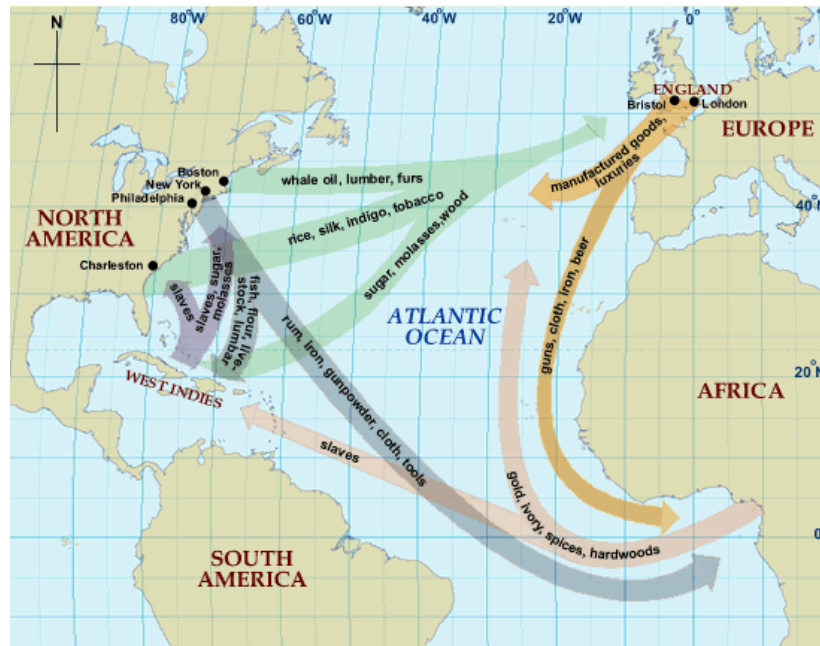


American Slavery: 1619 to 1865

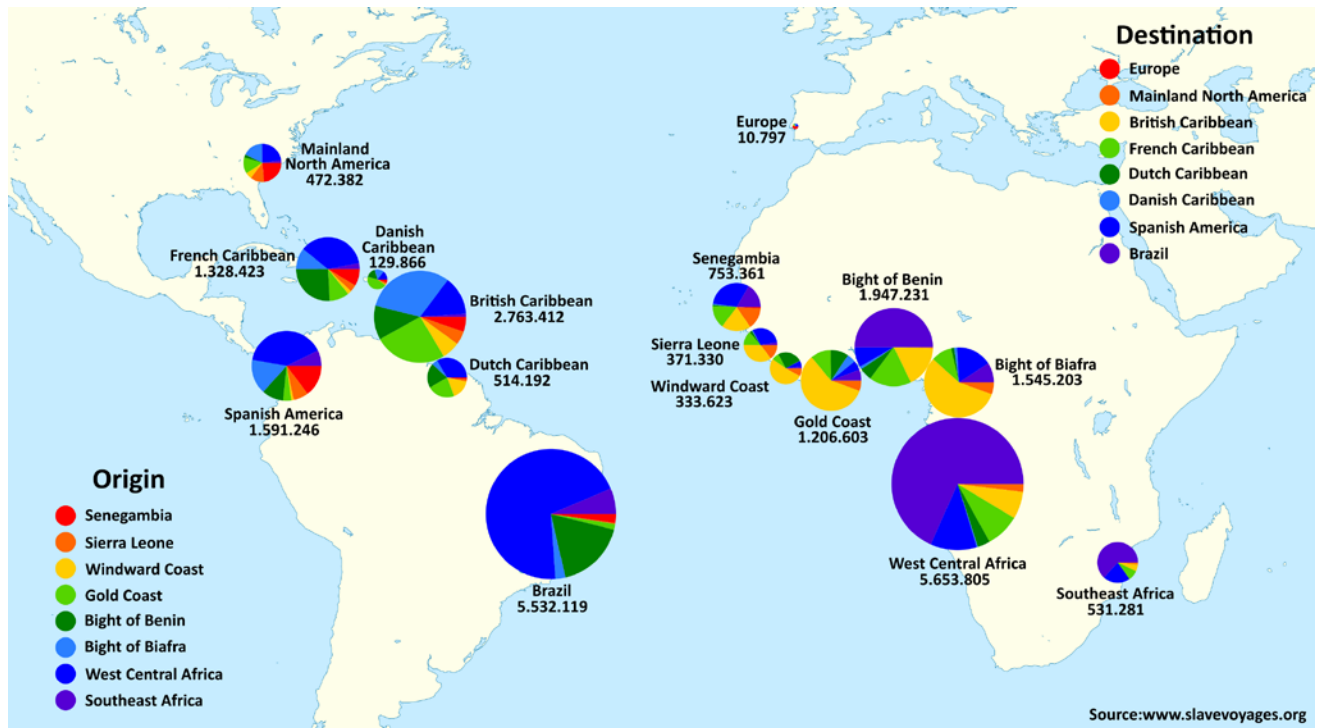
The “Triangle of Trade” from Europe, to Africa, to America, and back to Europe across the northern Atlantic

