

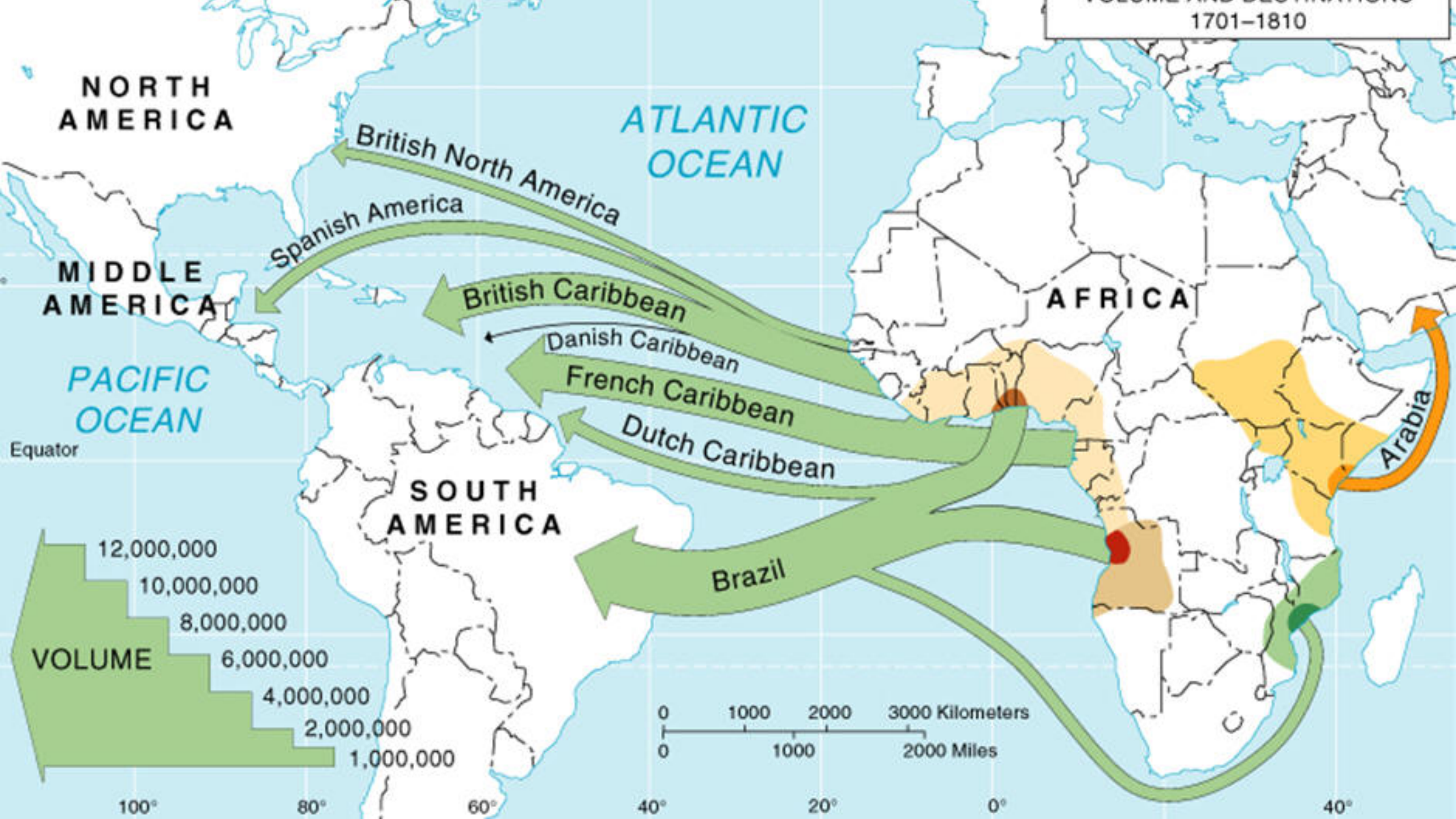


SLAVERY COMES  
TO THE  
COLONIES



# THE BEGINNING OF AFRICAN ENSLAVEMENT

- Portuguese and Spanish navigators and traders were the first to bring Africans to the New World as slaves
- Slave traders set up posts along the West African Coast to trade with Spanish and Portuguese explorers
- Africans raided tribes and villages deeper in the African continent and kidnapped other Africans to sell as slaves



# AFTER CAPTURE



- The enslaved Africans were bound at the neck and legs and forced to march as far as 300 miles to the West African coast
- Half of captives died on this journey
- Once enslaved Africans arrived at the coast, they were traded for guns, alcohol, gold, and tobacco
- Then the captured Africans were loaded onto slave ships and transported across the Atlantic Ocean

