

African American Slavery

Overview

Introduction

- Presence of Blacks in the US was affected by the history behind their arrival - The Trans Atlantic Slave Trade.
- Settlements in America roughly begins from the late 16th and early 17th century (though European explorations had begun since Christopher Columbus's discovery of the Americas in 1492).
- The rising dissent between the Catholics and the Protestants in Europe, where the former had the advantage since the European Kings were mostly sided with the Church, saw the Protestants flee to this newly discovered land.
- It took a century for settlements in America since its discovery and almost simultaneously with the settlements begun the slave trade.



Slavery in America

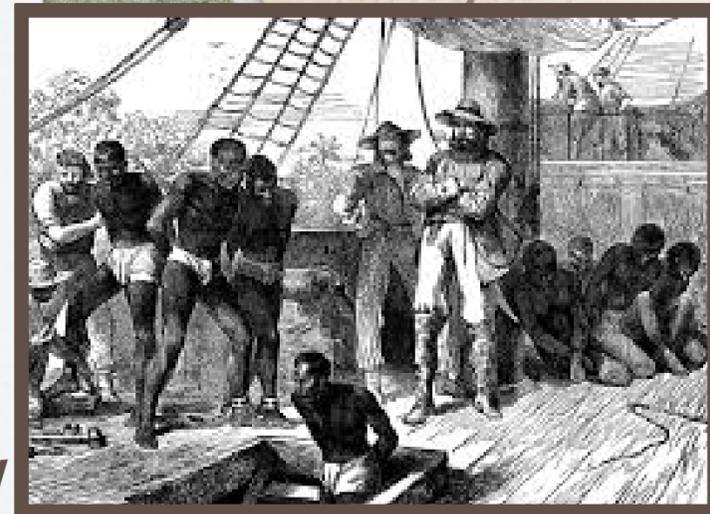
America was a vast continent and they needed labour - they were brought to America from Africa in cramped boxes, like animals, and many would die out of starvation and thirst.

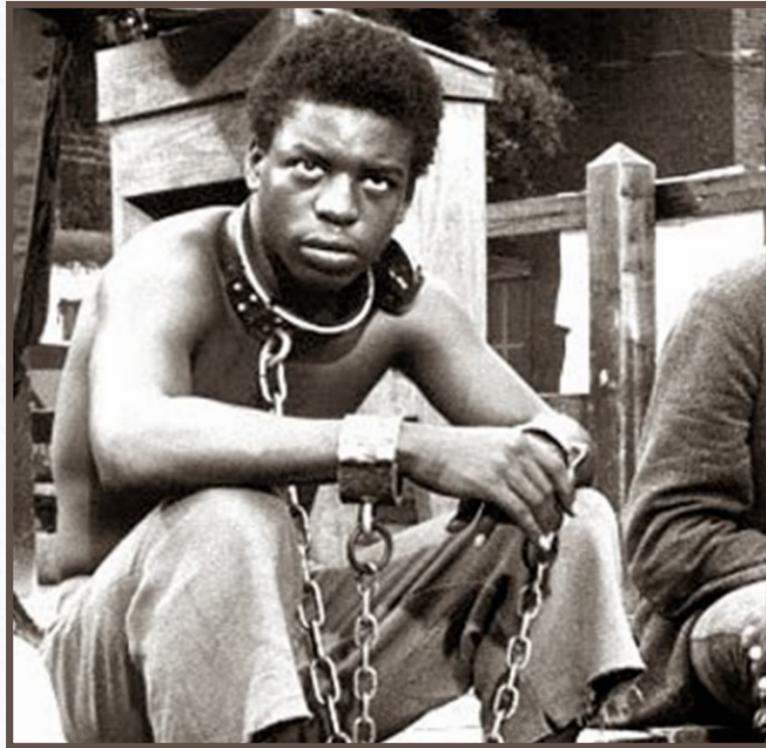
The slaves worked the whole day and at night they would be tied to a tether, and chained right in the palm.

