

# The Issue Of Race in the USA : History Of Slavery.

## Start of American Slavery (1619)

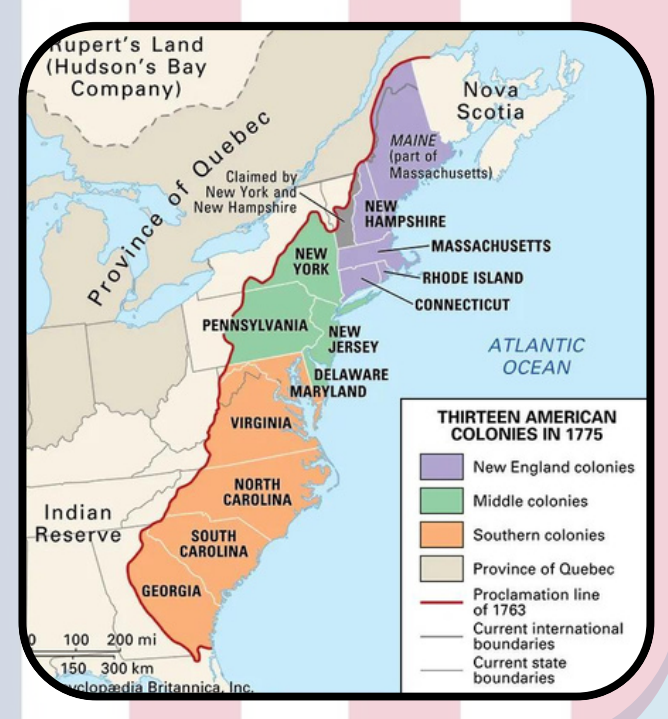


● On August 20th, 1619, 20 Angolans were kidnapped by the Portuguese and arrived in the British colony of Virginia. They were then bought by English colonists.

● This is usually used as a reference to mark the starting point of two and a half centuries of slavery in North America.

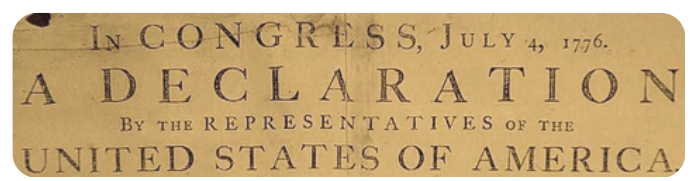


- By the early 1700's, slavery changed and became inheritable
- In the 1750's, the first settlement became the 13 colonies, with around 1.2 million people and 20% of them were slaves.



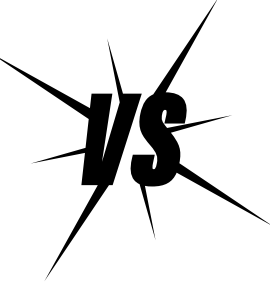
## Declaration Of Independence (1776)

● On the 4th of July, 1776 America declared its independence, and within it, some major principles like *fundamental* and *natural human rights*.



● BUT, we see a contradiction between :

Those humanist principles of liberty and freedom



The institution of slavery itself

● Therefore, a lot of northern colonists began to compare slavery with their own oppression by the British, and eventually to call for slavery's abolition. With this movement, a push towards emancipation in the North appeared.



## The US Constitution (1787)

The constitutional convention of 1787 ended up being the subject of major compromises :

