



Slavery in the Americas

Latin American Slavery

- Due to high cost, mostly served on plantations and domestic service
- By the end of the colonial period, slaves formed a minority of the total black/mulatto pop.
- Frequently ran away and often formed communities (***quilombos***) in mountains/jungles to lead resistance movements
- Freed blacks worked in agriculture and as artisans, required to pay a tribute like Indians



Brazil

- Slaves imported b/c Indians lacked a strong work ethic
- Slave labor created a populous class of unemployed whites; socially unacceptable for whites to do hard labor
- "Discipline was maintained with a severity that often degenerated into sadistic cruelty where the infliction of corporal punishment was concerned" – Charles Boxer
 - Forced prostitution of female slaves
 - Frequent suicides, low rate of reproduction
- Majority of freed blacks were tenant farmers/sharecroppers who owed labor and allegiance to landowners for privilege of farming piece of land
 - Others – squatters who settled the frontiers; artisans



- 1826 – Signed treaty w/ England to end slave trade by 1831; Brazil didn't enforce; 1850 – still imported more than 50K slaves/year
- 1850s – Brazil passes **Queiroz Anti-Slave-Trade Law** (effective)
 - Severe labor shortage → large flow of slaves from N to S (coffee = \$\$)
 - \$\$ used for slave imports funneled into *infrastructure, agriculture*
- Abolitionist movements began in the 1860s in full force
 - **US Civil War & War of the Triple Alliance** called for emancipation
 - Brazil, Cuba and Puerto Rico remained slaveholding countries
 - 1870 – Spain frees all the newborn and aged slaves in Cuba & PR
- Gov. frees slaves that agree to become soldiers
- **Rio Branco Law** (1871) – Freed newborn slaves
 - Masters had to care for them until 8
 - Could release them to the state in exchange for bonds or keep them as laborers until 21 (ineffective law)



Rio Branco



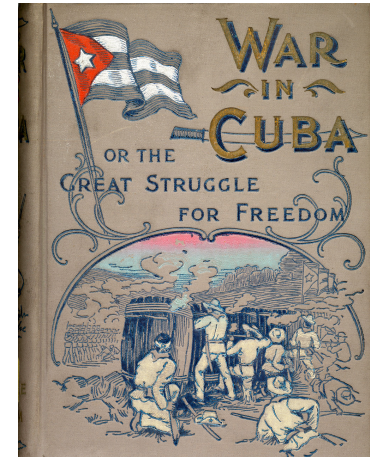
- 1884 – Slavery first declared illegal in Northern states
- 1885 – Free slaves over the age of 60
 - but first had to work three more years
- **Joaquim Nabuco** – leading abolitionist; organized “underground railroad”
- May 1888 – slavery *officially* abolished "as a result of abolitionist agitation, mass flights of slaves, armed clashes...in effect, not through reform but by revolution.”
- **Results**: Little changed for freedmen after emancipation → still worked for masters under harsh conditions; many lost jobs to immigrants

Nabuco



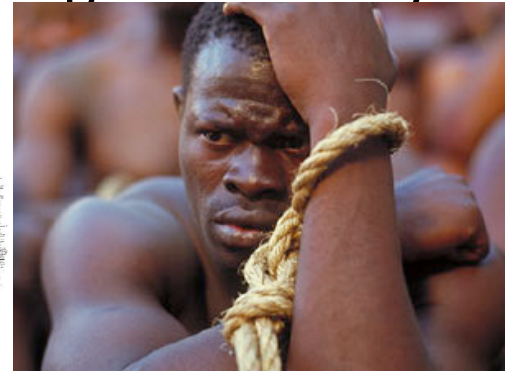
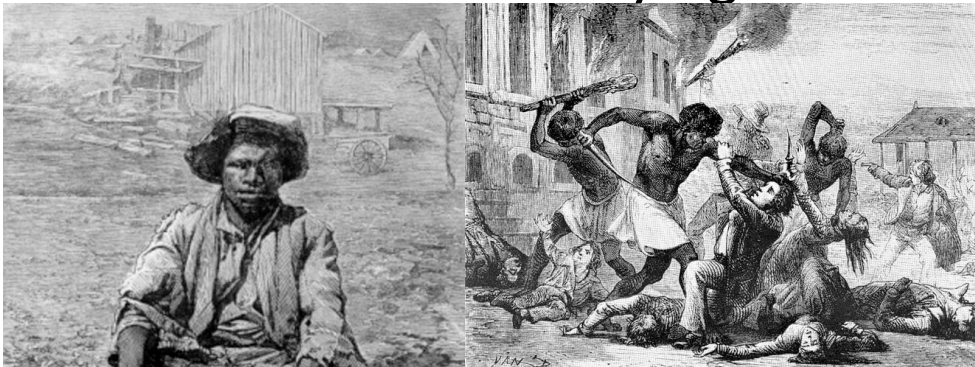
Cuba

