

# SLAVERY

## IN AFRICA

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### HISTORY OF AFRICAN SLAVERY

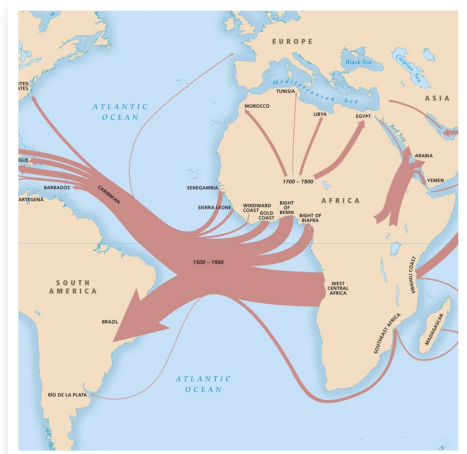
Africa has been the main source for slaves for most of history. Even Africans enslaved other Africans, as this was most common for African slaves. In the 7th century, slavery changed in Africa when Muslims and Europeans started capturing Africans for slaves. From the 7th to 20th century, Arab Muslims captured thousands of slaves all throughout Africa. Starting in the 15th century and continuing through the 19th century, Europeans captured millions of slaves from Northern and Central Africa and sold them all over the world from North America to Asia.

Slavery in Africa was first recorded 3,500 years ago when Egyptians captured other Africans to use as slaves. Not much is known about the other parts of Africa during this time because the other African tribes did not record history as well as the Egyptians. Slavery became more common when North America wanted slaves for farming. Millions of slaves were taken across the Atlantic to serve as slaves in America. This was one of the most dangerous journeys for slaves and an estimated 1.5 to 2 millions died when crossing the Atlantic Ocean. -Nick Lueder

### AJAYI

Ajayi was sold into slavery when he was only 13 years old. It was March 1820 when he was kidnapped from Nigeria. His whole town of 12,000 people were captured to sell to the Portuguese and Spaniards. These 12,000 people would produce 3,000 fighting soldiers. Many peoples' families were separated when these raids occurred. Sometimes the armies would take only the men or women. Ajayi's father, mother and sister were all separated from him when Ajayi was captured, and soon Ajayi learned that his father died in battle. Ajayi's town was then set on fire and everyone had to walk 20 miles to the next town. The elderly people had troubles keeping up and would often be threatened to be killed on the spot. After being sold to multiple people, Ajayi decided he didn't want to live like this any more and tried committing suicide. However, he did not have the courage to and ended up being bartered for tobacco, rum, and other articles. The people who Ajayi next saw chained the slaves up together very violently. The slaves would then be thrown into a small room with no ventilation and would be badly bruised from being chained together. Luckily for Ajayi, a British anti-slave team found the slaves, and rescued them. -Nick Lueder

Mungo Park was one of the earliest European explorers in West Africa, he was also a Scottish medical doctor. He was later commissioned by the British African Association to search and explore the Niger River in 1795-1797. Park was traveling up the Gambia River, he learned a few African languages on the way. Like many other great explorers Park was an abolitionist seeking opportunities to replace the slave trade. Oddly enough he ended up being taken prisoner and joined a slave caravan to make his way back to the coast. Park was shocked with what he seen, he described human beings being sold to complete strangers. Slaves have been taken after battles have won, and others from their homes. A slave confronted Mungo and begged him for food, even though he had none even for himself, Park had seen the ways of a slave and a slave trader, although when they arrived back to shore the vessel was condemned as unfit for the sea and the slaves were sold off just for the benefit of the owners. -Brandon Richey





## Olaudah Equiano

When Olaudah Equiano was 11, he was taken from his Southeast Nigerian home, separated from his family, and sold into slavery. From a young age Equiano was being trained in the art of war, as he lived in an area where starting wars and capturing people was very common. Equiano was one of the few Africans to be enslaved that was able to write about his experiences, and reflect on his life as a traveling slave in the 1750's. He was bought and sold several times, all to places that used him for work. Olaudah's duties included working on bellows and doing housework. Equiano was extremely fortunate in the sense that he often times ended up being sold to a respectable home. Throughout Olaudah's travels he was introduced to several new customs and languages that were unfamiliar to him. He often thought of running away to find his father's house, but realized that it would be hopeless, as his journey would be lengthy and intricate. -Hailey Stockford



**Ayuba Suleiman Diallo**

Ayuba Suleiman Diallo was an educated Muslim from the middle of West Africa who was part of the slave trade. In the year 1730 Ayuba crossed the River Gambia to dispose of his two Negroes for some cows. As he was returning home he stopped to refresh himself, in the process a company of Mandinka snuck in and pinned him to the ground. He was taken to and sold in Kent Island in Maryland. Ayuba ventured away and was put in jail. Thomas Bluett heard of Ayuba and desired to meet him. The jail keeper was informed that Ayuba was in jail because he left his master, then the jail keeper returned Ayuba to his master. Ayuba then wrote a letter to his father which was seen by James Oglethorpe who then paid for Ayuba's delivery to England. Ayuba set sail in 1733. At one point in Ayuba's travels around England he met the Royal Family. In 1734 Ayuba returned home, he was informed that his father had died and his wife had married another man. The other man thought it was advisable to abscond. Ayuba forgave his wife and the man who had taken her because she could not have known that he was still alive or not or if he was coming. -Isaac Koon

