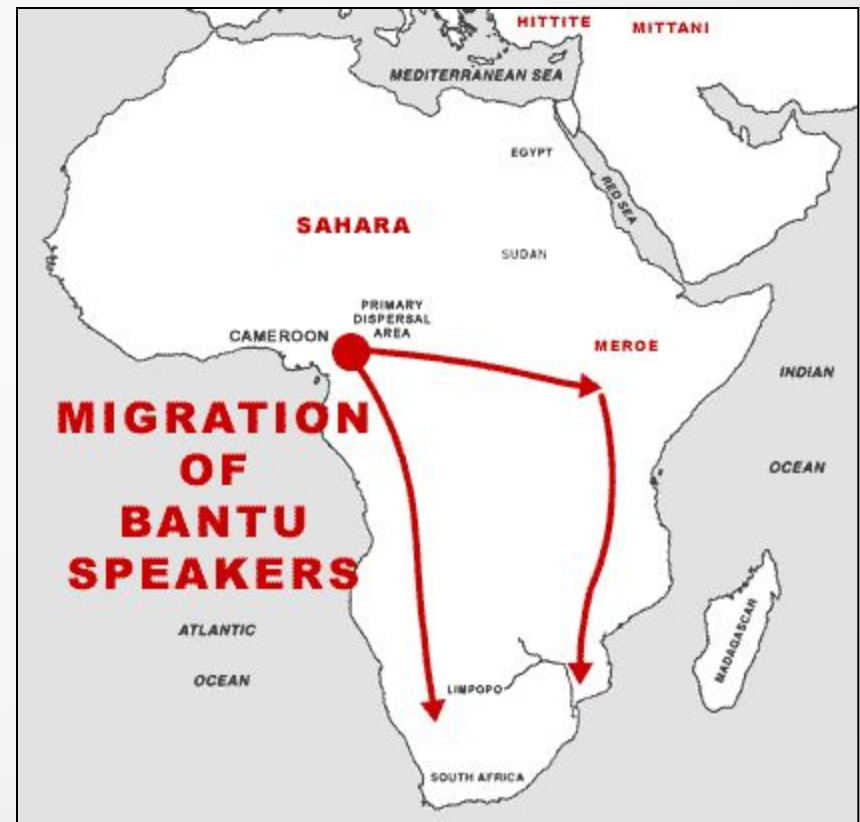


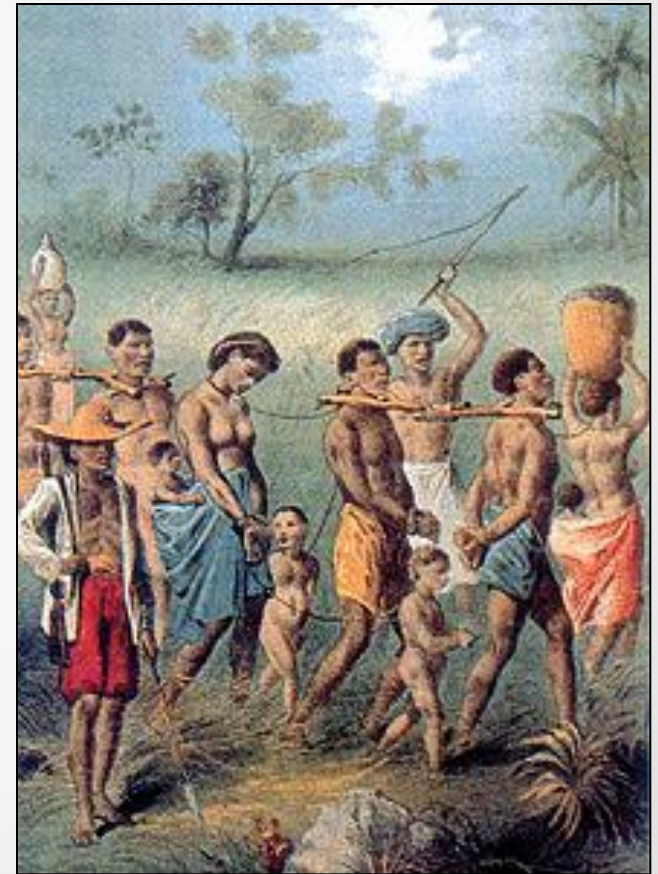
History of African Slavery

- 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..

