

**SLAVERY AND
EMPIRE, CHAPTER
4 NOTES**

History of the Slave Trade

- Slavery was part of the world of Mediterranean Europe for centuries: example—Philemon
- 1400s—Pope outlawed keeping Christian slaves
- Portugal started importing slaves from Africa in 1441

Sugar

- Caribbean sugar and slavery became the centerpiece of the European colonial system
- English, French, and Spanish sugar plantations sprang up in the Caribbean

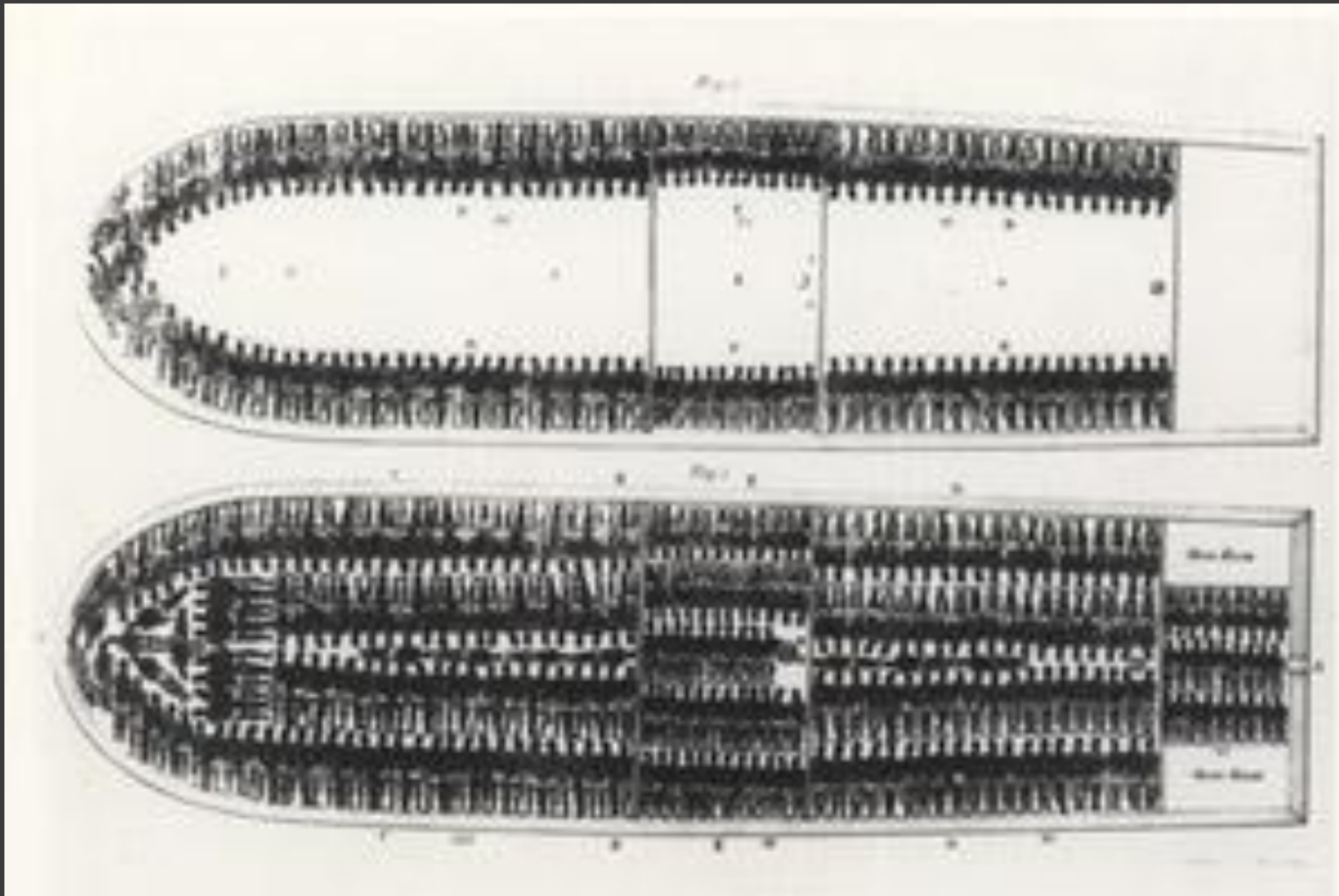
Slave Trade

- 10 to 12 million Africans were transported by slave ship to the Americas from the 1400s to the 1800s
- Most Africans were originally enslaved through warfare and sold by African slave traders to the Europeans
- Slaves were brought from the interior of Africa to the coast

Middle Passage

- Middle Passage was a term for the ocean voyage from Africa to the Americas
- Conditions on the slave ships were horrible
 - Slaves were trapped below deck
 - Sanitation was inadequate

Slave Hold



Arrival of the Slave Ship

- Slaves were freed as the ship approached port, so that they could be cleaned and readied for sale
- Slaves were auctioned
- Families were typically separated

North American Slave Societies

- First Africans in Virginia arrived in 1619 and were traded to John Rolfe
- Slaves cost twice as much as indentured servants and had the same poor life expectancy
- Slaves were not the labor supply of choice in the Chesapeake until the late 1600s
- After 1660s, the supply of indentured servants decreased

Legal Status of Slaves

- 1662 in Virginia: slavery of children was based on whether the mother was free or slave
- 1667 in Virginia: status of slave as a Christian no longer altered the conditions of servitude
- 1669: killing a slave during punishment was no longer a felony
- 1705: Virginia made a comprehensive “Slave Code”

Tobacco Farming

- Tobacco farming was labor intensive
- European demand for tobacco increased tenfold in the 1700s
- Slave labor was increasingly used for tobacco farming

Lower South

- ◉ South Carolina was a slave society from the beginning of the colony
- ◉ Native American slave trade—tens of thousands of Native Americans were sold into slavery by South Carolinians prior to the 1730s
- ◉ Georgia initially prohibited slavery—but in 1752 the colony was opened to slavery by 1770 the coastal population was 80% slave

Slavery in the North

- Slavery was an important form of labor in many areas of the North
- Many Quakers originally had slaves, but in 1715, John Hepburn of New Jersey published the first North American criticism of slavery
- By the 1750s, the Quakers condemned slavery

Slave Life

- Most slaves worked in the fields
- Provisions such as clothing were not generous
 - Washington gave his slaves one set of clothes per year, and they usually wore out within a few months
- Slave codes did not allow official slave marriage
- Families were commonly separated

Slavery and Violence

- Slave obedience based on violence
- Even “kind” plantation owners relied on violent beatings to keep order
- Fugitive slaves would sometimes form communities in the backcountry

Triangular Trade

- Slaves from Africa to America
- Raw Materials from America to Europe
- Manufactured Goods to Africa to trade for slaves



Social Structure of Slave Colonies

- ◎ Wealthy Planter Elite
 - Held more than half of the cultivated land and 60 percent of the wealth
- ◎ Small Planters and Farmers
- ◎ Poor White Colonists