

m Slavery : A Brief History Slave / Enslaved Person – someone who is the property of another person (master) ; they do not get paid for their work Slavery began in the West Indies (Caribbean islands) and North and South America in the 1500s . American Indians were first enslaved to work on farms and to mine for gold . However , many of them died due to harsh treatment and diseases (sickness) like smallpox Why did slavery begin ? Slavery began in the earliest civilizations– Egypt , Mesopotamia , Persia , China , Indi Arabia , ancient Greece and ancient Rome . Enslaved people were used on farm and usually were captured as prisoners during war . Sometimes enslaved per could earn their freedom and become a free member of society . Typically , the children were free members of society . America) . PROSIONER OF WAL For centuries Africans had enslaved other Africans captured in warfare and sold the captives to Arab slave traders . In the 1500s they began selling the enslaved persons to European countries like Portugal , Spain , Holland (Dutch) France and England . Between 1500–1800s , 12 million Africans were forcibly sent to the New World (North , Central and South 95 % of the Africans were sent to the West Indies (Caribbean Islands) and South America to work on sugar plantations (large farms with crops) . The other 5 % came to North America . Most of them went to work on tobacco , rice , or indigo plantations in the Southern colonies .America's Original Sin " Why did slavery spread ? It made the slave owners rich . Setters in the New England and Middle Colonies had enslaved persons who worked as maids , nannies or carpenters . The Southern colonies were 6 times richer than those colonists living in New York or Pennsylvania due to the use of slave labor growing cash crops . How Did Slavery affect the U.S. ? Enslaved persons ' labor helped to build the United States ' economy . Many enslaved people built the White House and railroads . The children of enslaved people also became slaves . This helped the plantation owners gain more wealth because they did not have to purchase new enslaved people every year , When slavery ended , unfortunately , racism (treating people badly because of their race) did not end After the Civil War (1860–1865) the newly freed slaves still faced discrimination (unfair treatment based upon their skin color) . They were still victims of violence and not allowed to attend certain schools or live in some neighborhoods . America is still struggling with the impacts of slavery on the African American communities .