The Atlantic Slave Trade

Background
- Muslims had established slave trade
- Culture of Slavery within Africa
  - Field Workers
  - Concubines
  - Servants
  - Soldiers
  - Administrators
- Trade was the basis of Portuguese relations with Africans,
  - The Portuguese provided African rulers with slaves
    • in return they received ivory, pepper, animal skin and gold
    • They established factories, forts and trading posts with resident merchants, along the cost
      ▪ El mina (1482) was the most important, it was a gold producing region
  - Missionaries focused on Benin, Kongo, and other African kingdoms
    • Kongo ruler, Nzinga Mvembra and his family converted
    • Luanda became the basis for Portuguese colony of Angola
- By 1460 around 500 slaves were brought to Europe per year

Trend toward Expansion
- Slave Trade existed between 1450 and 1850
  - Shipped between African and Americas
    • Middle Passage
    • Horrible conditions
  - About 12 million Africans shipped to Americas
    • About 10-20% Mortality rate on ships
    • Peak 1700-1800 = about 7 million Africans
    • Most shipped to Caribbean and South America
  - Caribbean
    • Invented Plantation System
      ▪ Mostly Sugar Plantations
      ▪ Short growing season
      ▪ Many accidents and diseases
      ▪ Mostly took young men
        ▪ Labor intensive
        ▪ Not good for women or children
  - North America
    • Plantation System
      ▪ Cotton and Sugar
      ▪ Labor intensive year round
    • Climate
      ▪ Allowed for Slave population to grow
      ▪ A lot more men than women

Organization of the Trade
- Portuguese Dominated
  - Until 1630s
    ▪ Supplied Brazil, and Spanish colonies
- Royal African Company
  - English
- Competition to Portuguese and Dutch
  - Triangle Trade
    - Slaves to Americas
    - Raw goods to Europe
    - Manufactured goods to Africa and Americas
  - Coastal African States
    - Expanded with the help of European Goods
      - Guns
    - Benin, Dahomey, Asante

![Map of African and Americas Slavery Trade](image)

**American Slave Societies**
- Families difficult
  - People are property
    - Could be sold off
  - Men and women had different quarters
- North America
  - Attracted to Religion
- Mulattos
  - Results of relations between Europeans and Africans
  - More rights earlier
- Caribbean
  - Grew to replace Natives
  - 18th Century – Natives had died off
  - Continued cultural practices of homeland
- Brazil
  - 33% Slaves
  - 66% Freed descendants of slaves
  - By 1850 less than 1% of slaves were African born

**Slowing of the Slave Trade**
- Simple Economics
  - Supply going up, demand going down
- Enlightenment
  - Called for end of Slavery
    - Slavery does not fully end till 1888
      - Brazil Abolished last