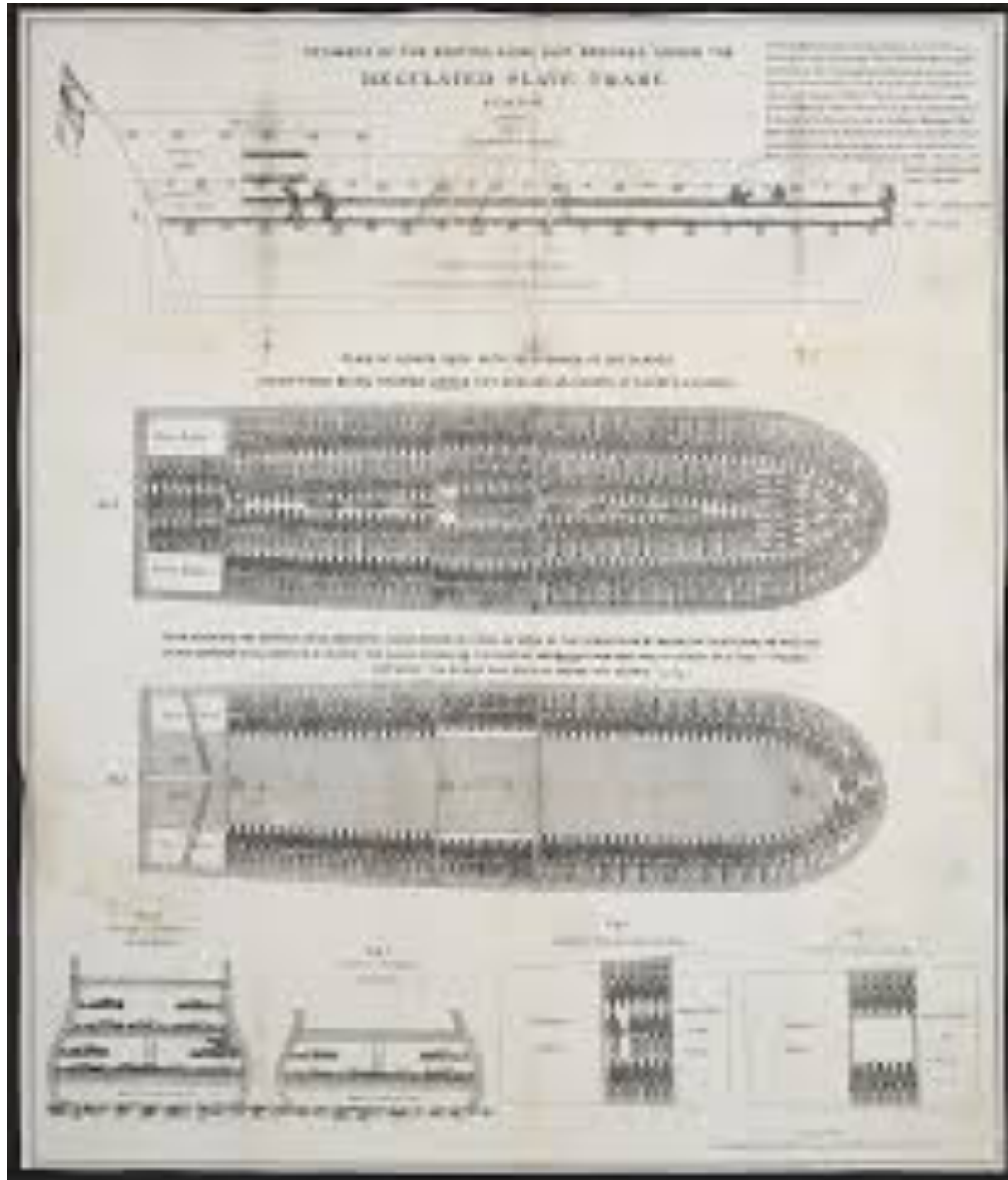
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## PRIMARY SOURCE: GUSTAVUS VASSA

“The first thing I saw when I got to the coast was the sea. I also saw a slave ship which was waiting for its cargo. These filled me with so much astonishment and terror, that I still cannot fully describe my feelings at the time.

Once I was on the ship, I saw a large furnace and a great many black people chained together. I did not doubt my fate once I saw the sadness and horror which their faces expressed. Overcome with horror and grief, I fainted on the deck.”





