

# Chapter 15

# Major commerce things in Unit 4

- Slave trade was major, but also...
- **Indian Ocean spice trade**
  - Continued from earlier times
  - Now dominated by Europeans
- **Fur trapping and trading in North America and Siberia**
  - Transformed land and societies in those areas
- **Silver in Americas traded for stuff in East**
  - By wealthy Europeans
- Commerce was global in many areas, not just on the Atlantic

# Strayer is a frickin' poet.

- “Thus commerce joined empire as the twin drivers of globalization during these centuries. Together they created new relationships, disrupted old patterns, brought distant peoples into contact with one another, enriched some, and impoverished or enslaved others.”

# What motivated European involvement in the world of Asian commerce?

- **Sea routes** to Indian Ocean
  - Columbus, da Gama
- Desire for **spices, silk, cotton**
- European civ recovered after the Black Death (1400s)
  - New Eur pop growth
- Resentment of **Muslim monopoly** of Indian Ocean products
- Resentment of Venice (Italy) as a **middle man**
- to continue the Crusades by joining with the mysterious Christian monarch Prester John
- the need to get **gold and silver to pay for the Asian spices** and textiles they desired
- (Original: p. 434-435; With Sources: pp. 674-675)

To what extent did the Portuguese realize their own goals in the Indian Ocean? (What did they create? Did they get to their goal? What was the outcome?)

- Couldn't trade, didn't have good stuff to trade
- Goal was to control **trade by force** (cannons and good boats)
- Took over port cities and charged ppl to trade there  
**(TRADING POST EMPIRE)**
- Portuguese king called himself “Lord of the Conquest, Navigation, and Commerce of Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia, and India.”
- Controlled 50% of trade by 1600, then declined
  - Due to resistance of Mughals and Oman and competition with Spain and England
- (Original: p. 437; With Sources: p. 677)

# Spain and the Philippines

- **Named after King Phillip**
- **Spain was first to challenge Portugal's** dominance in Asian trade
- Took **full control** and kept it until 1898 when the US took control after the Spanish American War
  - 1550-1900
- Missionaries made it the **only major Christian outpost** in Asia
  - Much more missionary than Portugal was
- **Forced labor**, taxes, tribute system were implemented
- Women lost ritual and healing roles, replaced by male Catholic priests
- Stopped revolts by Chinese population by using massacres

# Dutch and British East India Companies

- Chartered by their country's government (**Chartered companies**)
  - Could not only make money off the people, but wage war and govern them
- **Monopolies** (only they could trade)
- **Joint stock companies** – ppl back home bought stock in the ships and got part of the profits
  - Beginning of modern stock-based economics
- Both pushed out the Portuguese
- **East India Companies**
  - Dutch = Indonesia
  - English = India
- **West India Companies**
  - Both = Caribbean

To what extent did the Dutch trading company **change the societies** they encountered in Asia?

- **The Dutch controlled**—shipping, production and trade of mostly spices.
- Lots of bloodshed.
- On one group of islands—the Dutch killed, enslaved, or left to starve virtually the entire population and then replaced them with Dutch planters, using a slave labor force to produce nutmeg.
  - Monopoly let them charge 14 to 17 times the original price to Europeans
- End result? Local economy shattered, people impoverished.

To what extent did the British trading company **change the societies** they encountered in Asia?

- **Asked for right to trade in India** from the Mughals.
  - Couldn't "trade by force" like Dutch did on the small islands b/c Mughals are too strong
- **Almost got shutdown** for pirating a Mughal ship
- Took India b/c it was **all that was left**
  - Spain and Dutch had the islands
- Focused mainly on **cotton**, not spices.

# How did trading end up in Indonesia (Dutch) and India (British)?

- Both started trading **more bulk items** as opposed to luxury goods
- Both ended up **officially 'colonizing'** their hosts

# 15.1 Quiz A

1. What island nation in the Indian Ocean was taken over by Spain?
2. List one way the Dutch and the British were different in their control of trade in the Indian Ocean.
3. What product eventually became the main focus on British traders in India?