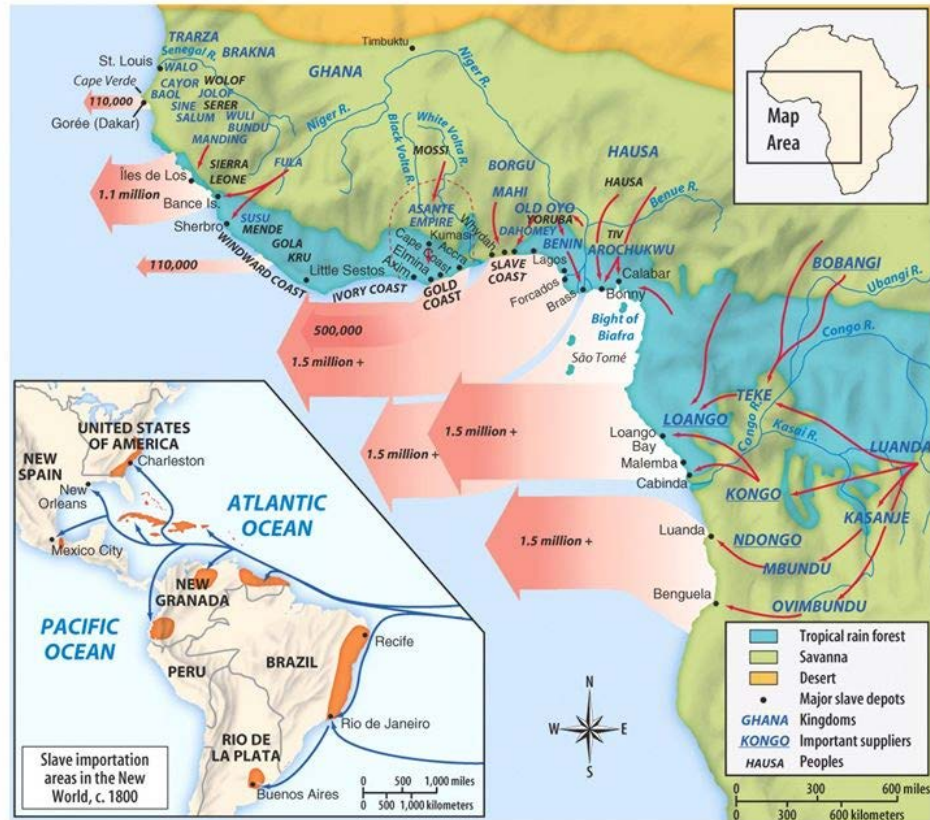


Early 1500s: Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch instigate the trans-Atlantic slave trade

1619: Dutch traders brought the first African slaves to the Jamestown colony

1865: Slavery was outlawed in all American states and territories by the 13th Amendment



