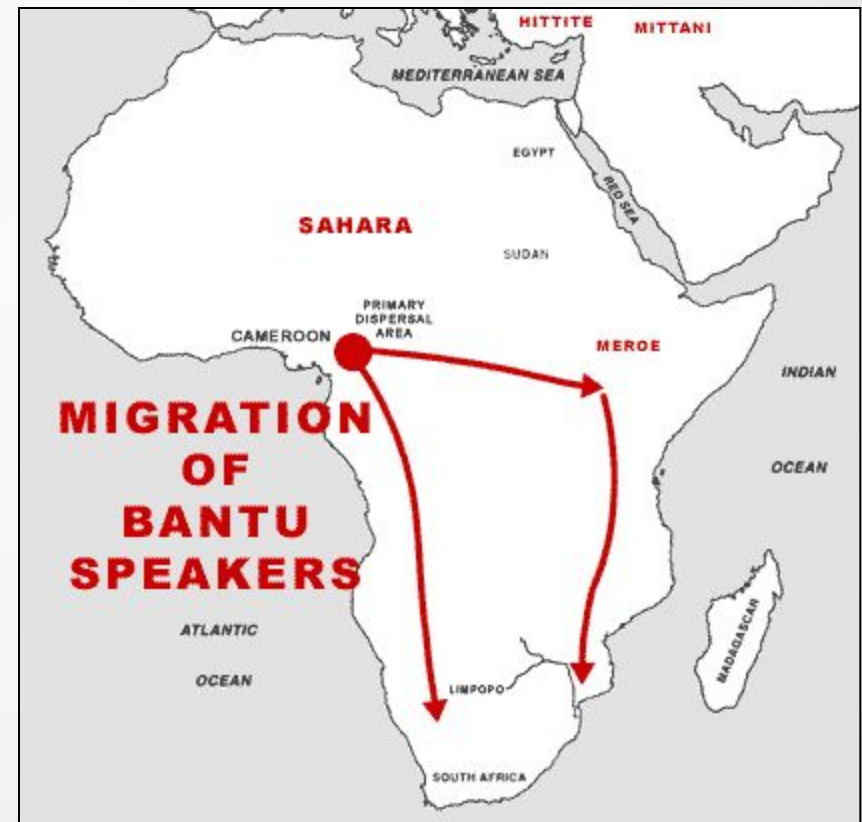


# History of African Slavery

- Slavery has existed since **antiquity**.
- It became common in Africa after the Bantu migrations spread agriculture to all parts of the continent



# History of African Slavery

- Most slaves in Africa were war captives.
- Once enslaved, an individual had no personal or civil rights.
- Owners could order slaves to do any kind of work, punish them, and sell them as **chattel**.
- Most slaves worked in agriculture..