# 15.1 Quiz B

1. What island nation in the Indian Ocean was taken over by Portugal?
2. Of the European countries controlling trade in the Indian Ocean, which was the least invasive on the native cultures and economies?
3. Which two countries had “East India Companies”?

# 15.2 Asia and Silver

681-688

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# What was Japan's response to the Europeans whom they saw as a threat?

- Japan was **divided by conflict among the daimyos** (rich families)
  - European **weapons, ships and technology** were attractive to Japanese and used in warring states
- Later, Japan saw Europeans as **a threat to a recent unity** brought by **Tokugawa Shogunate**
  - **Expelled/tortured/executed Christian** missionaries
  - Suppressed Japanese Christianity
- Ban all Europeans **except Dutch** (they apparently are heathens)
- Japan becomes **closed to Europeans from 1650 until 1850**
- (Original: p. 441; With Sources: p. 681)

# Why was the silver trade so historically important?

- First commodity to be exchanged on a **global** scale
- Made a **direct link** between the Americas and Asia (through Europeans)
- (Original: p. 442; With Sources: p. 682)

# More about silver

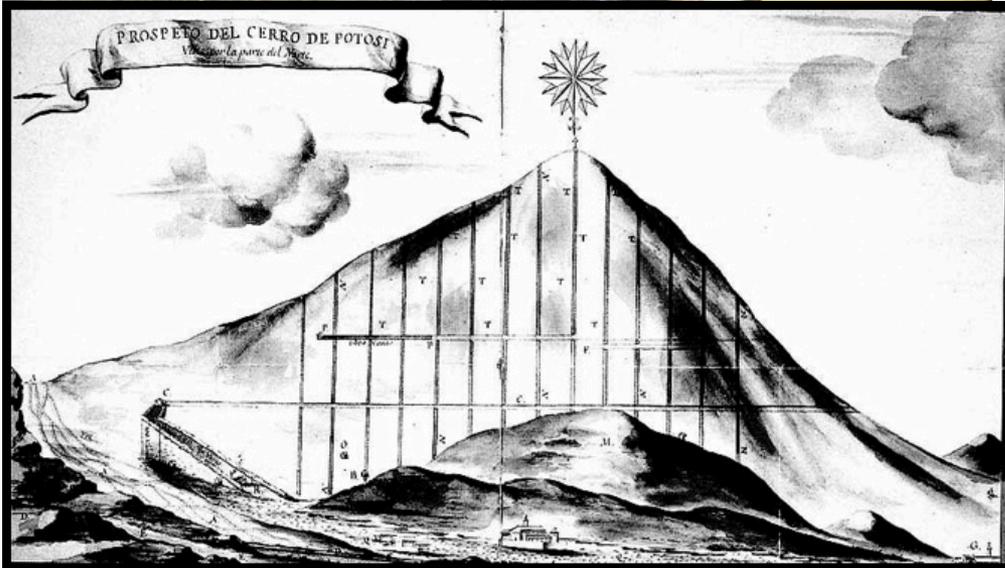
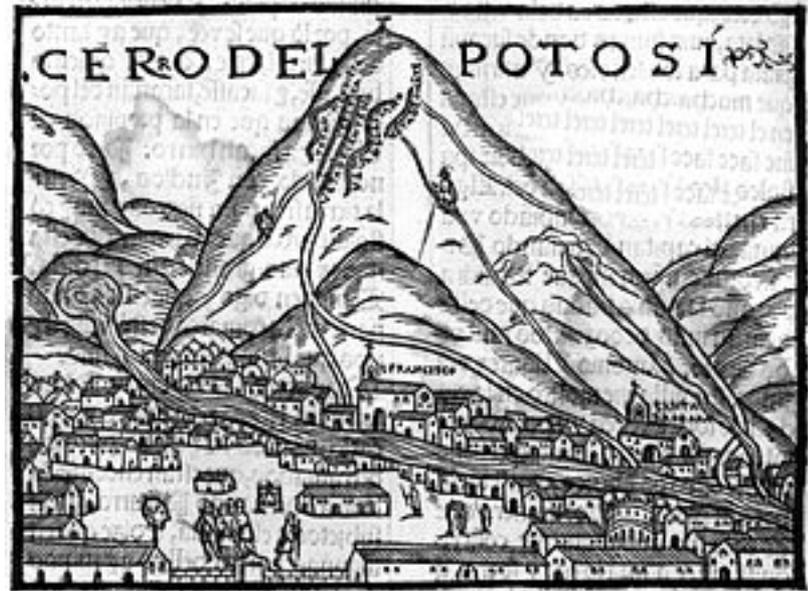
- Huge deposit (85% of world total) found in Bolivia
- **Made Potosi the largest city in the Americas**
- Also big deposit in Japan found at the same time
- China made **taxes only payable in silver**, brought silver value up
- Led to foreigners buying more Chinese stuff for lower prices
- Silver drain – most of the world's silver **ended up in China** b/c they only took silver as payment and rarely bought