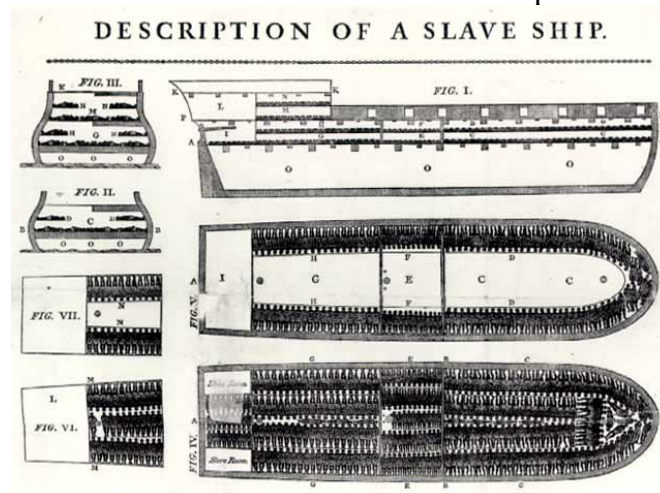


Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1700-1810

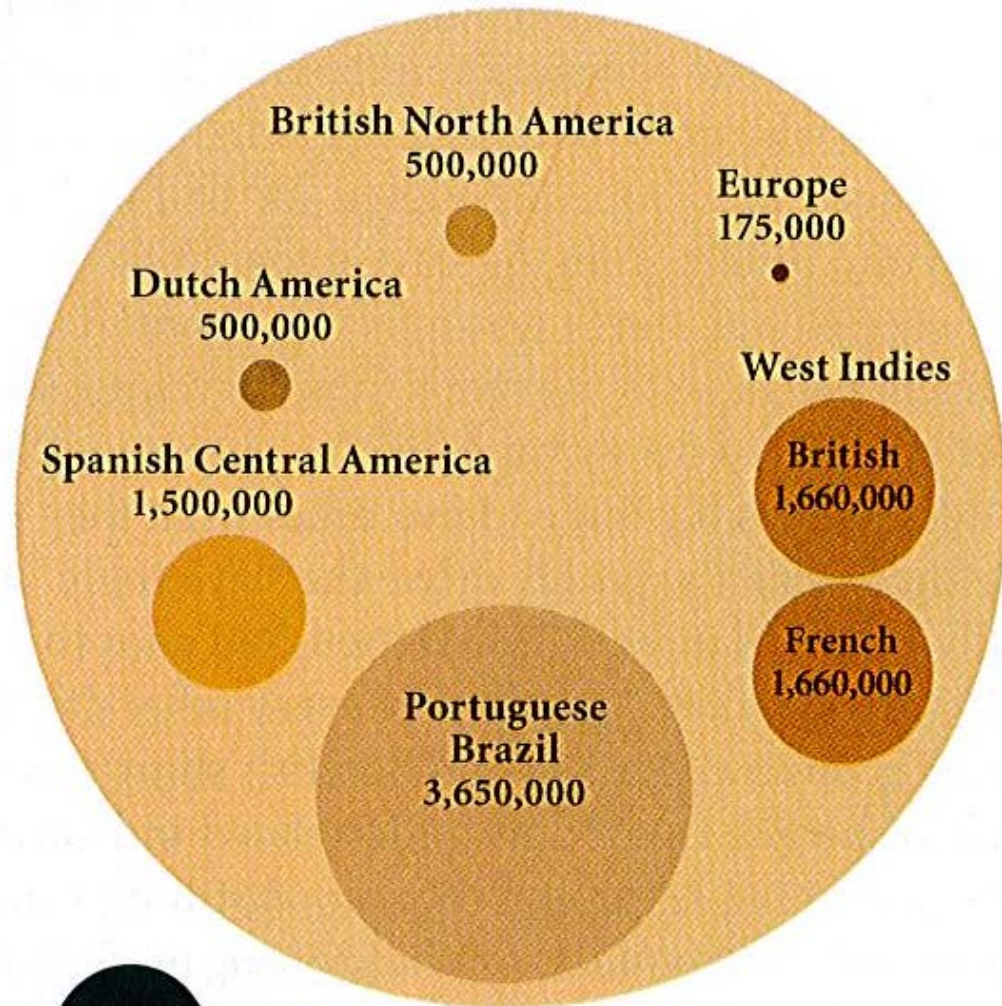
Henretta, et al., *America: A Concise History*, 6th, p.80.