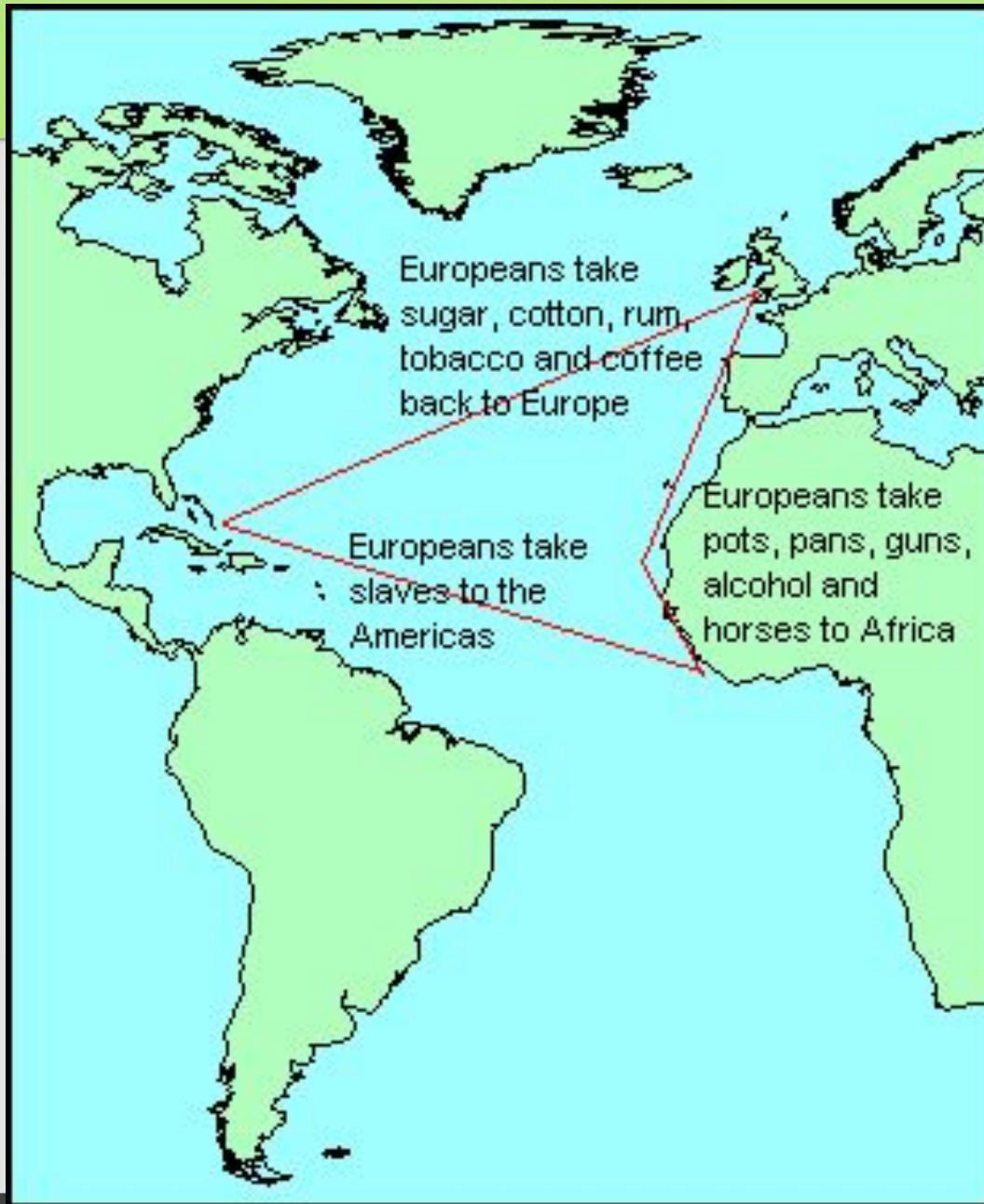


# History of African Slavery

- African law did not recognize individual land ownership so wealth and power in Africa came from not owning land, but by controlling the human labor that made it productive.
- Slaves were a form of investment and a sign of wealth.