What impact did the discovery of the world's largest silver mine at Potosi have on the Native American miners?

- The city's miners worked in conditions so horrendous that **some families held funeral services for men drafted to work the mines.**
- Potosi was a **portrait of hell.**
- (Original: p. 443; With Sources: p. 683)

# More on Potosi

- "Some four years ago, there was discovered a mouth of hell, into which a great mass of people enter every year and are sacrificed by the greed of the Spaniards to their 'god'."
- "The Indians enter these infernal pits by some leather ropes like staircases ... Once inside, they spend the whole week in there without emerging. If 20 healthy Indians enter on Monday, half may emerge crippled on Saturday."
- "Many Andeans experienced mercury poisoning from the mercury used in the refining process. Hundreds of thousands, mostly native Andean miners and their families, were poisoned and killed by use of mercury at Potosi. Before the Spaniards arrive, the Incas had already banned the use of mercury for being too toxic."



How did the discovery of the vast silver mines in South America affect Spain's position in Europe?

- Made Spain the **most powerful European country**.
- Let Spain pursue **military and political growth**.
- Abundance of silver caused **inflation** in Spain and **caused the empire to fall** when the price of silver dropped worldwide
- (Original: p. 443; With Sources: p. 683)

In what ways did the Chinese response to the global silver economy differ from the Japanese response?

- **\*Economic changes resulted in ecological devastation in China, but not in Japan.**
- **Japan:**
- The shoguns allied with the merchant class to develop a market-based economy and **to invest heavily in agricultural and industrial enterprises.**
- Local and state authorities acted **to protect and renew forests.**
- Families practiced **late marriages, contraception, abortion, and infanticide.**
- Outcome was Japan becoming commercialized and **ready for the Industrial Revolution.**
- (Original: p. 444; With Sources: p. 684)

- China:
- In southern China, this surging economic growth resulted in the loss of about **half the area's forest cover** as more and **more land was devoted to cash crops.**

## 15.2 Quiz A

1. What did families do when they learned that a man from the family had been drafted to work in the silver mines in Potosi?
2. Where did most of the world's silver end up?
3. How did Japan and China differ in their interaction with the environment regarding the new influence of silver in Asia?

## 15.2 Quiz B

1. What did families do when they learned that a man from the family had been drafted to work in the silver mines in Potosi?
2. Which country oversaw the mining of the silver in Potosi?
3. Name one reason demand for furs went up after 1500.