- During the first half of the 1800s, 600K slaves arrived in Cuba to work in sugar plantations
- Slave rebellions broke out in 1810, 1812, 1844
- As a defense against abolition movements, Cuban creole landowners considered annexation to US
- **Ten Years' War 1868-1878** – Cuba tries to gain independence from Spain
 - Some concessions but not independence
 - To gain support of blacks, ESP gives them their freedom in 1880 w/ 8-year apprenticeship period



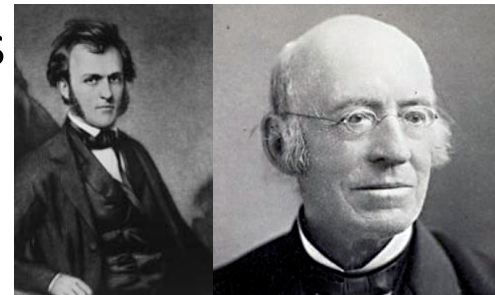
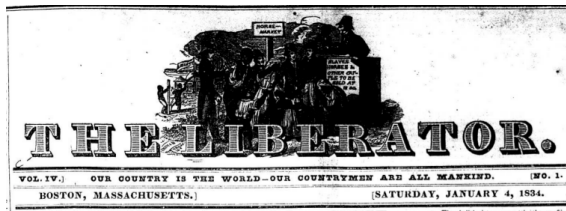
Notable US Slave Rebellions

- **Stono, SC (1739)** – Largest colonial rebellion. 90 killed → restricted education for slaves & created 10yr. Moratorium of Af. Slave trade
- **Gabriel Prosser (1800)** – Failed rebellion in Richmond, VA with 25 collaborators; betrayed and hanged.
- **Denmark Vesey (1822)** – educated freed slave & African mystic Gullah Jack plan rebellion to kill every white person in Charleston, SC; intricate information network discovered → hanged with 35 others.
- **Nat Turner (1831)** – slave rebellion in Southampton County, VA → bloodiest slave insurrection in the South (60 whites and many blacks killed); most successful & most frightening
- **Amistad (1838)** – **Joseph Cinque** led mutiny of slave ship & led to landmark court case saying the slaves had the right to mutiny

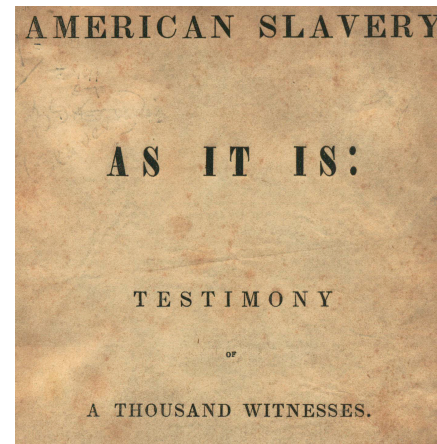


Abolition Timeline

- 18th Century – **Quakers** first abolitionists
- By 1800s, North had basically abolished slavery
- 1820s – Upper South – Quaker movement which called for gradual, compensated emancipation & colonization in Africa
- 1817 – American Colonization Society formed
 - 1822 – Liberia first resettled
- 1820s – **Benjamin Lundy**, NJ Quaker, leads movement – Gradual, compensation & colonization gave **William Lloyd Garrison** his start
- Jan. 1, 1831 – Garrison begins publishing **The Liberator** – Immediate, no compensation & without colonization
 - 1832 – organized the New England Anti-Slavery Society
 - 1833 – helped organize the American Anti-Slavery Society
 - 1840 – nearly 200,000 abolitionists