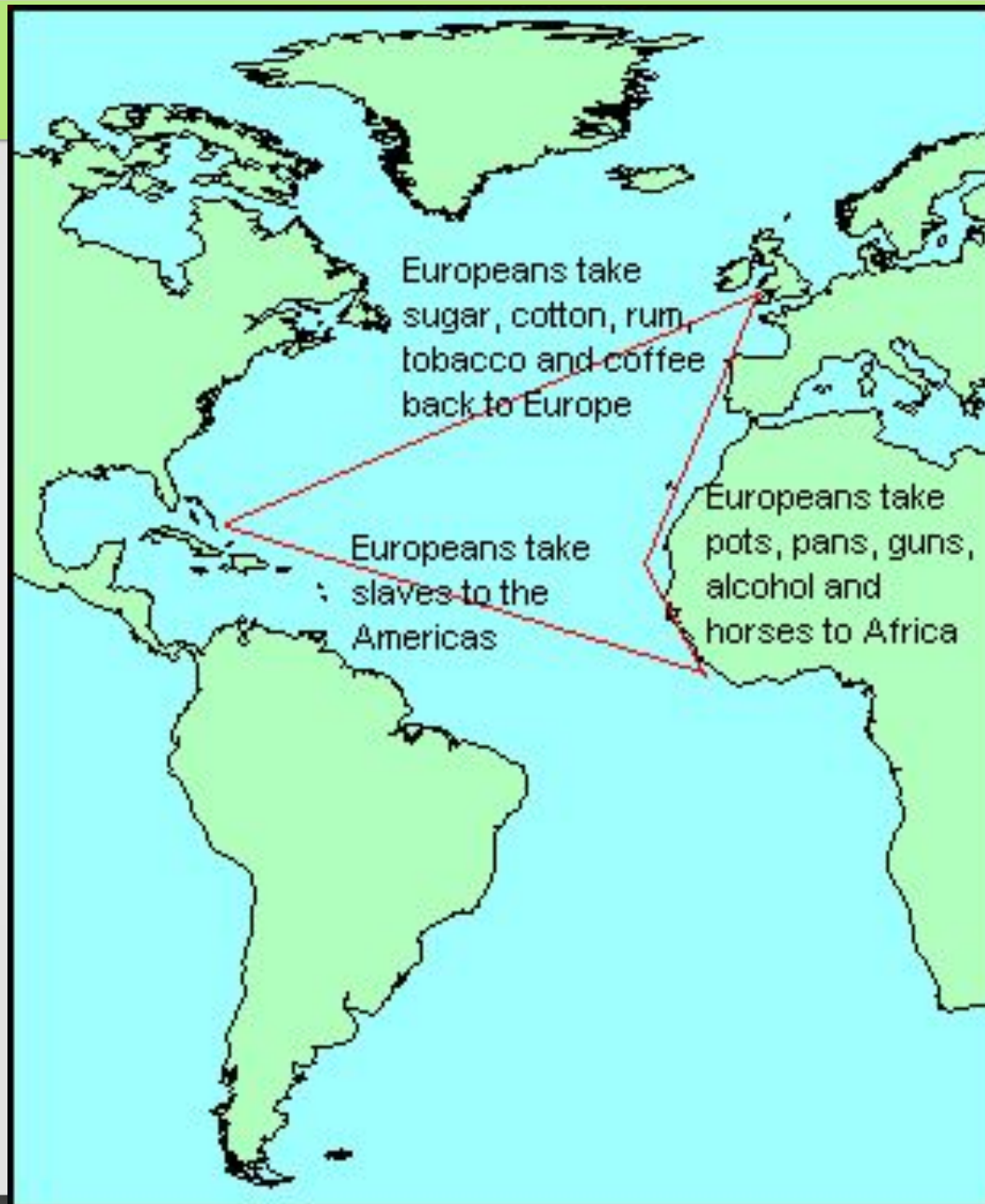


History of African Slavery

- 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

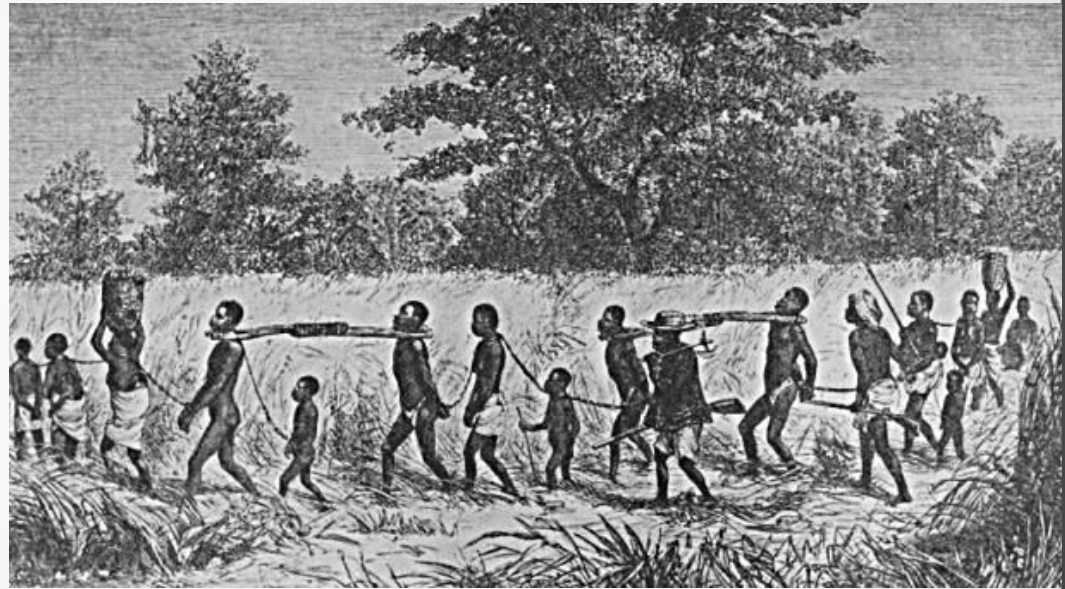
- By the time Europeans arrived in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries, the slave trade was a well-established feature in African society.
