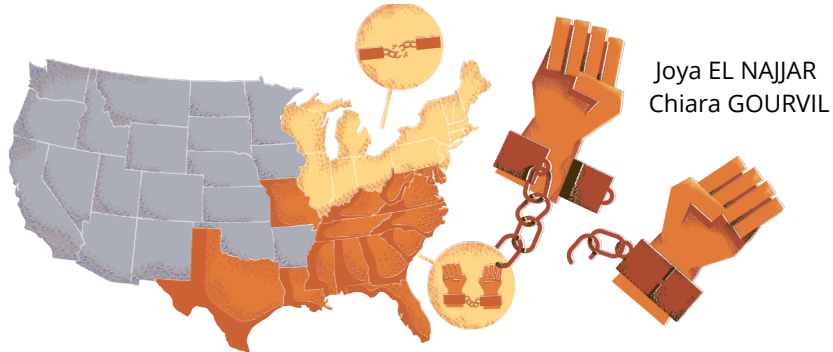


Slavery



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“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again” - Maya Angelou

- Slavery often began as a result of conquest in war, debt, or as a means of punishment. In different societies, it took various forms, but the underlying principle was the ownership and exploitation of individuals as property.
- The **transatlantic slave trade** is a segment of the global slave trade that transported between 10 million and 12 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas from the 16th to the 19th century.
- **1713** : signed agreement for British monopoly on the slave trades to the colonies.
- In view of a growing plantation based economy, intensive labor was needed in order to grow crops like tobacco, rice and later on cotton.
- **Servitude** : guarantee of some rights and a potential freedom
- **Chattel slavery** : making the slave the property of its owner for life. They do not get any rights.

What is the historical significance of slavery and how did the process of emancipation unfold ?

I - History of slavery : it's inhuman conditions and repercussions on society

- Enslaved people in the South constituted about one-third of the southern population.
 - Most lived on large plantations or small farms; many enslavers owned fewer than 50 enslaved people.
- Slavery increased the economy of the Southern states, making cotton production especially profitable and shaping the social structure of the region.
- The three-fifths Compromise **1787** :
 - First concrete institutionalization of slavery.
- Amistrad movie : retranscription of the transatlantic slave trade.
- Inhuman and deplorable treatment :
 - Prohibition of reading and writing
 - Rape
 - Reward system
- "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Stowe which helped to galvanize public opinion against slavery.

II - The abolition of slavery and consequences of the emancipation

- Early opposition to slavery :
 - **Quakers** : first religious movement to condemn slavery in the middle of the 17th century.
 - Enlightenment ideas during the 17th and 18th century in Europe mainly **Rousseau and Kant**
- The rise of abolitionist movements :
 - The enlightenment ideas :
 - Figures like **Frederic Douglas** was one of the main abolitionists in the 19th century.
 - Harriet Tubman and William Lloyd Garrison that advocated for emancipation through different forms.
- The influence of the **Civil War (1861-1865)**
 - Election of **Abraham Lincoln** who's opposed to slavery.
 - North : preserve the union and abolish slavery.
 - South : Secession to preserve slave-based economy.
- Emancipation proclamation and 13th amendment:
 - **January 1st 1863**: emancipation proclamation by Abraham Lincoln
 - Official abolition of slavery and first step towards equality.

This cruel episode of history did not mark the end of discrimination in the United States. Without a more informed and thoughtful understanding of the history of race-based slavery and its impact on communities across the nation, progress on issues relating to race will be **compromised**.