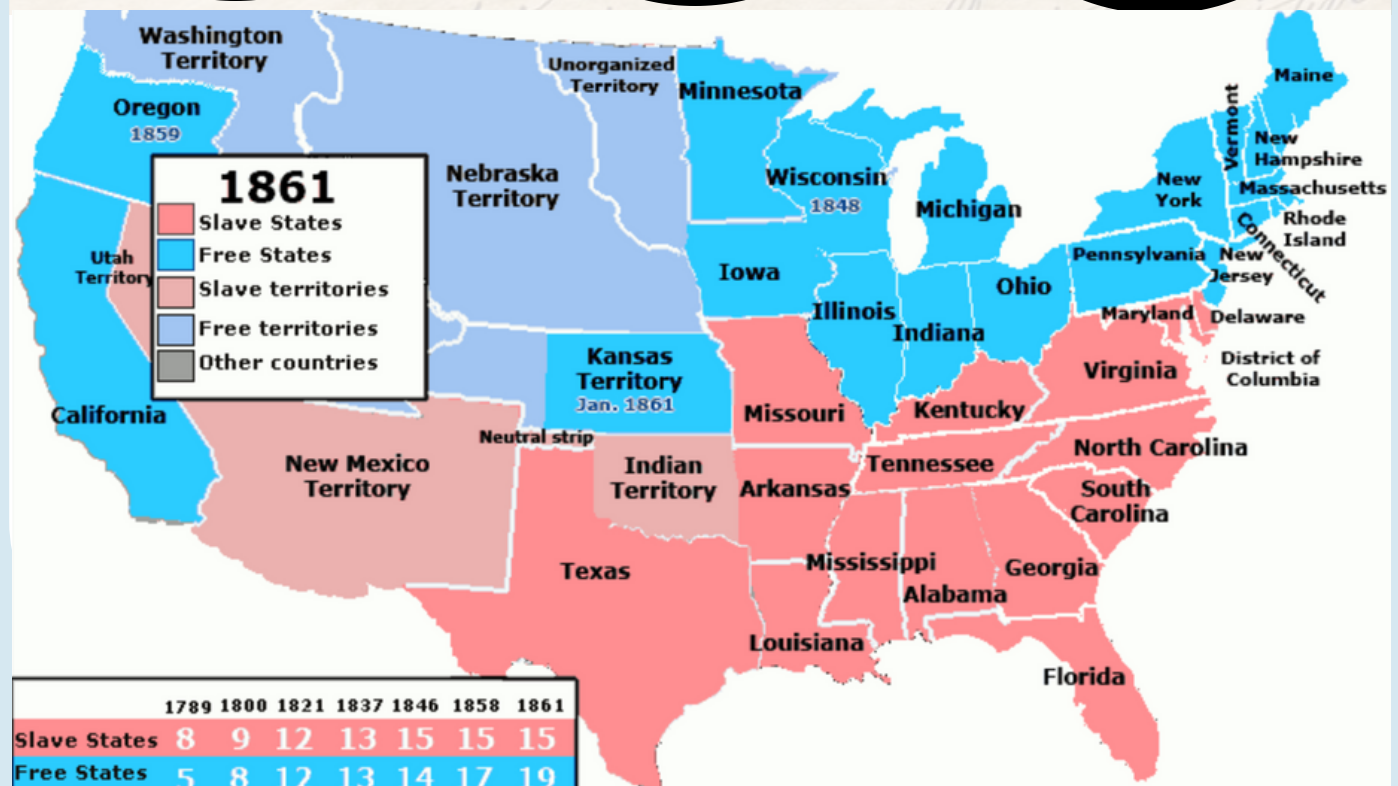
- Between who and who ?
  - The **North** and the **South**
  - The **abolitionists** and the **slaveholders**

What are the US Constitution's compromises ?

**The three-fifth clause :**  
5 slaves would count as 3 people for representation purposes --> gives more power to enslaving states.

**The fugitive slave clause :**  
enables slaveholders to retrieve enslaved people who escaped in northern states.

**The Slave trade clause :**  
authorizes the slaves trade during 20 more years.



**Chief Justice Roger Taney :**  
African Americans cannot be US citizens and therefore, African Americans "have no rights that the white man is bound to respect".

## How did slavery end ?

### 1. Events leading to the abolition of slavery :

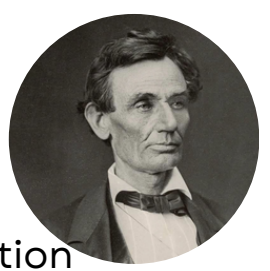
● **A lot of slaves' rebellions :**  
Nat Turner 1831 in Virginia, 75 black men murdered 55 white people.



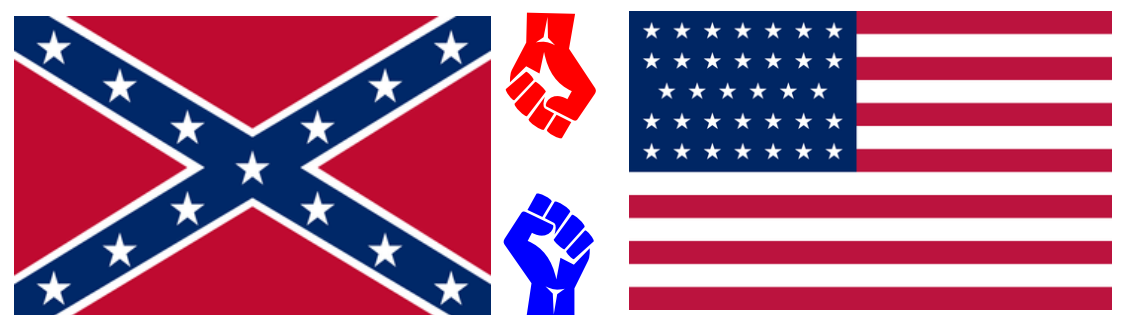
● **The Underground railroad :**  
A network of safe houses and roads made by abolitionists in order to help slaves escape.



● **Election of Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States in 1860.**



● **Civil war 1861-1865 :**  
11 southern states seceded to create the Confederation



### 2. The abolition of slavery :

● **Emancipation proclamation in 1863 by A. Lincoln :** "slaves within any State, or designated part of a State...in rebellion,...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

● **13th amendment to the US Constitution 1865 :** abolition of slavery in the whole country