# Furs and Slave Trade Part 1

685-692

# What may have increased the demand for furs in the early modern era?

- cooling temperatures and harsh winters known as the Little Ice Age
- Ag expansion made less wild land for furry animals
- (Original: p. 445; With Sources: p. 685)

# North American Fur Trade

- Natives did the trapping, Europeans bartered for the furs
- France was the biggest fur trading country
- Forced natives to take sides in wars between France and England
- Called “soft gold”
- American gold and silver traded by Europeans to Russians for furs

## Describe the impact of the fur trade on **North American native societies.**

- Positive:
- Natives could trade of pelts for goods of real value.
- It enhanced influence and authority for some Native American leaders.
- Kept fur trading natives safe from extermination/enslavement that others encountered
- (Original: p. 447 With Sources: p. 687)

- Negative:
- Diseases
- Intertribal warfare over control of fur trade
- Almost made beavers and other furry critters extinct
- It left Native Americans dependent on European goods (guns, tools, pots, textiles) without a corresponding ability to manufacture the goods themselves.
  - Lost traditional craft making
- It brought alcohol into Indian societies, often with destructive effects.
  - Fire water
  - Still a problem in US today

- In short, it was not so much the fur trade itself that decimated Native American societies, but all that accompanied it—disease, dependence, guns, alcohol, and the growing encroachment of European colonial empires.

# How did the North American and Siberian fur trades differ from each other? What did they have in common?

- North American:
  - Several European nations competed
  - Furs got through bartering with natives
- Siberian:
  - Russian government made ppl in Siberia pay their taxes in furs
  - Also private fur trappers competing with citizens
- Both:
  - Driven by the world market
  - Got new diseases
  - Became dependent on Europeans goods they got in exchange for furs
  - (Original: p. 449; With Sources: pp. 685-688)

# More about the Atlantic Slave Trade

- 1450-1850 = 11 million people moved from Africa to Americas
  - Millions more died (1 in 5)
- Changed everyone involved
  - African diaspora created new societies in Americas
  - Made many people rich
  - Becomes a metaphor or social oppression
- Original sugar slaves were Slavic ppl in the Mediterranean (Slaves)



# Review of Slavery so far

- Most human societies have had slaves
- Africans had practiced slavery and sold slaves for centuries
  - trans-Saharan trade took slaves to the Mediterranean world
  - East African slave trade
- Slavery took many forms, depending on the region and time period
  - slaves were often assimilated into their owners' households
  - children of slaves were sometimes free, sometimes slaves

# What was slavery like in the Islamic world?

- Mostly women
  - Atlantic was mostly men (to work plantations)
- Some slaves gained status
- Worked in households
- Less doing hard labor
- .(Original: p. 450; With Sources: p. 690)

# What was distinctive about the Atlantic slave trade in the Americas?

- the immense size of the traffic in slaves and its centrality to the economies of colonial America
- New World slavery was largely based on plantation agriculture and treated slaves as a form of dehumanized property, lacking any rights in the society of their owners.
- Slave status throughout the Americas was inherited across generations, and there was little hope of eventual freedom for the vast majority.
- most distinctive was the racial dimension—slavery came to be identified wholly with Africa and with “blackness.”
- (Original: p. 450; With Sources: pp. 690-691)

- “Nowhere else, with the possible exception of ancient Greece, was widespread slavery associated with societies affirming values of human freedom and equality.”
- “Did Muslims start the black=slave system or Europeans?”
- Europeans were better able to tolerate their brutal exploitation of Africans,” writes a prominent world historian, “by imagining that these Africans were an inferior race, or better still, not even human.”

# What caused the Atlantic slave trade to grow? Why was slavery a source of labor?

- The demand for sugar as a sweetener
- Few wage laborers/serfs
  - Job was tough/dangerous
- New tech to manufacture sugar
- New huge markets to sell to
- Christians were 'exempt' from slavery
- (Original: p. 451; With Sources: p. 691)

## 15.3 Quiz A

1. What people in the Mediterranean may have been the basis for modern sugar slavery? Their name became the basis for the word “slave” in English.
2. What percentage or number of African slaves died in the transport to the Americas?
3. What is one way that the Atlantic slave trade was different from the slave trades before?

## 15.3 Quiz B

1. Other than trading furs, what was one thing the North American and Siberian fur trades have in common?
2. What is one way the Islamic slave trade was different than the Atlantic slave trade?
3. What is one reason for the rise of the Atlantic slave trade?