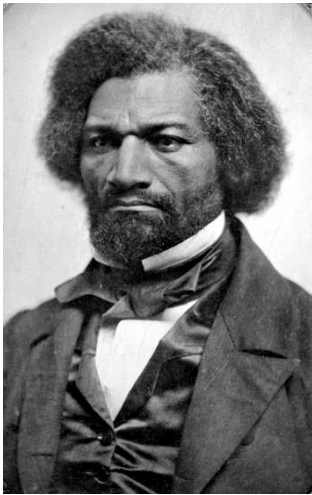


- **Theodore Dwight Weld** – best organizer of abolitionist movements; Slavery As It Is
- Abolitionists spoke out against
 - physical abuses of slavery,
 - failure to give legal marriages to slaves,
 - separation of children from parents,
 - denial of self-improvement,
 - institution wasn't weakening but strengthening
 - hypocrisy of America as democracy with slavery
 - British West Indies emancipation led to more cries of American emancipation



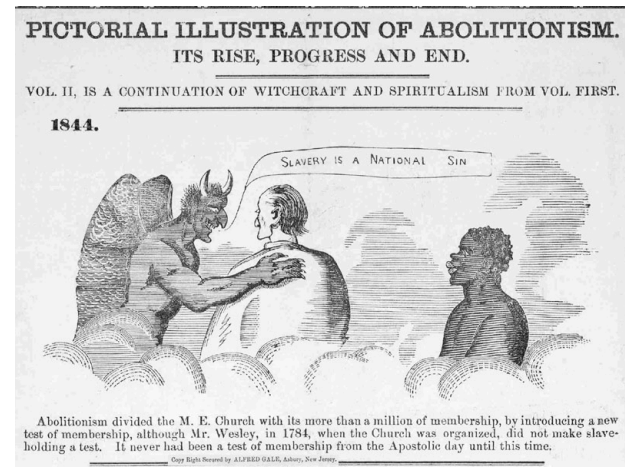
Notable African-American Abolitionists

- **Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth** – leading freed black abolitionists
- **David Walker** – militant black abolitionist, Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World
- **Harriet Tubman** – escaped from slavery, then led 19 groups of people to freedom on the Underground Railroad
- Abolitionist Tactics – slavery was a sin → denies unalienable rights → politically pressured Congress to outlaw interstate slave trade & exclude slavery from territories



Opposition

- Mob violence to stop abolitionists→
 - Business leaders in North supported this because feared loss in trade with South
 - Nationalists feared break up of union; Church leaders warned against sectionalism; racism
- Free Blacks in North
 - Forbidden from most trades and professions
 - excluded from public schools
 - segregated in Church, transportation
 - barred from public office/jury duty
 - couldn't vote except in New England and New York
 - couldn't settle in some Western states



Progress?

- **Gag rule** (1836-1844) – Forbade Congress from hearing petitions related to slavery → abolitionists fighting for freedom to appeal
- **Prigg v. Penn** (1842) – Allowed states to withhold assistance of supporting the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, led to adoption of personal-liberty laws
- United in their call for no slavery in new Western territories



Pro-Slavery?

- African-Americans were descendants of Ham, who was cursed in the Bible
- **Mosaic Law** said that Jews were to make bondsman of the heathens
- Prophets, Christ, etc. never condemned slavery; servants were to obey
- Slavery is part of history (Aristotle) in every organized society the men of superior talents would become masters over those of inferior talents
- Provided efficient and orderly labor system (plantations = organized communities) everyone works and is provided for (practical socialism)
- Slaves happy and well cared for...
- Racially-based arguments – Best case scenario for black Americans (inferior to white race intellectually); by freeing the whites from menial tasks, all members of the privileged caste were elevated