- A detailed system for capturing, selling, and distributing slaves had been in place for over 500 years.
- With the arrival of the Europeans and the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

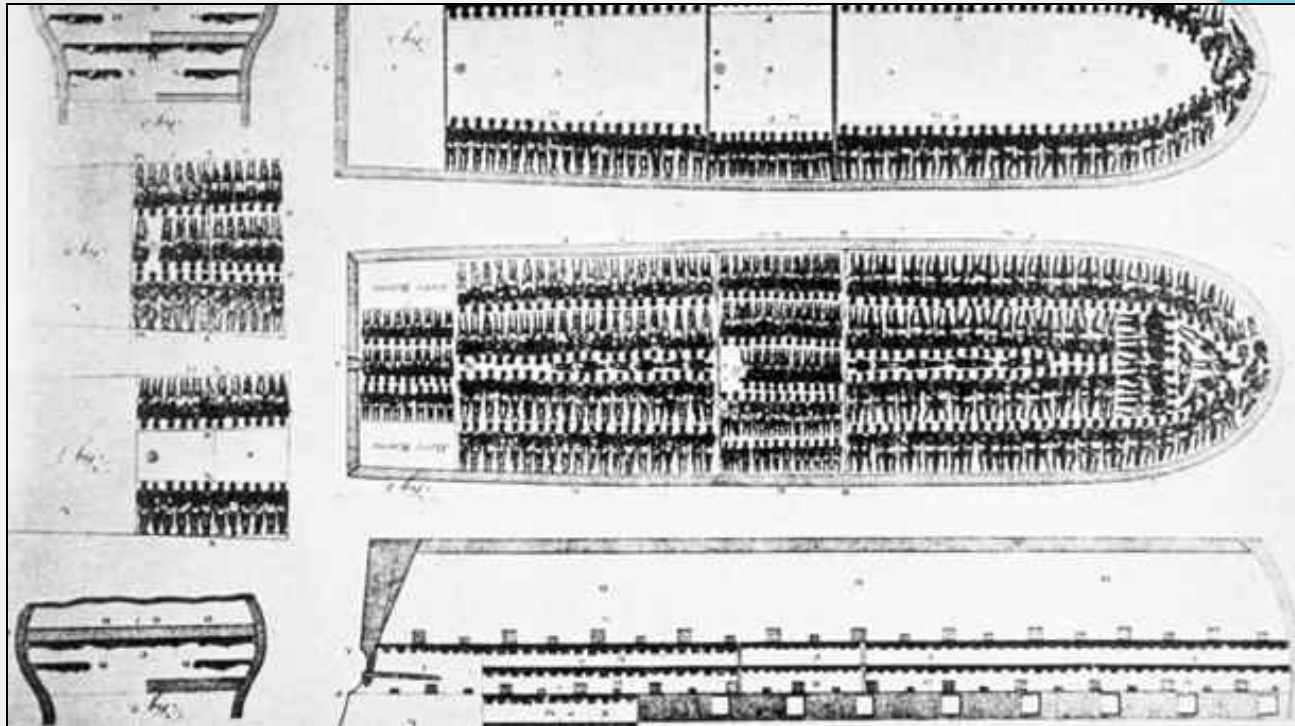


Middle Passage

- 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.