# Slave Trade 2

692-698

# In what different ways did the Atlantic slave trade transform African societies?

- slowed Africa's population growth while Europe and China were growing
- led to economic stagnation.
- led to political disruption and warfare
- Some authorities took advantage of the slave trade to increase power
  - Benin
- (Original: p. 455-456; With Sources: pp. 695-696)

# What are the origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade?

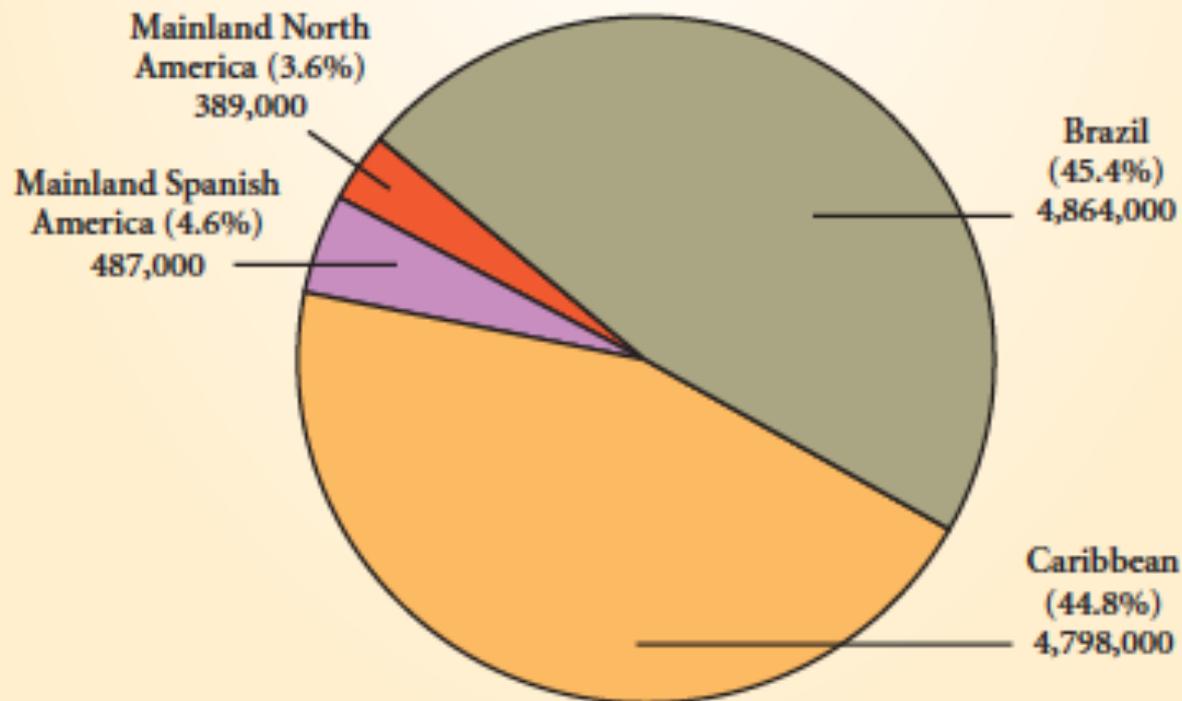
- Sugar production (first modern industry)
  - Major capital (money) investment, technology, skilled workers, world market)
  - Work was dangerous (ideal for slaves)
  - First was Slavs from Black Sea for Mediterranean sugar plantations
  - Then came West Africans