Over the period 1550-1860, a little more than 310 years, more than ten million Africans were seized, transported under terrible conditions across the ocean to the "Western Hemisphere" and forcibly traded into slavery.

The trans-Atlantic trade in humans had begun in the 16th century. Sailing ships were packed to the brim with African men and women who had been seized from their communities in Africa by a variety of different slave-traders, some European, some Arab and some themselves African.

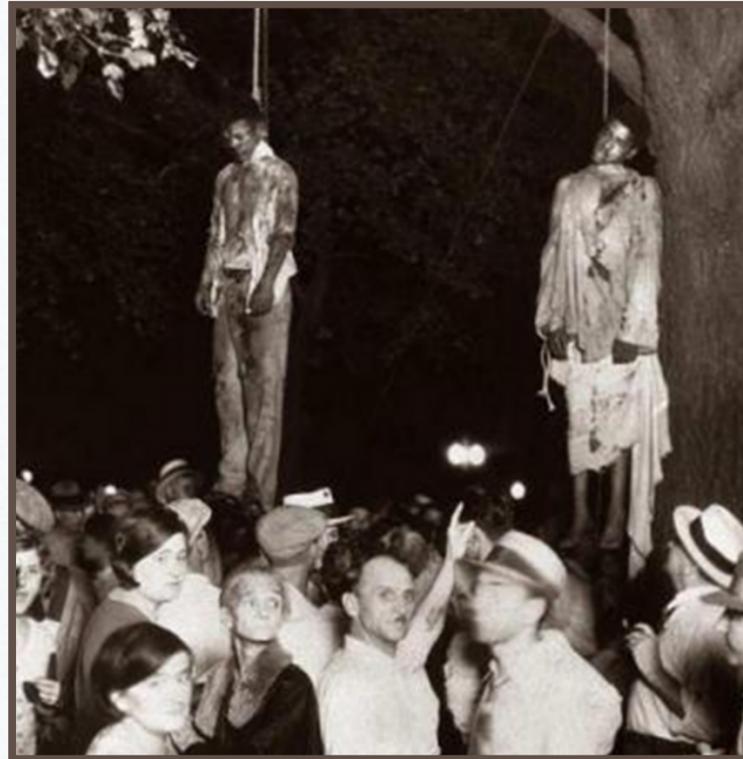
The trade gathered pace over the succeeding 300 years, before the practice of trading in humans was finally abolished in the middle of the 19th century. By the time it was brought to an end, more than 20,500 trans-Atlantic voyages had moved many millions of Africans to the shores of the North American and South American continents.