I. Middle Passage

- Slave “castles” in equatorial western Africa
- Slaves traded for weapons, textiles, iron tools
- More than a voyage: a psychological torture to dehumanize people
 - High mortality: disease, torture, murder, suicide
- Ended with slave auction block in American port cities



Number of Africans arriving
alive in the Americas and Europe
9,645,000



Approx. 14% died on slave ships

II. Arrival in the New World

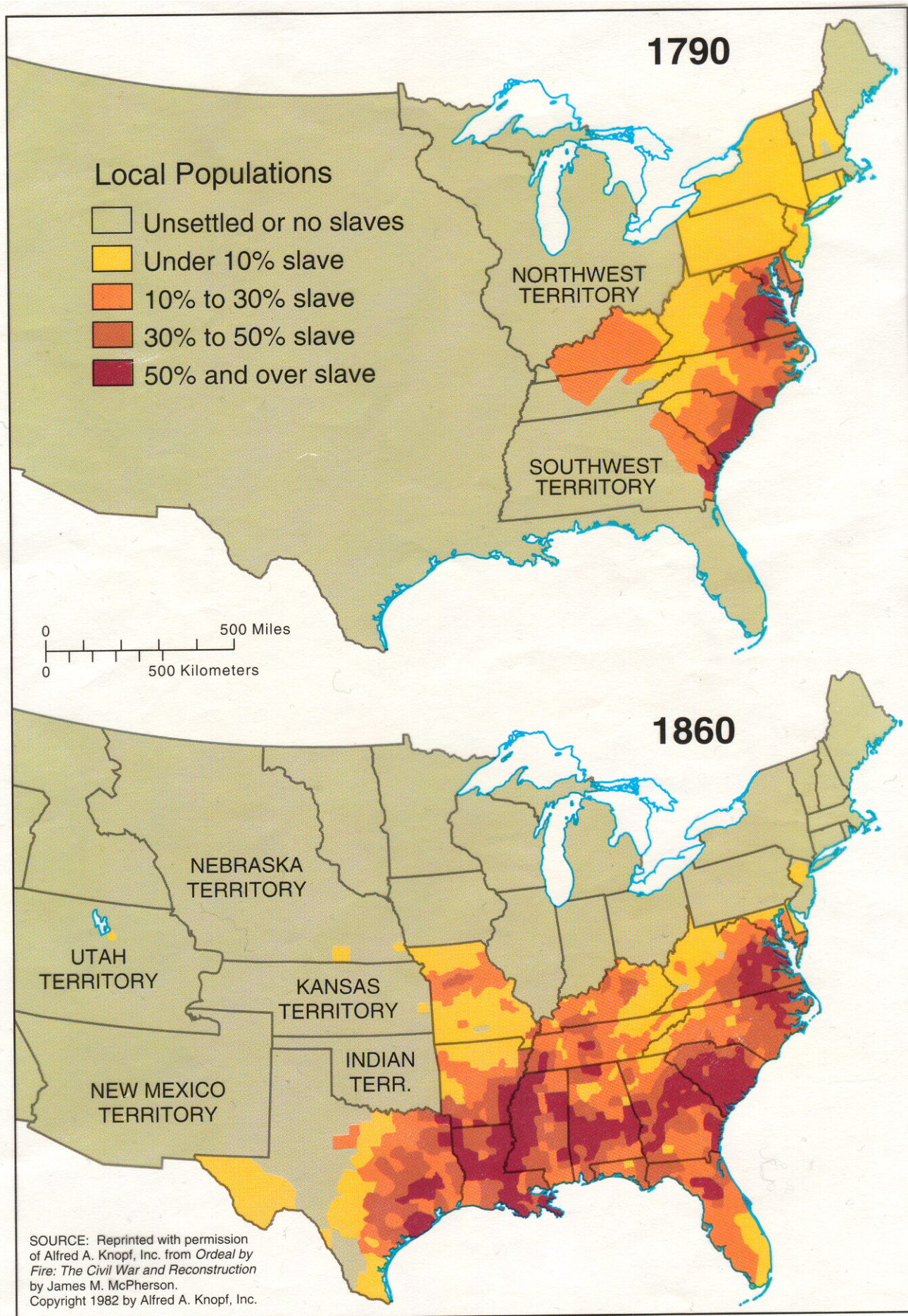
- a. Most slaves brought to North America had already lived in the Caribbean and South America (little direct trade with western Africa)