# What role did the Europeans play in the unfolding of the Atlantic slave trade?

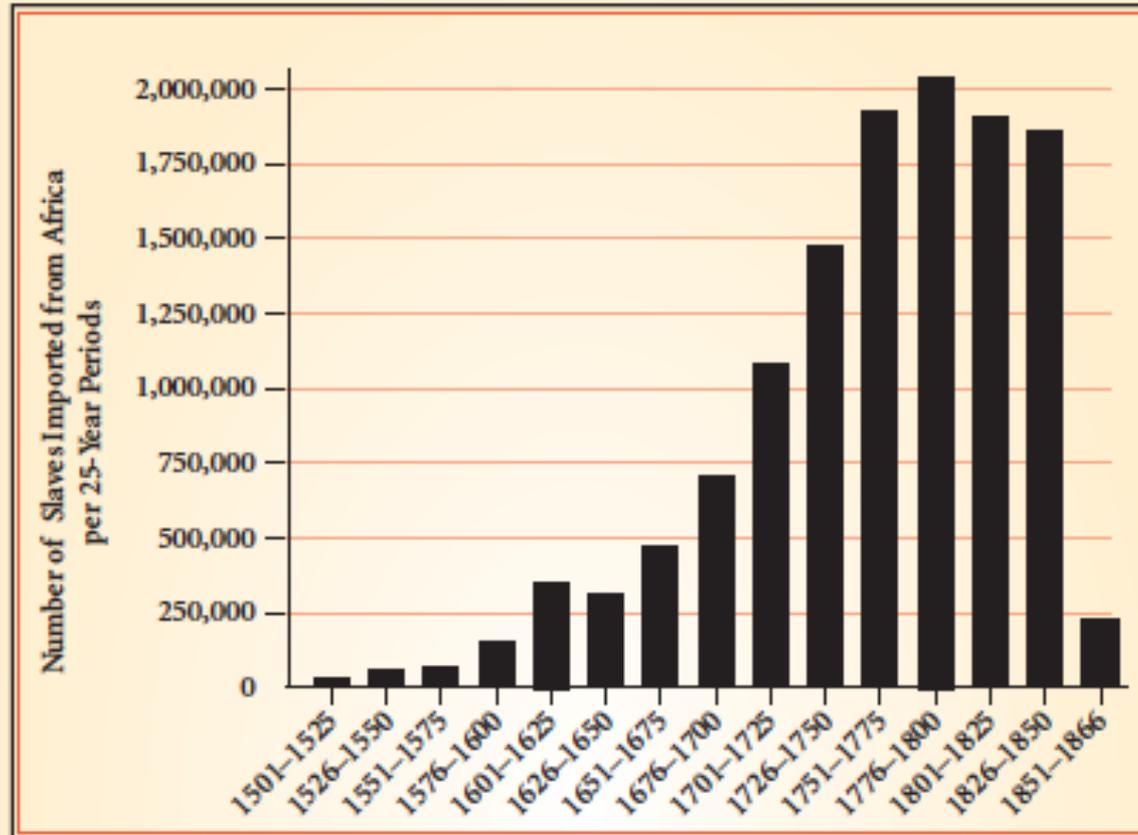
- From the African coast to the Americas
- Europeans needed slaves for plantations (sugar)
- Tried to capture their own slaves, but gave up
  - Too hard, diseases
- Easier to trade guns and products to African leaders for POWs
  - Guns lead to more slaves being captured by those tribes
- First Portugal (but small percentage), then Spain, Netherlands and England
- (Original: p. 452; With Sources: p. 692)

## The Destinations of Slaves

Figures indicate numbers of slaves disembarked



## The Rise and Decline of the Slave Trade



# What role did the Africans play in the unfolding of the Atlantic slave trade?

- From the initial capture to the coast
- Elites and merchants sold POWs and debtors
- Africans who were transported as slaves also played an unwilling and tragic role in the trade.
- (Original: p. 452; With Sources: p. 693)

- One European engaged in the trade noted that “the negroes are so willful and loath to leave their own country, that they have often leap’d out of the canoes, boat, and ship, into the sea, and kept under water till they were drowned, to avoid being taken up and saved by our boats.”

Why did Africa become the primary source of slave labor for plantation economies of the Americas?