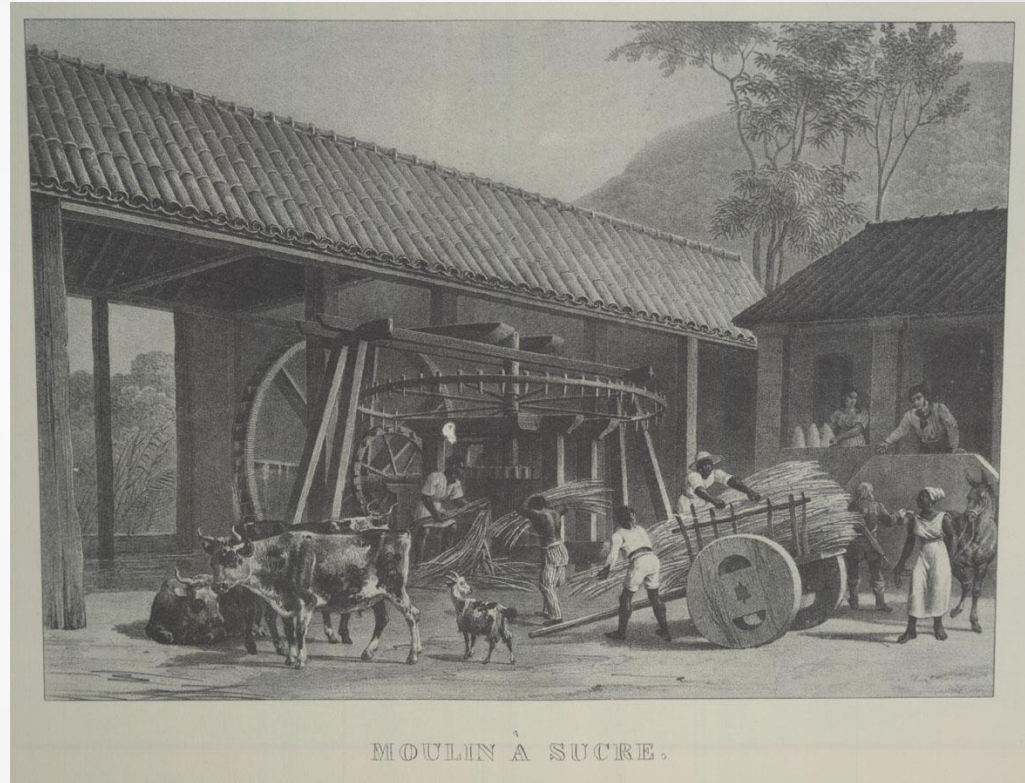


Volume of the Slave Trade

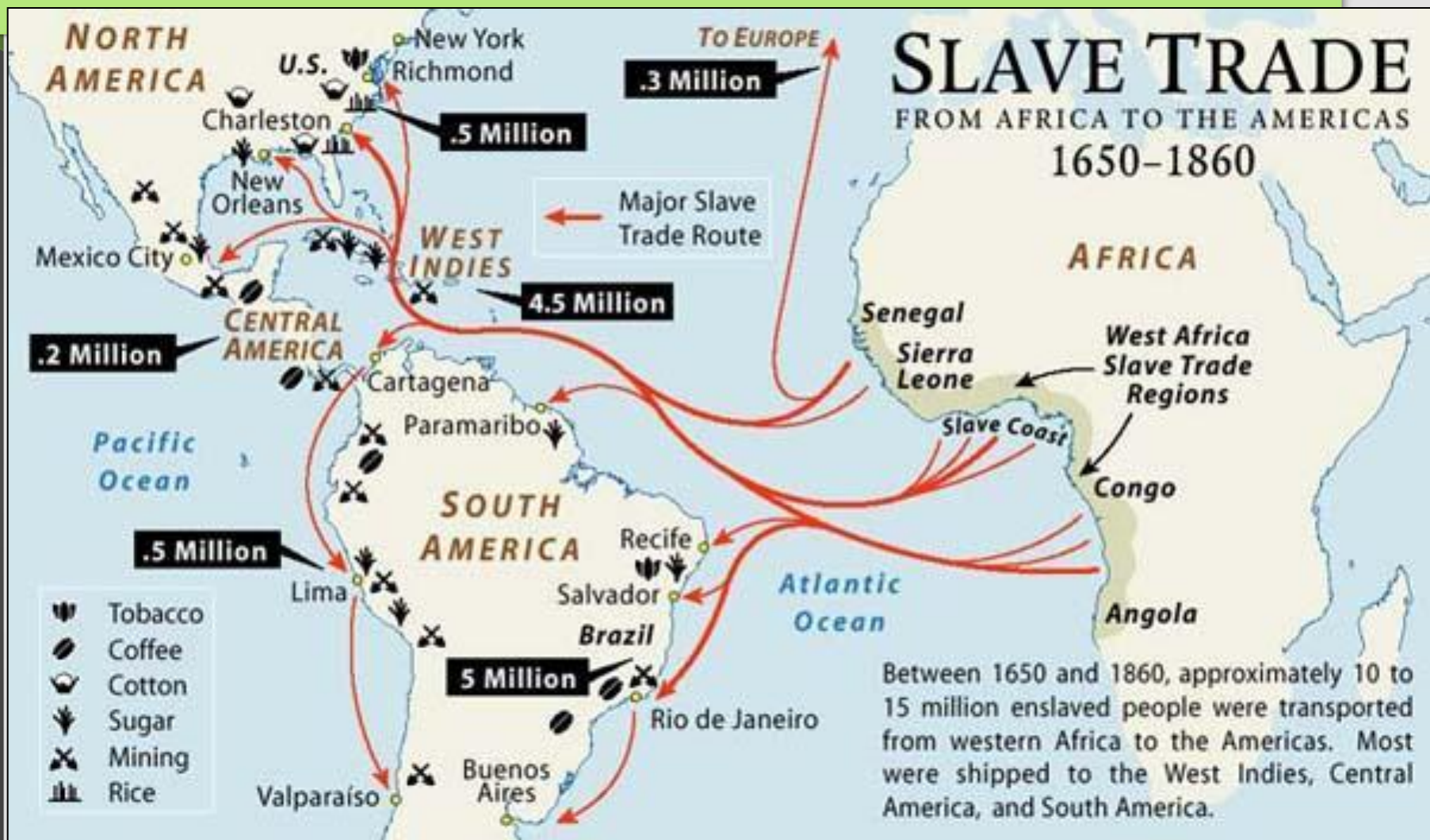
- Late 15th and 16th Century... 2,000 Africans exported each year
- 17th Century... 20,000 per year
- 18th Century... 55,000 per year
 - 1780s... 88,000 per year
- All told, some 12 million Africans were transported to the western hemisphere via the Atlantic Slave Trade
- Another 4 million died resisting 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



