

# SLAVERY

## How does the fight against slavery continue to thrive in contemporary American society ?

### I. The origins of slavery

- **Colonial Era (1619-1776)** : The introduction of African slaves in Virginia in 1619 marked the beginning of slavery in the American colonies.
- **American Revolution (1776-1783)** : Some Northern states began to abolish slavery after the American Revolution, while it persisted in the agrarian South.
- **Antebellum Period (1783-1861)** : Slavery intensified in the Southern states with the growth of the cotton industry. Tensions between slave and non-slave states ultimately led to the Civil War.
- The Triangular Trade was a commercial system that thrived primarily during the 17th and 18th centuries, involving Europe, Africa, and the Americas. It was closely linked to the slave trade.

### II. The abolition of slavery, an intense struggle for freedom

- **Emergence of Abolitionist Movements (19th century, strengthening of abolitionist movements)**
  - Prominent figures: Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison
  - Defining events : Publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852) ; The Kansas-Nebraska Act which opened new territories to slavery (1854)
- **Birth Tensions in 1860**
  - Secession of the southern slave states following the obligation to abolish slavery imposed by the northern states
  - Division between the abolitionist states of the North and the slave states of the South.
- **The American Civil War or Civil War (1861-1865)**
  - Start of the American Civil War in 1861
  - "Emancipation Proclamation" by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 which expanded the goal of the war to include the freeing of slaves "**Juneteenth**"
  - End of the war in 1865 with the victory of the Northern States
- **Adoption of the 13th Amendment (1865)**
  - Ratification of the 13th Amendment after the end of the Civil War in 1865
  - Official abolition of slavery throughout the country (100,000 slaves released)
  - "Definitive conclusion of forced servitude in the United States, after the Emancipation Proclamation" not very formal.



### III. The legacy of slavery, with persistent inequalities

- **Segregation and discrimination**
  - Legal discrimination and racial segregation: Jim Crow laws (1877-1964)
  - Discrimination in housing: Concentration of minorities in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- **Social and economic inequalities**
  - Employment: discrimination in hiring
  - Historical trauma and racial stress: Mental health consequences
- **Forms of "modern slavery" »**
  - Forced labor: Present in various industries
- **Contemporary consequences of slavery**
  - Policy Reforms: Examples of Cities and States Addressing Racial Inequities
  - Contemporary movements: Black Lives Matter and other social justice movements



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