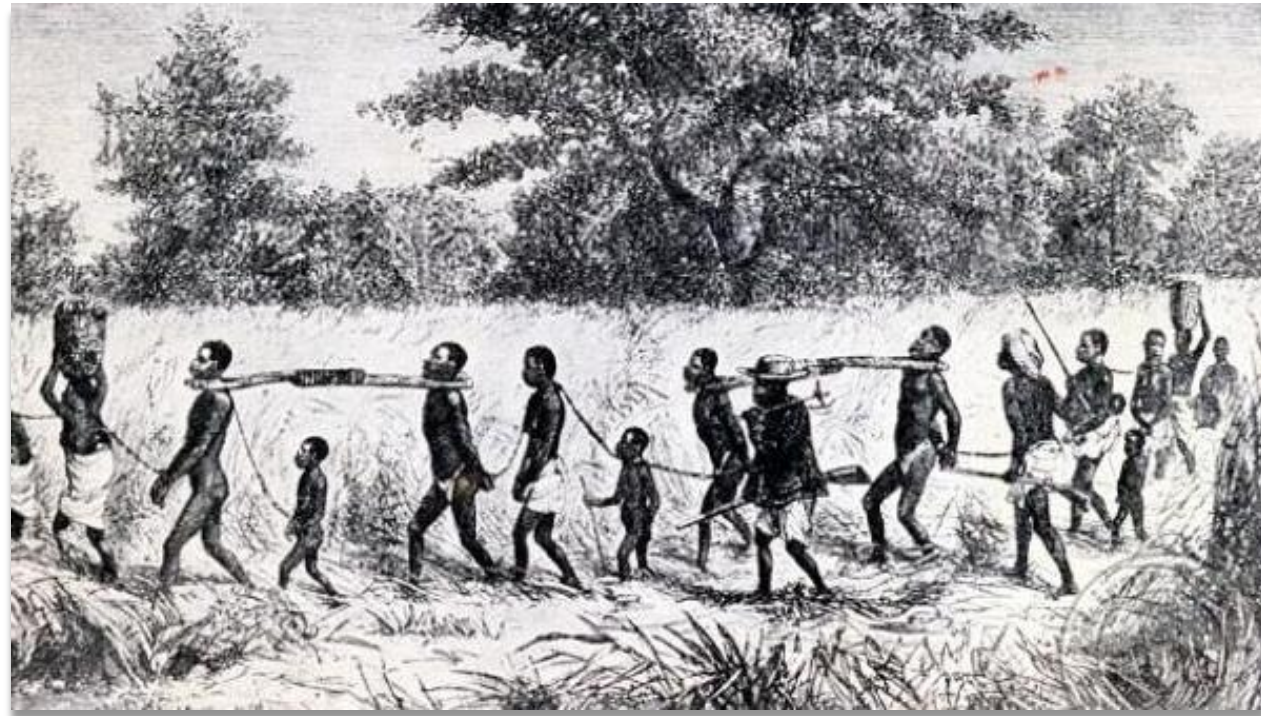
ECONOMICS AND WAR



HISTORY OF SLAVERY

- Slavery is older than first human records
- Slavery is a universal institution in the world
- In China in Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 BC)
- In Roman Empire (27 BC to 476 AD)
- Arab Muslims captured & enslaved Africans
- Europeans enslaved other Europeans
- Long before Europeans arrived, Africans enslaved other Africans





AFRICAN SLAVERS CAPTURE OTHER AFRICANS

Many tribes were ruthless as the slave trade developed between 1650 and 1860, bringing slaves from Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Slave Coast, the Congo, and Angola to be sold to European slave dealers.