Impact of Slave Trade in Africa

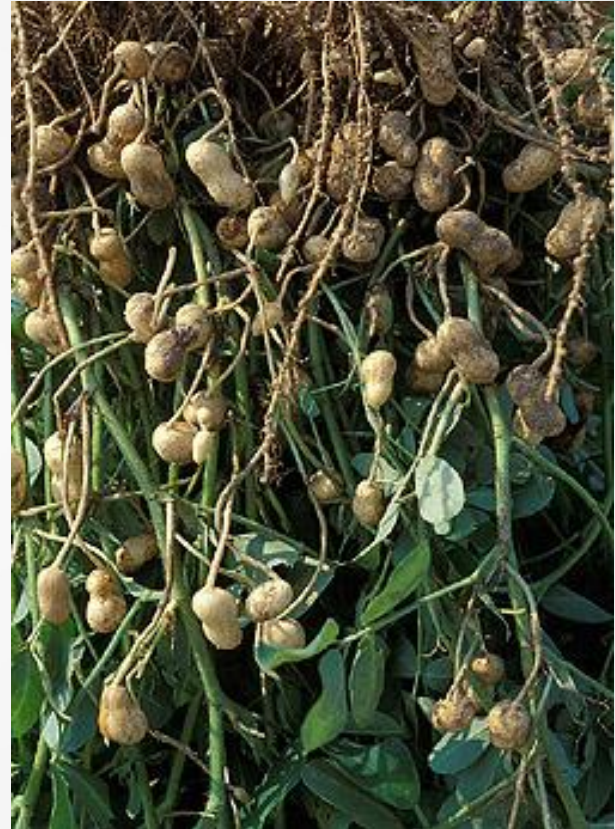
- Mixed
 - Some states like Rwanda largely escaped the slave trade through resistance and geography
 - Some like Senegal in west Africa were hit very hard
 - Other societies benefited economically from selling slaves, trading, or operating ports
 - As abolition took root in the 19th Century some African 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