

# THE EFFECTS OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ON BLACK WOMEN

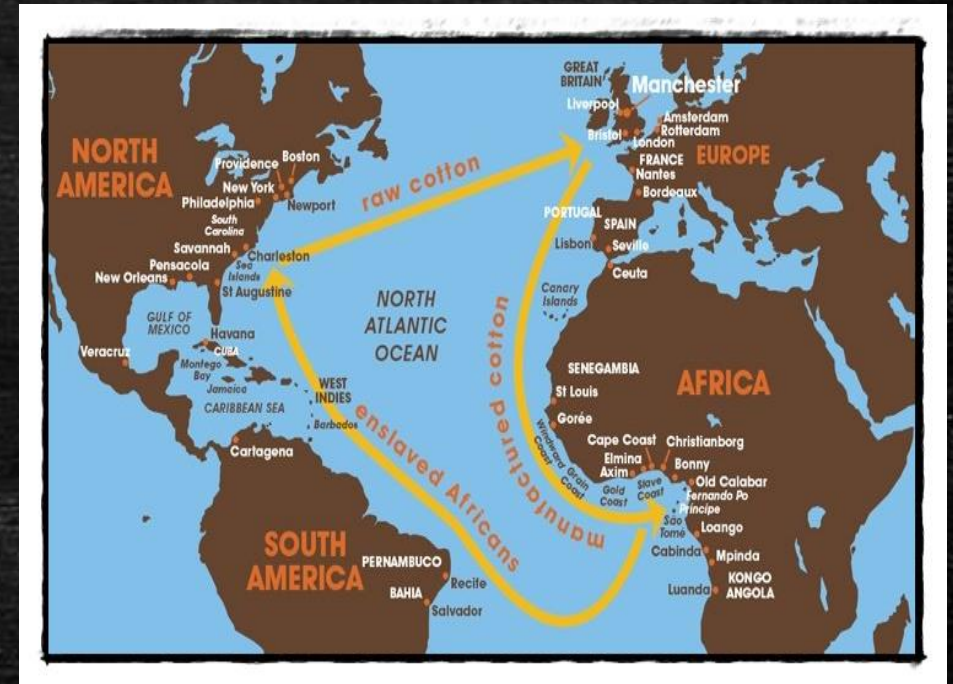


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★ PRESENTED BY: **CRISTINA CHEN, VICTORIA MORALES, & KYLIE WILLIAMS**

# ★ WHAT WAS THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE?

- The Atlantic slave trade was the purchase and exploitation of African slaves by Europeans, displacing them across the Atlantic Ocean. The slave trade occurred during the 16th century until the 19th century. The trade was initially established by the Portuguese but was quickly taken over by the English.
- In the transatlantic slave trade, enslaved men, women, and children were captured by Europeans from Africa and transported to the Americas where they were sold for a profit.



# THE *EFFECTS* THE SLAVE TRADE HAD ON BLACK WOMEN

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- Sexual abuse
- Racism
- Classism
- These are 3 political and social issues/ factors that are entangled when discussing the Black woman experience.
- The slave trade was horrific, but the experiences differ for both the Black men and Black women.



## SEXUAL ABUSE

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- One of the most crucial aspects that contrasted the experience of slavery for males and females was the way slave owners took advantage of the Black woman's vulnerability.
- In the trappings of slavery, slave masters heavily believed it was their "right" to rape African women they owned.
- Additionally, the female slaves had to worry about being forced into sexual relations for the sole purpose of reproducing. It was perhaps even more dreadful to witness her daughter(s) endure the same fate.
- White society maintained the belief that Black women were naturally lustful beings during slavery as opposed to the ideal White women, who were deemed as pure and more reserved.



# RACISM

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- Black people were only seen as objects and property that economically benefitted the society.
- "Blackness" did not compare to "Whiteness", meaning Black people were not on equal footing with the white population, especially during slavery.
- For example, when a White woman was sexually violated, there was more attentiveness and comfort given to her. however, when a Black woman was sexually violated, there was little to no effort to take action to protect her nor find the perpetrator. Instead, blame was placed on her for being "provocative", justifying the cruel action.



# CLASSISM

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- Through the duration of the slave trade and slavery in the United States, Black people were declassified to the social status of being non-humans, savages, while White people suddenly gained status.
- The white population viewed themselves to be the superior human model within the social and cultural belief system in those eras.
- Black people were of the lowest social standing, with black women being the most powerless of them all.
- Black women were devalued due to the belief of their sexually permissive nature as well as being the weaker sex.