# European Slave Trade

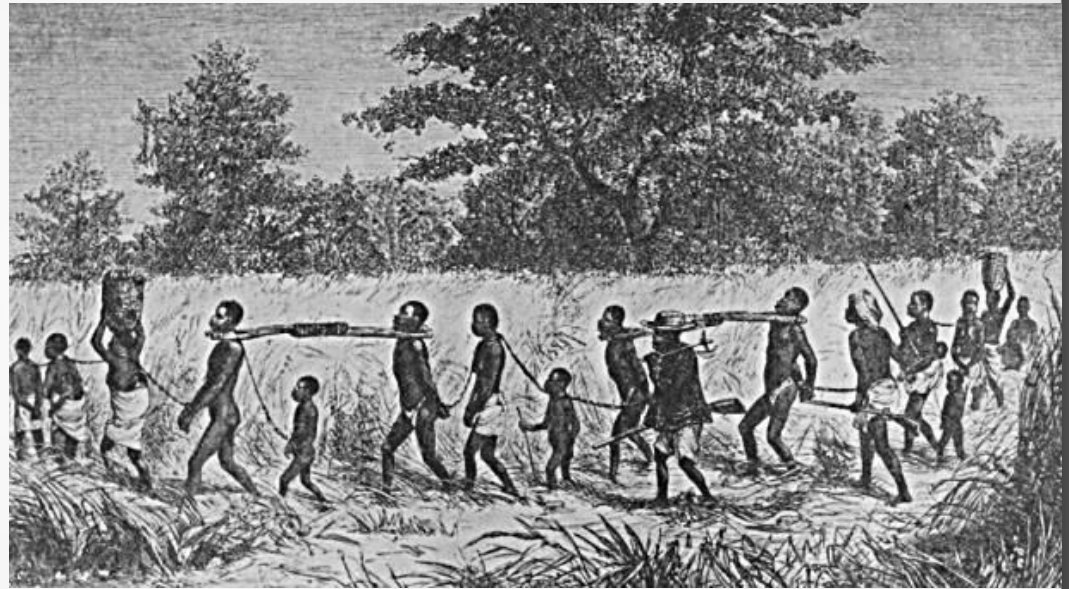
- By the time Europeans arrived in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the slave trade was a well-established feature in African society.
- A detailed system for capturing, selling, and distributing slaves had been in place for over 500 years.
- With the arrival of the Europeans and the demand for slaves in the Americas, the slave trade expanded dramatically.



# Triangular Trade Route

# Capture

- The original capture of slaves was almost always violent.
- As European demand grew, African leaders organized raiding parties to seize individuals from neighboring societies.
- Others launched wars specifically for the purpose of capturing slaves