## African Society



*Ancient African Houses*

In Africa, farming people lived in tight knit communities where people would help each other plant and harvest their land. Political patterns in Africa largely depended on the culture and size of the community. Usually in smaller communities, power was organized and shared among the people, rather than appointing a single leader. Women in West Africa played an important role in the marketplace and in peacemaking. These villages made decisions by coming to a consensus, or general agreement among the people. Another form of government in Africa consists of villages being grouped into districts that are governed by officials. African religious beliefs often practiced the worship of many gods and goddesses. Many Africans also believed that a single unknowable god stood above all others. Christianity and Islam spread throughout Africa by 1000 AD. Africa had several traditions in Art and Literature. African art, such as; Sahara rock paintings, the pyramids of Egypt, and Ethiopia rock churches strengthened community bonds. African societies preserved much of their history through written and oral literature. -Hailey Stockford

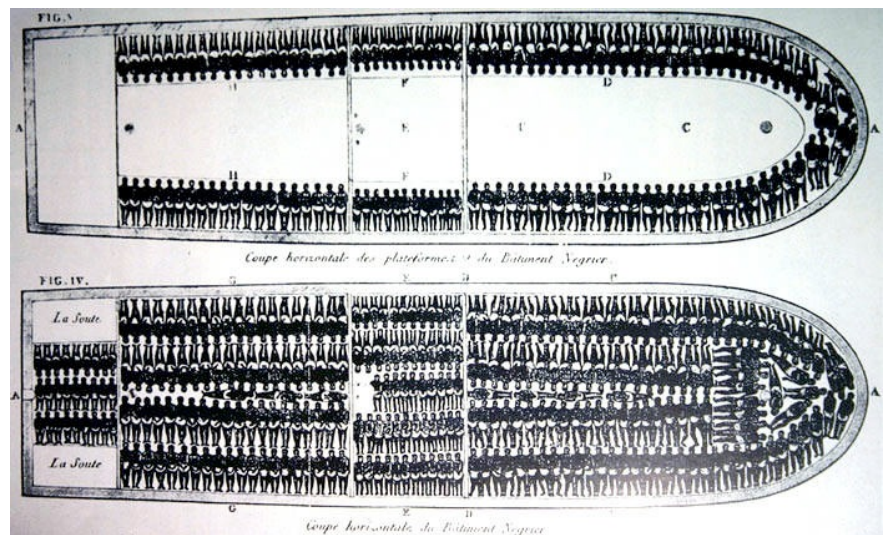


# AFRICAN SLAVERY

## Abeeda

Abeeda is an Arabic word that means “black slave.” Abeeda is what Abuk Bak was called after when her village of Achuru was raided by Arab militiamen for all the women, children, and animals in 1987. When her village was raided all the men were killed and all the houses were burnt to the ground. Abuk Bak and all of the other women and children were taken to the town of Daien. In Daien the people of Achuru were sold to whoever would buy them, Abuk was sold to an Arabic man named Ahmed Adam, this was the last time that she would see her family. Ahmed took her to his home somewhere in southern Sudan. When they arrived Ahmed’s wife Aisha showed Abuk what her responsibilities were in the house, because they didn’t speak the same language Aisha tried to explain with hand motions. Then Ahmed took Abuk outside and showed her what her outside responsibilities were. When Abuk didn’t understand what Ahmed was trying to say so he would beat her. Abuk’s responsibilities were to wash dishes and clothes, sweep the floor, and clean the house, outside Abuk had to take all of the goats and the cows out and find good grazing and watering places which was hard to do because they lived in the middle of a desert. When she came back without all of the animals Ahmed would beat her and make her go back and look for the animal. When she returned without the animal Ahmed would beat her again and then go in the house. Abuk had to sleep on a patch of dirt outside the house. The days went on like this for 10 years, but when Abuk grew older Ahmed started to look at her differently and he started to sneak out of the house at night to try and rape, she would just scream and he would leave. But one day he ran out and jumped on her and covered her mouth so she couldn’t scream she wrestled his hand off and scream so he stabbed her and ran back in the house. Because of this incident she worked up the courage and ran away. She snuck onto a truck and hid in the back with goats. When the truck stopped she got off and realized that she was in a market, the market was in Babanusa. She seen a man that was the same color as her and went to him to talk. His name was Majak, he took her to his home in Khartoum. She lived there with him until he bought her a train ticket to Caro Egypt where she then moved and lived with Majak brother. Abuk and Majak brother got married and moved to Massachusetts where she was reunited with her mother, sister, and brother.

In Africa, Family Patterns played a major role in the development of early societies. Africa is known for very diverse climates, this impacted the family patterns because after the Neolithic Revolution they began communities converted to farming. Communities started to be built around areas with fertile soil and close to water. Artisans developed specialized skills, which led to an increase in surplus and growing farm settlements. Farmers started to become wealthy and this led to the creation of individual states and kingdoms, Also the camel was an advancement in transportation at this time. Family was a basic unit of society, in some societies there was a “nuclear family” and this meant that the parents and children would live together and work as a unit. In other communities they had what was called “extended family” or several generations to ensure the success of the group. Kinship and family aspects, and inheritance from father to son played a big part in the creation of Ancient African communities. -Brandon Richey



A Map of Abeeda’s Travels

-Isaac Koon