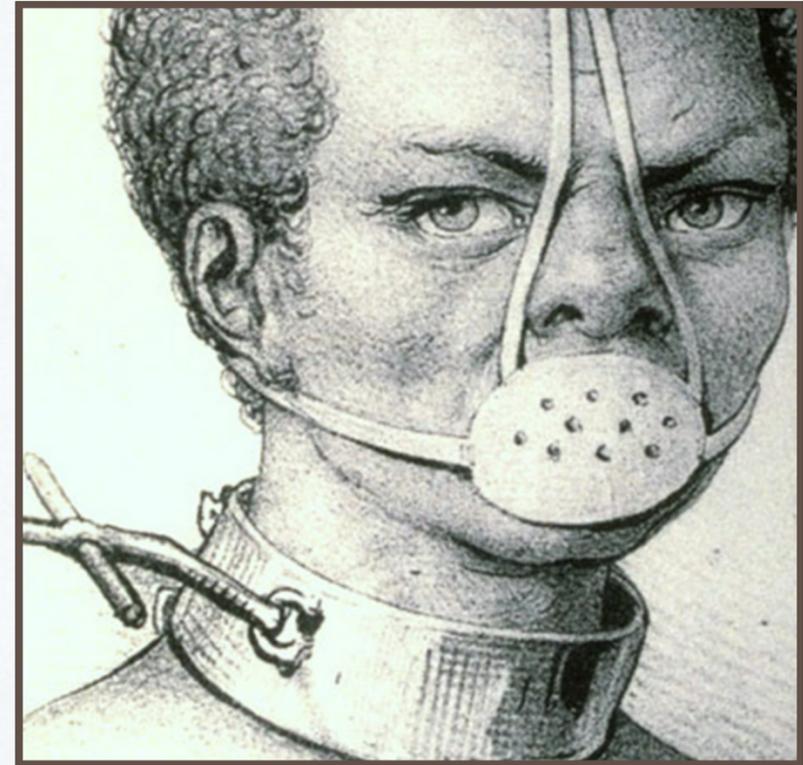
Slave Chain

Made of solid iron with grappled or simple-twist locks, these chains were used to restrain the feet or ankles of slaves, allowing them to walk but preventing running or kicking. The leg irons are also known as fetters, shackles, or foot cuffs.



Lynching

Lynchings was used to terrorize and control Black people in the 19th and 20th centuries. They evoke images of Black men and women hanging from trees, but also involved other extreme brutality, such as torture, mutilation, decapitation, and desecration. Some victims were burned alive.



Iron Masks

When persons being held as slaves were accused by their masters of insubordination, or of eating more than their allotment of food, they might expect to be fitted with an iron muzzle.

VALUABLE GANG OF YOUNG **NEGROES**

By **JOS. A. BEARD.**

Will be sold at Auction,
ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH INST.

At 12 o'clock, at Banks' Arcade,
**17 Valuable Young Negroes,
Men and Women, Field Hands.
Sold for no fault; with the best
city guarantees.**

**Sale Positive
and without reserve!**

TERMS CASH.

New Orleans, March 24, 1840.



Physical Assault

Scars from Lynching
(Refer to the Chokecherry
Tree in Morrison's *Beloved*)