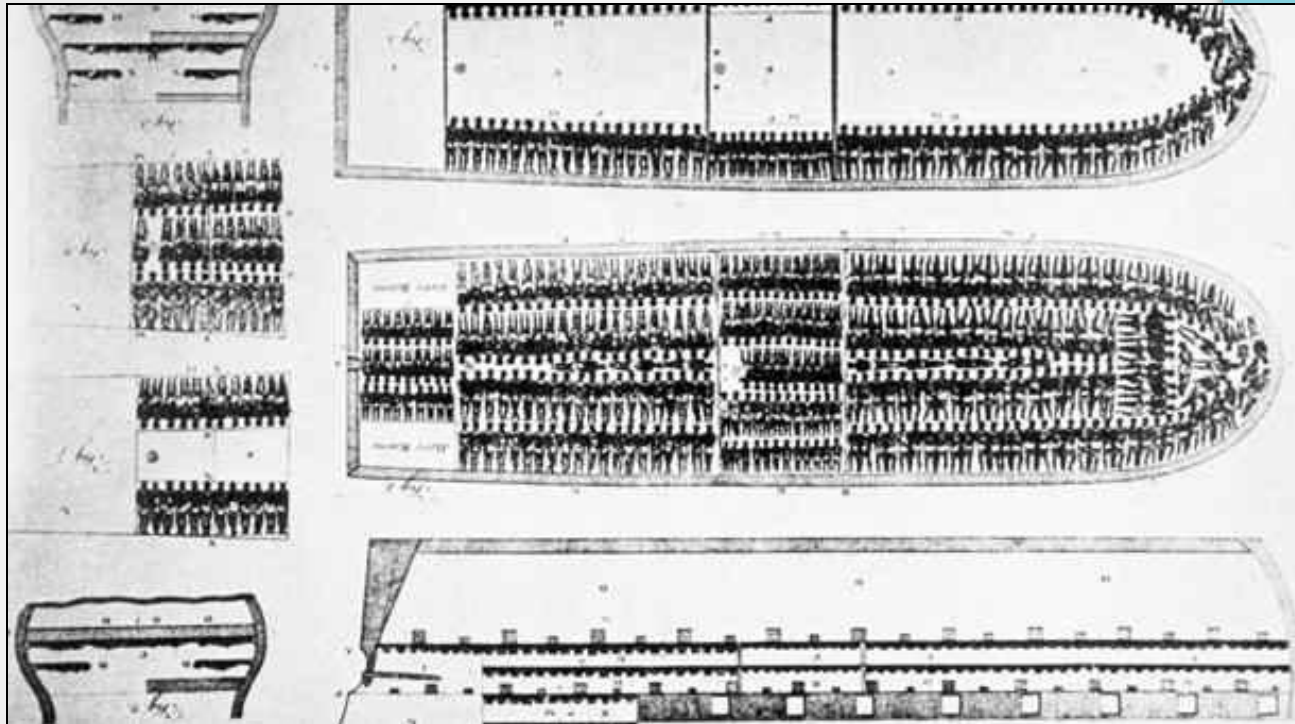


# Middle Passage

- Following capture, slaves were force-marched to holding pens before being loaded on ships.
- The trans-Atlantic journey was called the “Middle Passage”
- The ships were filthy, hot, and crowded.



# Middle Passage



- Most ships provided slaves with enough room to sit upright, but not enough to stand.
- Others forced slaves to lie in chains with barely 20 inches space between them.



# Middle Passage

- Crews attempted to keep as many slaves alive as possible to maximize profits, but treatment was extremely cruel
  - Some slaves refused to eat and crew members used tools to pry open their mouths and force-feed them.
  - Sick slaves were cast overboard to prevent infection from spreading.
- During the early days of the slave trade, mortality rates were as high as 50%
- As the volume of trade increased and conditions improved (bigger ships, more water, better nourishment and facilities), mortality eventually declined to about 5%

# Arrival

- When the slave ship docked, the slaves would be taken off the ship and placed in a pen.
- There they would be washed and their skin covered with grease, or sometimes tar, to make them look healthy (and therefore more valuable)
- They would also be branded with a hot iron to identify them as slaves.



# Auctions

- Slaves were sold at auctions.
- Buyers physically inspected the slaves, to include their teeth as an indication of the slave's age
- Auctioneers had slaves perform various acts to demonstrate their physical abilities.