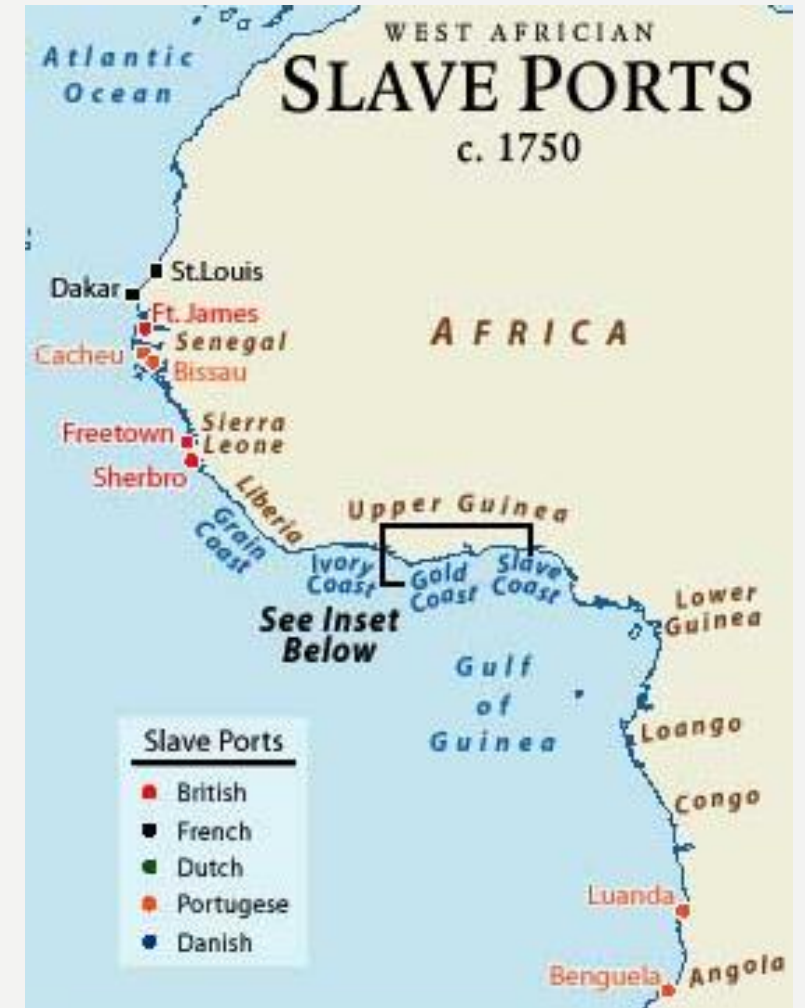


THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The British were central to the Atlantic Slave Trade; they may not have started it, but they perfected it, carrying more Africans to the West Indies than any other nation.

The slave trade depended on capturing slaves from inland tribes and transporting them to the coast. The tribes would sell them to the slave traders and take them to the West Indies and later to the American colonies.

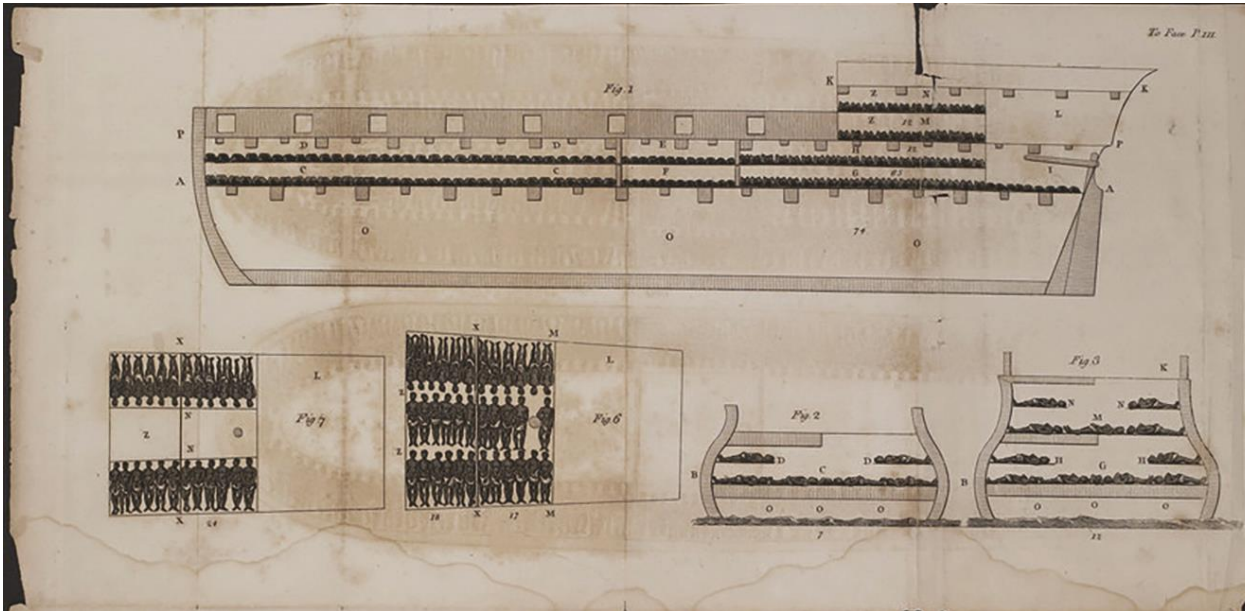
Dozens of ports, thousands of ships, tens of thousands of sailors brought this human cargo to Barbados, and other sugar colonies.