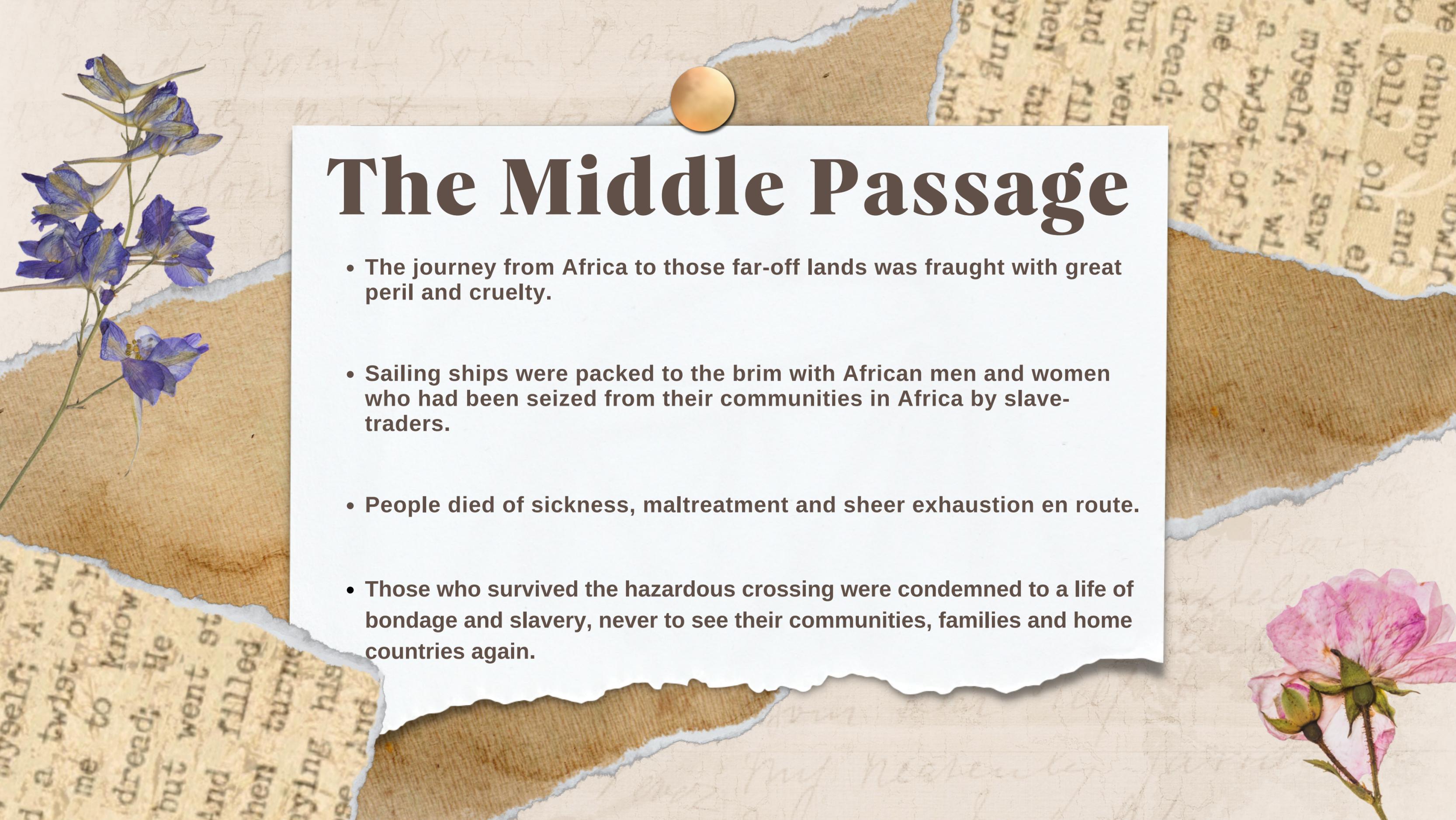
Wet-Nursing

Black enslaved women would
often be forced to wet-nurse
the white children of their
masters.

Advert for selling 'Humans'

Enslaved people were sold at
auctions to individuals that
bid the most money for them.

Slave auctions were
advertised when it was
known that a slave ship was
due to arrive.



The Middle Passage

- The journey from Africa to those far-off lands was fraught with great peril and cruelty.
- Sailing ships were packed to the brim with African men and women who had been seized from their communities in Africa by slave-traders.
- People died of sickness, maltreatment and sheer exhaustion en route.
- Those who survived the hazardous crossing were condemned to a life of bondage and slavery, never to see their communities, families and home countries again.