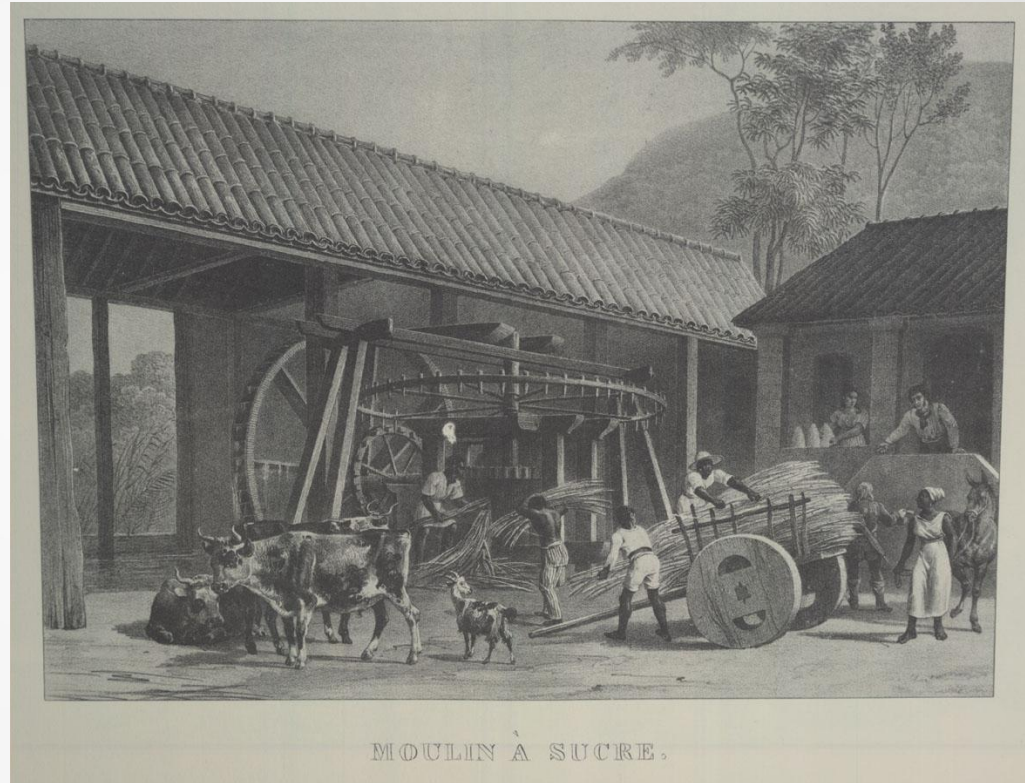


# Volume of the Slave Trade

- Late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Century... 2,000 Africans exported each year
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century... 20,000 per year
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century... 55,000 per year
  - 1780s... 88,000 per year
- All told, some 12 million Africans were transported to the western hemisphere via the Atlantic Slave Trade
- Another 4 million died resisting capture or during captivity before arriving at their destination

# Plantations

- In addition to sugar, plantations produced crops like tobacco, indigo, and cotton
- All were designed to export commercial crops for profit
- Relied almost exclusively on large amounts of slave labor supervised by small numbers of European or Euro-American managers