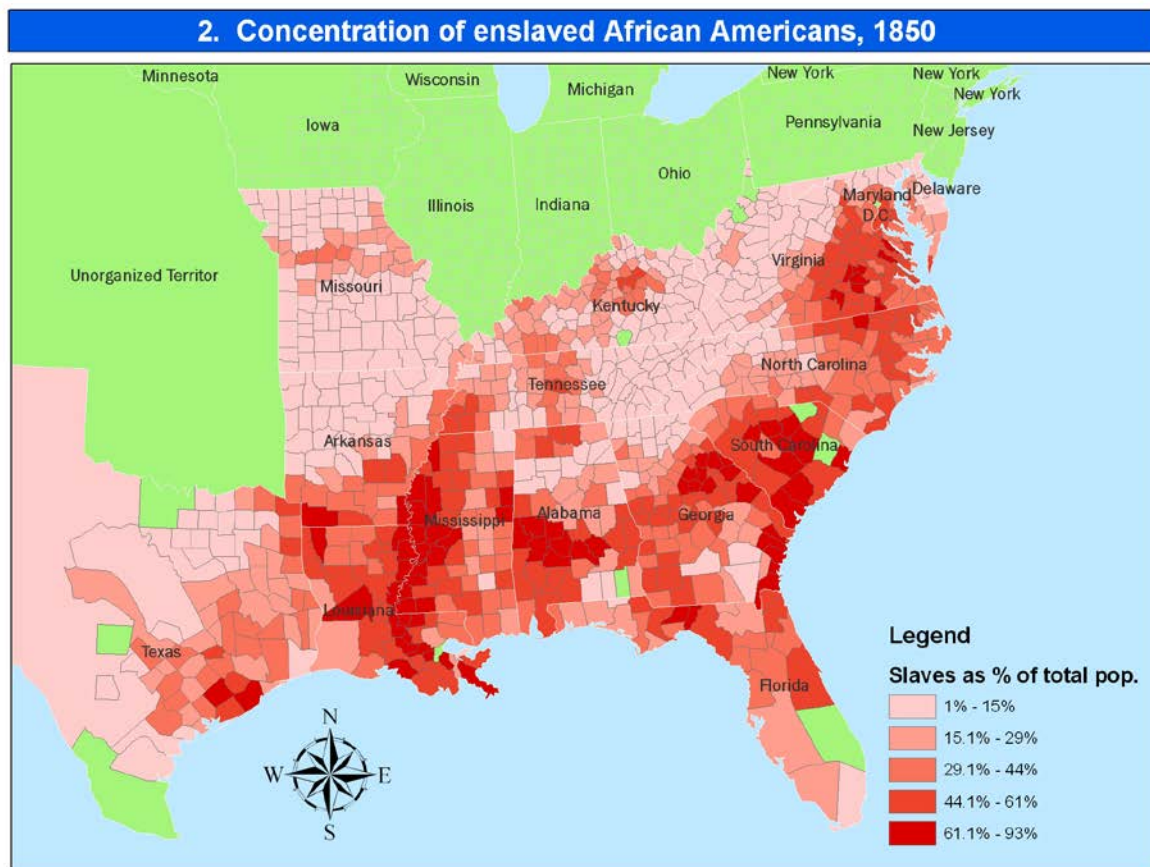


- b. Mixing of west African culture
 - i. polytheistic/animistic religion
 - ii. oral communication culture
 - iii. foodways: okra, rice, yams
 - iv. balanced sex ratio led to natural population increase



- c. Geographic distribution (originally all British North American colonies included slaves)
 - i. New Amsterdam/New York and Narragansett Bay
 - ii. Chesapeake Bay: tobacco
 - iii. Carolina and Georgia coast: rice, indigo
 - iv. Louisiana and Gulf Coast: sugar
 - v. “Black Belt” across the South: cotton
 - vi. Little slavery in Appalachia, Ozarks, and “piney woods”





III. The Slave Code and Control

- a. Person vs. Property: chattel slavery
 - i. No legal rights, no citizenship, no literacy
- b. Slave patrol: posse of local white males who monitored slave behavior
- c. Punishments: Colonial mutilation vs. Antebellum whipping

IV. The Slaves' World

- a. Family & Marriage (non-legal, but recognized)
 - i. Christianity and morale issues played a role, but property rights superseded
 - ii. Children born of slave mothers were slaves
- b. The "Quarters"
 - i. Wood, brick, or "tabby" shelters for slaves
 - ii. "Cabin Culture" preserved African cultural traits
 1. story-telling, music, religion, culinary/cuisine
- c. Food & Medicine
 - i. Corn & Pork, plus some regional supplements (or master's discretion)
 - ii. Poor medicine (no germ theory, based on Four Humors)

d. Religion:

- i. Hebrew-Christian traditions emphasized the relationship between the authoritative “father” and dutiful “children”
- ii. The promise of heavenly afterlife after the suffering of earthly life had special poignancy