# ★ DR. REMI ALAPO

- Dr, Remi Alapo is an independent researcher with Global Management Consulting, including fields in international and cross-cultural management issues in Africa.
- Her first book on women and leadership, "Generation X: The Role of Culture on the Leadership Styles of Women in Leadership Positions", aims to express the capability of Generation X's women to lead the new generation.
- The book the leadership styles employed by women in post-slavery America alongside the social norms they experience in modern society.
- Dr. Alapo is also the director of Institute of Peace and Leadership, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainability as well as equality within communities.



# ★ ANGELA DAVIS

- Angela Davis is an acclaimed author, activist, and scholar known for contributions on the issues of race, gender, class, and feminism.
- Her book, "Women, Race, and Class", touches on the slavery in the United States as well as the American women's liberation movement from the 1960s. Within the book, Davis analyzes the history and crossings of classism, sexism, and racism in the U.S.
- Each chapter explores a distinct topic of historical feminist battles for equality. Davis concentrated on explaining how race, gender, and class interacted to create inequality. The battles are bounded together by one significant theme; the idea that racism has prevented the women's rights movement from achieving true equality.
- The book is still important and prevalent today, though it was published in 1981.





# ★ BELL HOOKS

- Bell Hooks was a significant author and social activist who focused on the themes of race, class, gender, and capitalism.
- Her book, "Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism", explains the impact of racism and sexism on Black women, the Civil Rights movement, and feminist movement from suffrage to the 1970s are all topics covered by Hooks.
- The book explores the hardships of being a Black woman residing in the United States.
- Hooks presents the argument that Black women in the American culture seemed to have the harshest conditions and lowest status of any race, due to the result of the combination of sexism and racism during slavery.



# ★ HARRIET JACOBS →



- Harriet Jacobs was an African-American abolitionist and author. She was one of the prominent figures in the Abolitionist era.
- Born into slavery, Jacobs learned how to read and write at an early age.
- Jacobs organized her own experiences into expressive and meaningful slave narratives. The most significant autobiography written by Jacobs is "Incident in the Life of A Slave Girl" in 1861, during the Abolitionist era in its prime.
- Jacobs rebelled against slavery as well as race-based gender injustice.
- During the Civil War, Jacobs used her platform to raise monetary funds for Black refugees. After the Civil War, she made efforts to improve the living standards of recently freed slaves.

# ★ BLACK FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS



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# NATIONAL BLACK FEMINIST ORGANIZATION (NBFTO)

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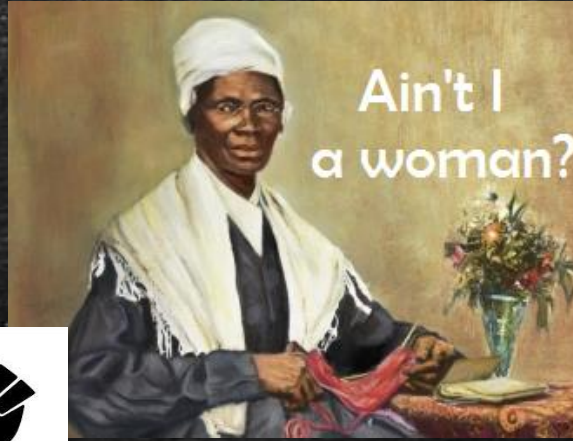
- Founded in May 1973 to 1976 by Margret Sloan-Hunter, Doris Wright, Michele Wallace, Faith Ringgold, and Florynce Kennedy.
- NBFTO vowed to address issues of racial and gender inequality experienced by Black women.
- The organization advocated for decent pay and more political influence for African-American women while also attempting to transform how African-American were portrayed in the media and raising awareness of sexual assault within the Black community.

# ★ THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S ALLIANCE (TWWA)

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- The Third World Women's Alliance was a revolutionary socialist organization for women of color that operated in the United States from 1968 to 1980.
- The organization aimed to terminate racism, sexism, capitalism, and imperialism.
- The members of TWWA acknowledged how necessary it was to grant African-American women and other women of color a platform for their voices.
- Unlike other feminist and civil rights organizations, the TWWA campaigned against racism, sexism, and class inequality, in addition to the effects these aspects have on the women of color around the globe.

# ★ SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE



## ENDING NOTE:

History cannot be erased in the blink of an eye. It is important and essential for current generations to remember the origins of their identity as well as learn from history to improve the lives of future generations.