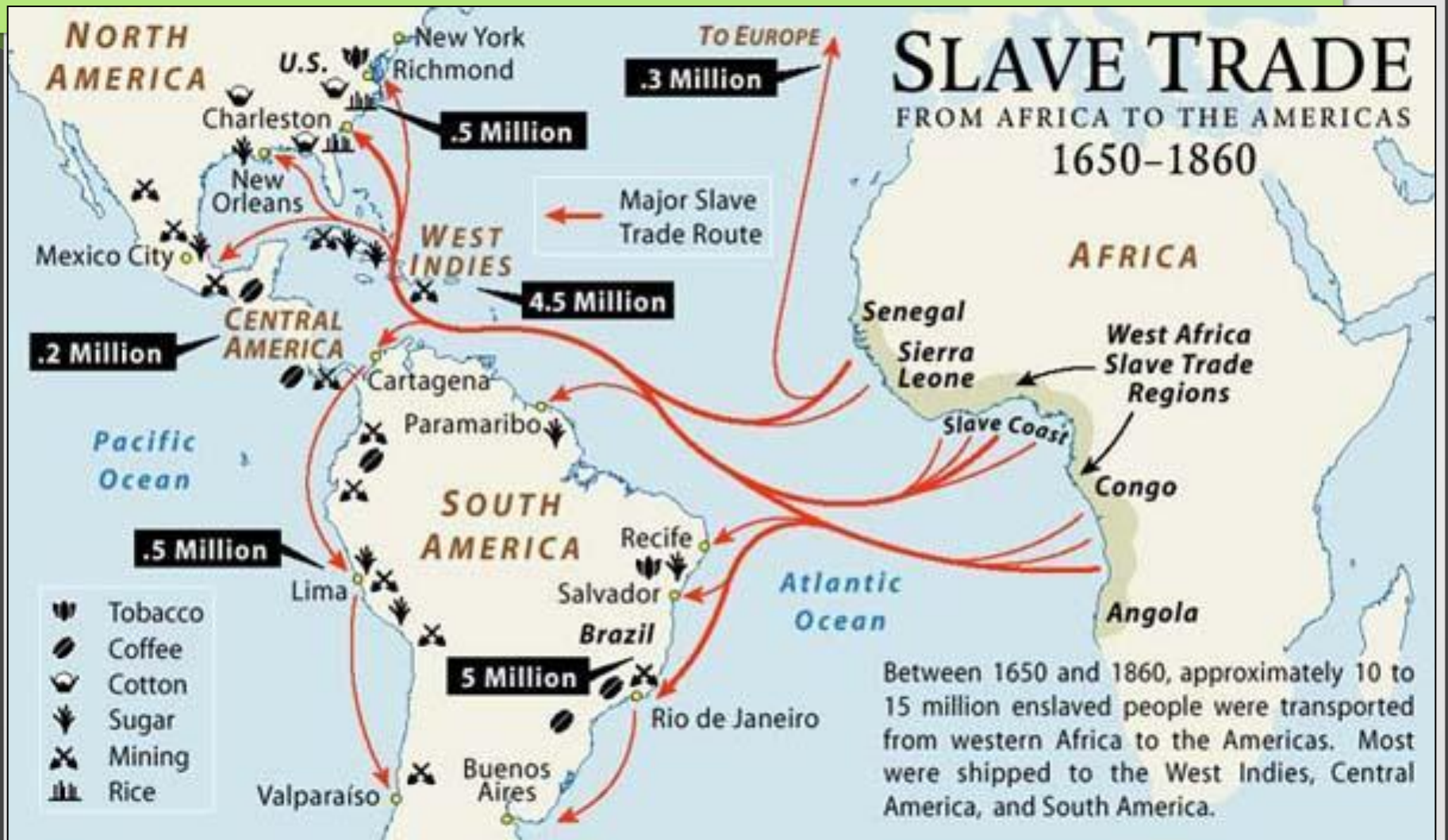


Brazilian sugar mill in the 1830s

# SLAVE TRADE

FROM AFRICA TO THE AMERICAS

1650-1860



Between 1650 and 1860, approximately 10 to 15 million enslaved people were transported from western Africa to the Americas. Most were shipped to the West Indies, Central America, and South America.

# Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

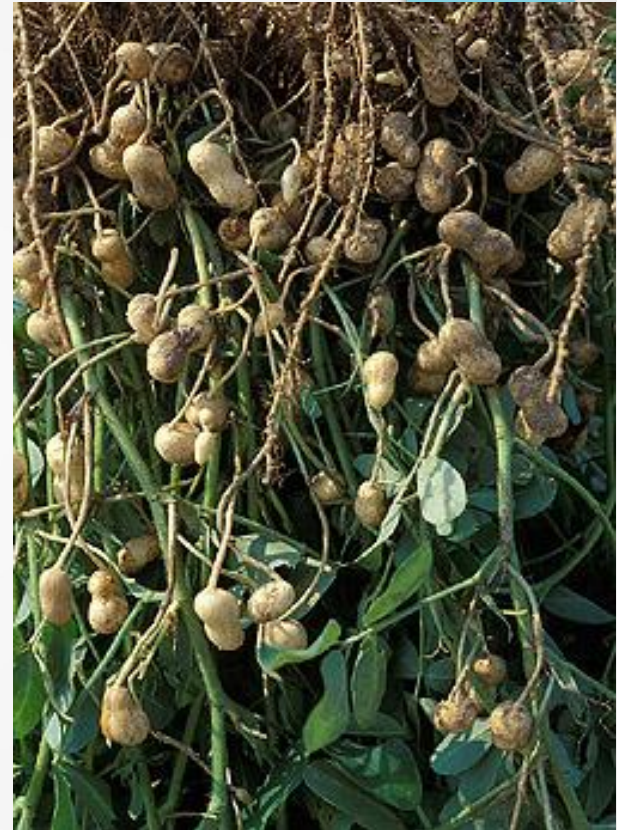
- Mixed
  - Some states like Rwanda largely escaped the slave trade through resistance and geography
  - Some like Senegal in west Africa were hit very hard
  - Other societies benefited economically from selling slaves, trading, or operating ports
  - As abolition took root in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century some African merchants even complained about the loss of their livelihood
- On the whole, however, the slave trade devastated Africa



“Door of No Return” on  
Goree Island off the  
coast of Senegal

# Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

- The Atlantic Slave Trade deprived Africa of about 16 million people



Peanuts were one of several crops introduced to Africa from the Americas