Chapter 8
Empires of Slavery: The Americas, 1492–1888

People
William Bosman: the chief factor (agent) for the Dutch West India Company, responsible to ship enslaved Africans to the Americas.
Olaudah Equiano: an Igbo African slave who bought his freedom, became an active Abolitionist, and wrote about the slave experience.
Frederick Douglass: former slave who became a leading Abolitionist in the United States and fought for human rights.
Harriett Tubman: helped slaves in the United States escape to Canada.
Thomas Clarkson: English campaigner against the slave trade, he devoted his life to its abolition.
William Wilberforce: English reformer who led fight in Parliament to abolish slavery throughout the Empire.
J.M.W. Turner: British artist, a seascape painter, and a strong supporter of the Abolitionist movement.
Abraham Lincoln: President of the United States who issued the Emancipation Proclamation during the American Civil War.
Mary Ann Shad: a free Black Abolitionist writer, who moved to Canada and started a school for all children, regardless of “complexional distinctions” before returning to the United States and becoming the first African-American woman lawyer and one of the first female lawyers in the country.

Terms
trans-Atlantic: to cross the Atlantic Ocean; trans-Atlantic trade is exchange from one side of ocean to the other.
Middle Passage: the name for the terrible journey for slaves from Africa to America.
indentured: person forced to work for a master for a fixed term is said to be indentured.
Triangular Trade: the trade connection between Europe, Africa and the Americas.
plantation: large units of land with large numbers of slaves to produce crops for export.
abolitionism: the move to abolish slavery, taken as a religious and political crusade, first by Quakers and Evangelicals in England, then in other countries.
emancipation: the act of restoring freedom to people who have been in slavery, liberating them from bondage.
1.  
- Slavery has existed for centuries in many societies.  
- It was innate to most African societies.  
- One could become a slave if they were:  
  - a prisoner of war.  
  - Captured by pirates.  
  - a convicted criminal.  
  - a debtor unable to pay.  
  - Born into slavery.

2.  
- It was incidental to main economic structures (as opposed to the south).  
- Slaves were not the sole source of labour (since indenture was common).

3.  
- Louis XIV issued the *Code Noire*, or Black Code, in 1685.  
- It decreed that:  
  - 1. All slaves to be made Roman Catholic.  
  - 4. Masters cannot force work Sundays, holidays.  
  - 5. Whites not allowed to marry Blacks.  
  - 7. Marriage required master’s permission and slave’s consent.  
  - 8. Slave children are slaves.  
  - 9. Inherit mother’s status.  
  - 23. A slave cannot testify against a master.  
  - 26. Death to slave doing bodily harm to master.  
  - 27. Death also for “verbal excesses” to master.  
  - 42. Slave families cannot be divided and sold.

4.  
- **Slaveholders** taught obedience and a sense of duty toward God. They motivated slaves with belief in rewards after death.  
- **Slaves** held secret prayer sessions to avoid white services. They included much excitement in praying and singing. Their “spirituals” (songs) described suffering and release. Some also continued African rituals.

5.  
- In the Southern US and other places, the law did not recognize slave marriages.  
- Slave owners were free to sell slaves as they saw fit. This included the right to break up families, which they often did.
6.  
   • Former slaves and whites joined forces to demand that it be ended.

7.  
   • The slave trade ended, but slavery still existed.  
   • Evangelicals and others argued to end slavery.  
   • Fugitive Slave Act allowed masters to capture escaped slaves, even on free soil.  
   • The Underground Railroad grew, trying to help slaves escape north (especially to Canada).

8.  
   **In the USA:**  
   • The population was split on the issue.  
   • A civil war resulted.  
   • During the war, Lincoln freed the southern Blacks.  
   • The 13th Amendment abolished slavery after the war ended.  
   **In Brazil:**  
   • 1.2 million slaves in population of 4 million at independence.  
   • All agreed immediate emancipation would bring chaos.  
   • The emancipation movement slowly gained support.  
     – British navy cut off supply of slaves to Brazil.  
     – Mortality rates high, plantation owners needed new sources of labour.  
     – Slavery was finally abolished.

9.  
   • European empires were built on slavery and slave trade.  
   • So ironic when imperialists switched to promoting Abolitionism.

10.  
    • In US South, freed slaves provided labour in coercive relationship of "sharecropping."  
    • In Brazil, freed slaves stayed to work the plantations, which also took on new immigrants.  
    • In British Caribbean islands like Trinidad, indentured labour replaced the slaves.  
      – They came especially from India and China, receiving their ship fare in a contracted exchange for 5 years of labour plus wages.  
      – Other destinations were Mauritius, South Africa, east Africa, and Fiji.