- iii. The figure of Moses became popular among African Americans
- iv. In Catholic areas, the pantheon of saints resembled African polytheism, and voodoo/hoodoo resulted
- v. Spirituals

V. Work: The Central Feature of Slave Life

a. Agricultural: “from sun up to sun down”—by far the most common

i. Yeoman farms vs. plantations

1. drivers, overseers, managers, and owners
2. year-round work (Christmas/Jubilee)

ii. Example: Cotton

1. Mar-Apr: planting, 6” rows
2. May-June: hoeing, 8-10 days after sprout
3. July: “laid by”
4. Aug-Oct: picking, from 200 lbs. to 500 lbs./day

b. Domestic

c. Urban (ship-building, some industry)



VI. Resistance

- a. Most slaves did not internalize their identity as slaves, but resisted (even if only psychologically)
- b. Sabotage: Minor & Major
- c. Runaways, Maroon colonies, and the Underground Railroad
 - i. Obstacles: no maps, long distance, slave patrol
 - ii. Chronic offenders were “sold down the river”
- d. Revolt:

- i. Stono Rebellion 1739 (instigated by Spanish Florida)
- ii. Louisiana Revolt of 1811 (St. John's Parish, 40+ executed)
- iii. Nat Turner's Rebellion: 1831, 60+ Anglo Virginians killed
- iv. Saint-Domingue (1789) led by L'Ouverture (12 to 1 ratio of slave population to masters/free)

HORRID MASSACRE IN VIRGINIA



The Scenes which the above Plate is designed to represent, are—Fig. 1. a Mother interceding for the lives of her children,—2. Mr. Travis, cruelly murdered by his own Slaves,—3. Mr. Barrow, who bravely defended himself until his wife escaped.—4. A camp of mounted Dragoons in pursuit of the Blacks.