



# SLAVERY



The word “slave” actually comes from the Slavs of Eastern Europe. All of them (even white people) were captured and enslaved by Muslims in the ninth century and later the Ottoman Turks. Slavery is a condition in which one human being was owned by another. A slave was considered by law as property, and was deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free persons.

## I. Origins and life conditions

### ★ Origins :

- Slavery in the United States originates from the early British colonies in North America.
- The first Africans arrived in Virginia as indentured servants.
- Discriminatory laws and slavery codes were established to control the status of slaves.
- Slaves were denied freedom and legal rights under these regulations.

### ★ Living conditions :

- Slaves faced harsh living conditions, particularly in the new western border regions.
- Their workdays extended from **12 to 15 hours**, primarily in the intense heat of southern plantations or other agricultural settings.
- Slaves endured brutal exploitation and severe corporal punishment for disobedience or lack of productivity.
- Living conditions were often rudimentary and unsanitary, exacerbating the hardships endured by slaves.



## II. The evolution and the end of slavery

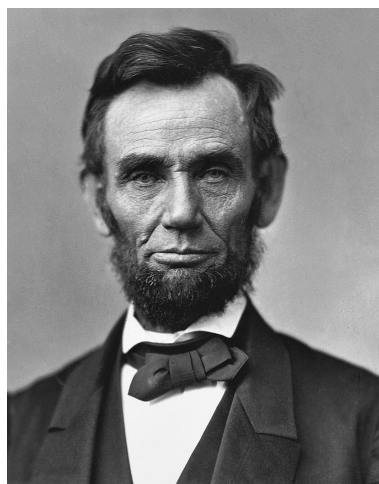
The evolution of slavery to its abolition is marked by 3 types of influence : Rebellions, abolitionist movement, the civil war

### ★ Rebellions :

- Nat Turner led a significant revolt in Southampton County, Virginia, in August **1831**.
- Turner's group, totaling around 75 Black men, orchestrated the murder of roughly 55 white individuals across two days.
- The revolt prompted armed resistance from local whites and intervention by state militia forces.
- Ultimately, the state militia subdued Turner's group.

### ★ Abolitionist movement :

- Movement to abolish slavery in America gained momentum from the **1830s** to the **1860s**.
  - Free Black leaders like **Frederick Douglass** and white supporters such as **William Lloyd Garrison** spearheaded the abolitionist cause.
  - Free black people and other anti slavery northerners had begun helping enslaved people escape from southern plantations to the North as early as the 1780s. This practice, known as the **Underground Railroad**, gained real impulse in the 1830s.



### ★ The end of slavery

- The official end of slavery occurred with the passage of the 13th Amendment after the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865.
- **Abraham Lincoln**, as the 16th President of the United States, led the nation through the Civil War, which lasted from **1861 to 1865**, overseeing the eventual victory of the Union and the abolition of slavery.