

Slavery in America

A Review

17th century

- Indentured servants: Virginia; headright system (pay for journey to colonies in exchange for servitude) gets more land for the wealthy → large plantations → planter aristocracy
 - Bacon's rebellion (1676): indentured servants attacked by NA, nothing is done, revolt; leads to decline of indentured servants
- Massachusetts, New Netherlands legalize slavery
- 1619: Africans arrive in Jamestown; treated as indentured servants
- 1672: Royal African Company: Brits get into slave trade (Triangular trade, Atlantic Slave Trade, Middle Passage)

Religion and Slavery

- Great Awakening (1730s, 40s) and Second Great Awakening (1820s-1840s) emphasize conversion to Christianity
- Initially, Christian converts emancipated
- 1705 Virginia Slave Code: any African not a Christian in his HOME country a slave (also applied to NA)
 - Distinguishes slaves as “real estate” to be owned by master

Shifting Perspectives

- 1662: slavery is determined through mother (VA)
- 1670: Africans slavery for life (VA)
- 1688 Barbados Slave code: est. “chattel” slavery; becomes basis for later codes in colonies (South Carolina, 1712)
- 1750: Georgia becomes last colony to legalize slavery
- 1793: Fugitive Slave Law added to U.S. Constitution → Underground Railroad

Resistance

- NYC: revolts in 1712 and 1741; ends with Africans being accused of trying to take out government
- Stono Rebellion: South Carolina, 1739. Spain promises freedom to any slave coming to Florida; increase in runaways → Security Act (^{PROVIDES} whites carry guns to church on Sundays) → 100 slaves march, fire shots, 30 killed
- Second Great Awakening: is slavery “Christian”?
Abolition movement 1830s/40s
- Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation (1775): all slaves who fight for Brits will win their freedom
- Declaration of Independence (1776): Are all men created equal?