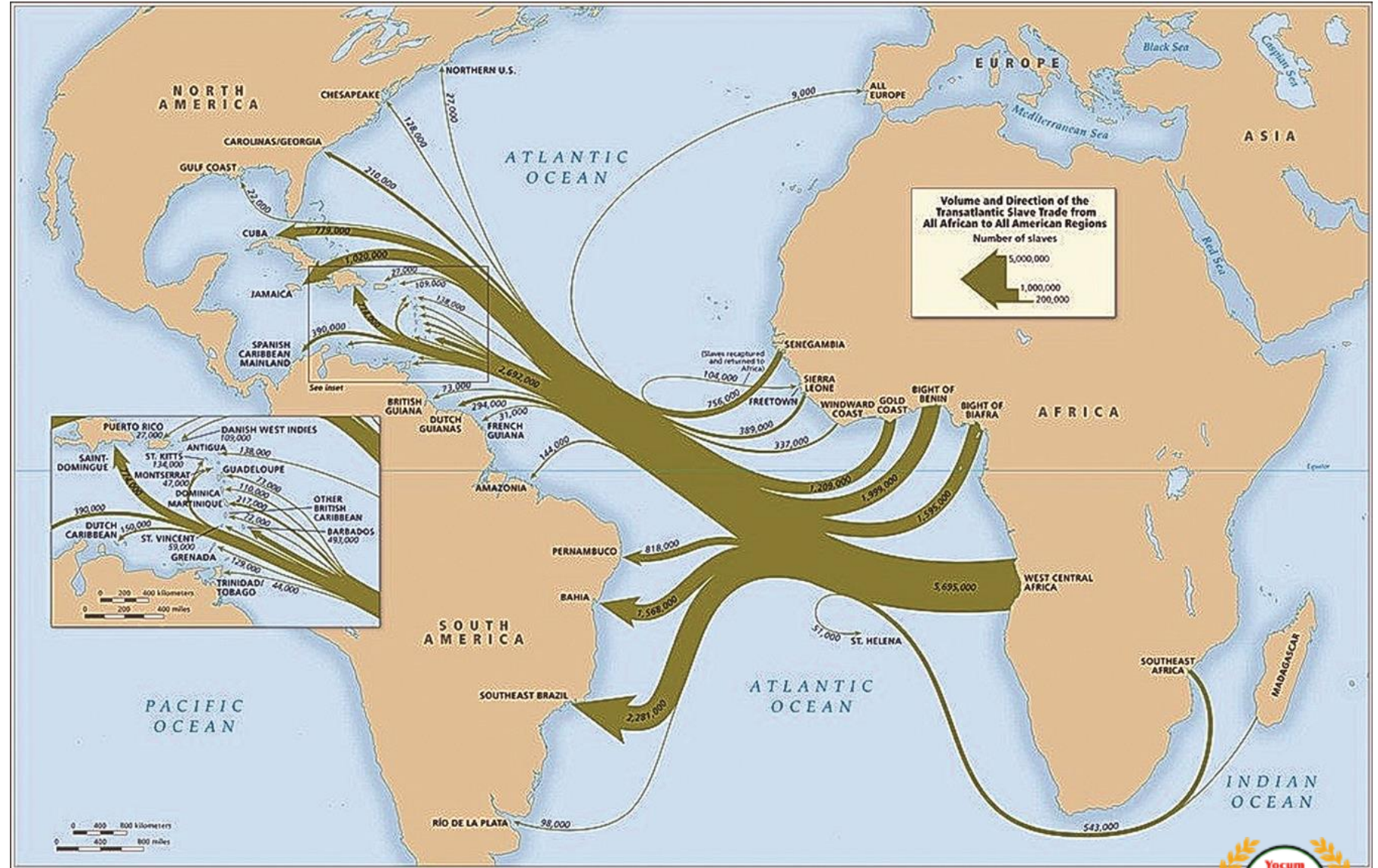


OLAUDAH EQUIANO

The ship “was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us.”

From, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*





OLAUDAH EQUIANO (1745 TO 1797)

- ▶ Captured with his sister by African slavers when he was at 11
- ▶ Taken to Barbados, West Indies, stripped of dignity
- ▶ Transported to Virginia
- ▶ Sold to Royal Navy officer, Michael Henry Pascal
- ▶ Sailed to England in 1757, later schooled to read & write
- ▶ For eight years sailed the seas with Pascal
- ▶ Pascal sold him to another ship captain
- ▶ Sold again to prominent merchant, Robert King
- ▶ Learned how to be a businessman and bought his freedom
- ▶ *The Interesting Narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano, 1789*



SUMMARY

- Slavery is a universal institution, older than human records
- Historically part of the Chinese, Roman, Arab, and European background
- The slave trade is not only a product of evil Europeans, but also corrupt Africans
- Africans became victimizers and victims of other tribes
- African slavers captured and sold rivals to the European slave traders for money & guns
- Families would even sell their family members to pay a debt or to survive financially (*Tyranny of Experts* by William Easterly)
- Yet, some slaves would still rise above their circumstances, like Olaudah Equiano