- Ottoman Empire now controlled the Slavic people and wouldn't sell them
- Natives died from disease and escaped
- Christians were exempt from slavery
- Africans had immunity and could farm
- Easy to buy on the coast of Africa
- (Original: p. 451; With Sources: p. 691)

# Who were enslaved?

- people from West Africa (present-day Mauritania to Angola)
- Started on the west coast and went inland as demand picked up
- mostly people from marginal groups (prisoners of war, debtors, criminals)
- Africans generally did not sell their own peoples

# Conclusion

- “By the eighteenth century, many Europeans dined from Chinese porcelain dishes called “china,” wore Indian-made cotton textiles, and drank chocolate from Mexico, tea from China, and coffee from Yemen while sweetening these beverages with sugar from the Caribbean or Brazil.”
- “Those three centuries reveal much that is familiar to people of the twenty-first century—the global circulation of goods; an international currency; production for a world market; the growing economic role of the West on the global stage; private enterprise, such as the British and Dutch East India companies, operating on a world scale; national governments eager to support their merchants in a highly competitive environment.”

## 15.4 Quiz A

1. List one way the slave trade impacted African economies.
2. What did some slaves do when they were captured and put on boats in Africa?
3. Other than guns and gunpowder, what other products were traded for slaves in Africa?

## 15.4 Quiz B

1. List one the slave trade effected African rulers.
2. List one reason why Africans became the primary source of slaves for Europeans in the Americas.
3. Why didn't the Europeans go into Africa themselves and capture slaves?

Docs

# The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano

- How does Equiano describe the kind of slavery he knew in Africa itself? How does it compare with the plantation slavery of the Americas?
- What part did Africans play in the slave trade, according to this account?
- What aspects of the shipboard experience contributed to the slaves' despair?

# The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano

- Firsthand account of a captured slave
- Taken in a slave raid
- Treated well by African slave owners
- Slave ship was first look into Atlantic slave trade
  - Smell, beaten for not eating
- White man was flogged to death
- Crammed so tightly he almost suffocated
- Sickness killed a lot of them

- “and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated”
- “We thought by this we should be eaten by those ugly men, as they appeared to us”

# A Journal of a Voyage Made in the Hannibal of London

- How would you describe the economic transactions described in the document? To what extent were they conducted between equal parties? Who, if anyone, held the upper hand in these dealings?
- What obstacles did European merchants confront in negotiating with African authorities?
- How might an African merchant have described the same transaction? How might Equiano describe it?
- Notice the outcomes of Phillips's voyage to Barbados in the last two paragraphs. What does this tell you about European preferences for slaves, about the Middle Passage, and about the profitability of the enterprise?

# A Journal of a Voyage Made in the Hannibal of London

- Had to meet with the king, take king's slaves first
- Africans knew tricks to get the highest prices for slaves
  - Competition among slave ships
  - Shaving their heads so no gray hair is seen
- Europeans brought doctors to examine the slaves before purchase
- Branded the slaves on the breast or sholder
  - “little pain”
- Cowries (shells) traded for slaves, and brass for bracelets
- Delivered 372 of 700 slaves purchased to Barbados (Caribbean)

# Letters to King Jao of Portugal from King Affonso I

- According to King Affonso, how had the Portuguese connection in general and the slave trade in particular transformed his state?
- How did the operation of the slave trade in Kongo differ from that of Whydah as described in Document 15.2? How did the rulers of these two states differ in their relationship to Europeans?
- To what extent did Affonso seek the end of the slave trade? What was the basis for his opposition to it? Do you think he was opposed to slavery itself?
- What did Affonso seek from Portugal? What kind of relationship did he envisage with the Portuguese?

# Letters to King Jao of Portugal from King Affonso I

- Affonso was a Christian convert
- Because Europeans are here trading cool stuff for slaves, Africans are kidnapping ppl and selling them for stuff
  - Even nobles
- King, help us by only letting priests and teachers into Kongo
- Also, send us drugs and doctors

# Conversations with Joseph Dupuis – Osei Bonsu

- Bonsu is not happy that England doesn't want to trade slaves now
- Stopped around 1810 due to abolitionist movement
- He sees Muslims and Christians as the same and said that Muslims still trade slaves
- Wants England to start trading slaves again