## MIDDLE PASSAGE

- The voyage on the ships became known as the Middle Passage
- Slave-ship captains would pack the maximum number of captives on the ships
- As many as 350 people could be bound together below deck with little light or air



## ARRIVING IN THE AMERICAS

- When the ships reached the Americas healthy men, women, and children were auctioned and sold
- They could be sold individually or in groups- family members were often separated
- Most slaves were sent to work on plantations in the Spanish colonies

# TRIANGULAR TRADE ROUTE

- Triangular Trade: a three-way trade between the colonies, the West Indies, and Africa

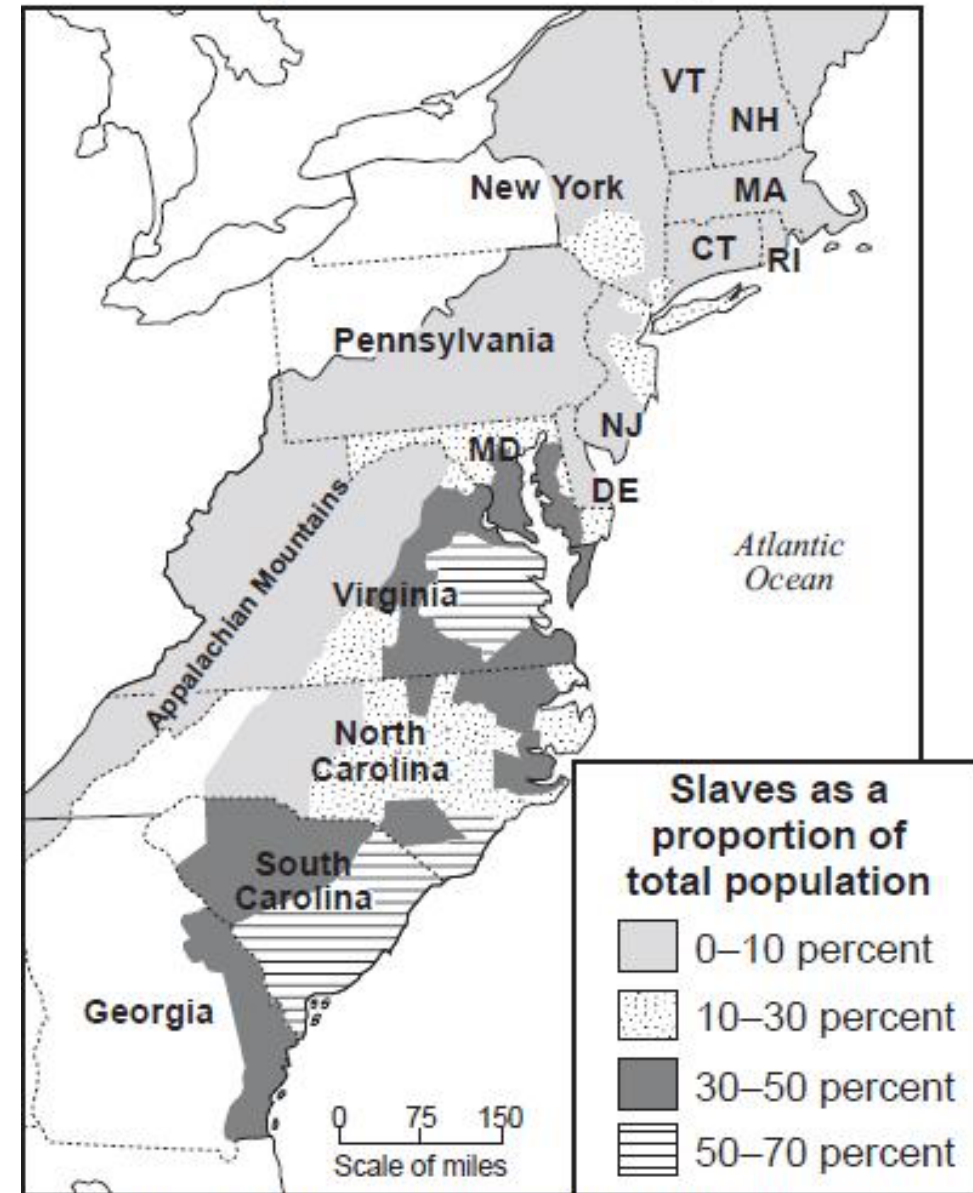




## SLAVERY IN THE COLONIES

- Slavery took root in the Americas because of the plantation system and cash crops
- Indentured servants were temporary, but slaves could be held until their death
- Over time, the colonies passed laws that made slavery permanent
- Other colonies like Georgia and Rhode Island tried to ban slavery but the laws did not last

Slavery in the Colonies, 1775



Source: James A. Henretta et al., *America's History*, Dorsey Press (adapted)



# RACISM

- Not every African was a slave, but slavery became attached to people of African descent
- Slavery was then linked to racism
- Racism: the belief that one race is superior or inferior to another race
- Racism can occur between any race
- As slavery grew in the colonies on plantations Slave Codes were passed
- Slave codes: strict laws that restricted the rights and activities of slaves