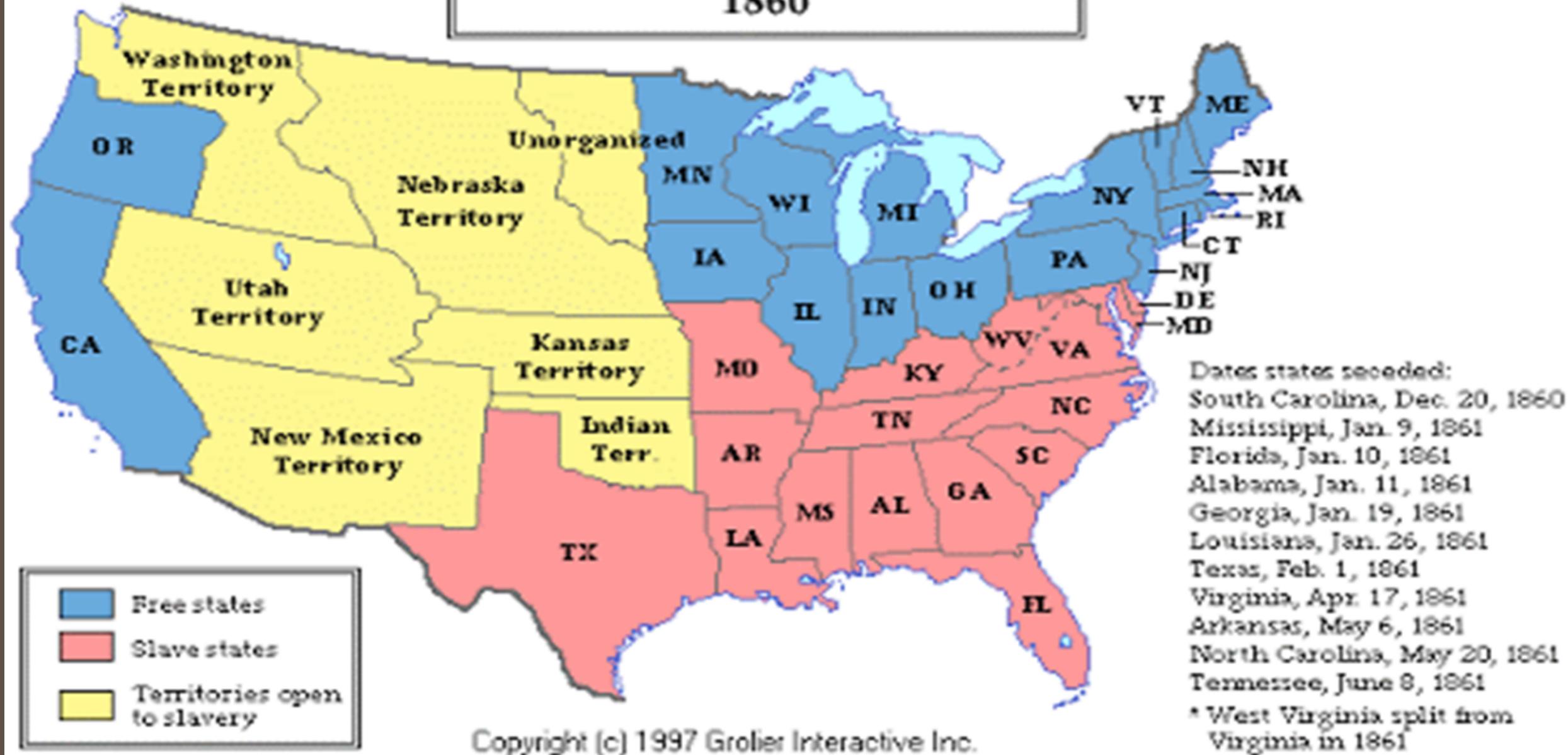
Slavery in America

- **In 1776, slavery was legal throughout the Thirteen Colonies, when colonies started to abolish the legality of the practice.**
- **Pennsylvania abolished slavery in 1780, and about half the states abolished slavery during the Revolutionary War or in the first decades of the new country.**
- **Slavery became a very divisive issue.**
- **It was a major issue during the writing of the US Constitution in 1787, and slavery was the primary cause of the American Civil War in 1861.**
- **Just before the Civil War, there were 19 free states and 15 slave states. During the war slavery was abolished in some of these jurisdictions, and the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified in December of 1865, finally abolished slavery throughout the United States.**



United States

1860



Free State/Slave State

- In the United States before 1865, a slave state was a state in which the slave trade was legal, while a free state was one in which it was not.
- There were some enslaved persons in most free states in the 1840 census, and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 specifically stated that an enslaved person remained enslaved even when she or he fled to a free state.

AL	Alabama	IL	Illinois	MA	Massachusetts	NY	New York	TN	Tennessee
AR	Arkansas	IN	Indiana	MI	Michigan	NC	North Carolina	TX	Texas
CA	California	IA	Iowa	MN	Minnesota	OH	Ohio	VT	Vermont
CT	Connecticut	KY	Kentucky	MS	Mississippi	OR	Oregon	VA	Virginia
DE	Delaware	LA	Louisiana	MO	Missouri	PA	Pennsylvania	WV	West Virginia
FL	Florida	ME	Maine	NH	New Hampshire	RI	Rhode Island	WI	Wisconsin
GA	Georgia	MD	Maryland	NJ	New Jersey	SC	South Carolina		

American Civil War

The American Civil War was a civil war in the United States from 1861 to 1865, fought between northern states loyal to the Union and southern states that had seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America.



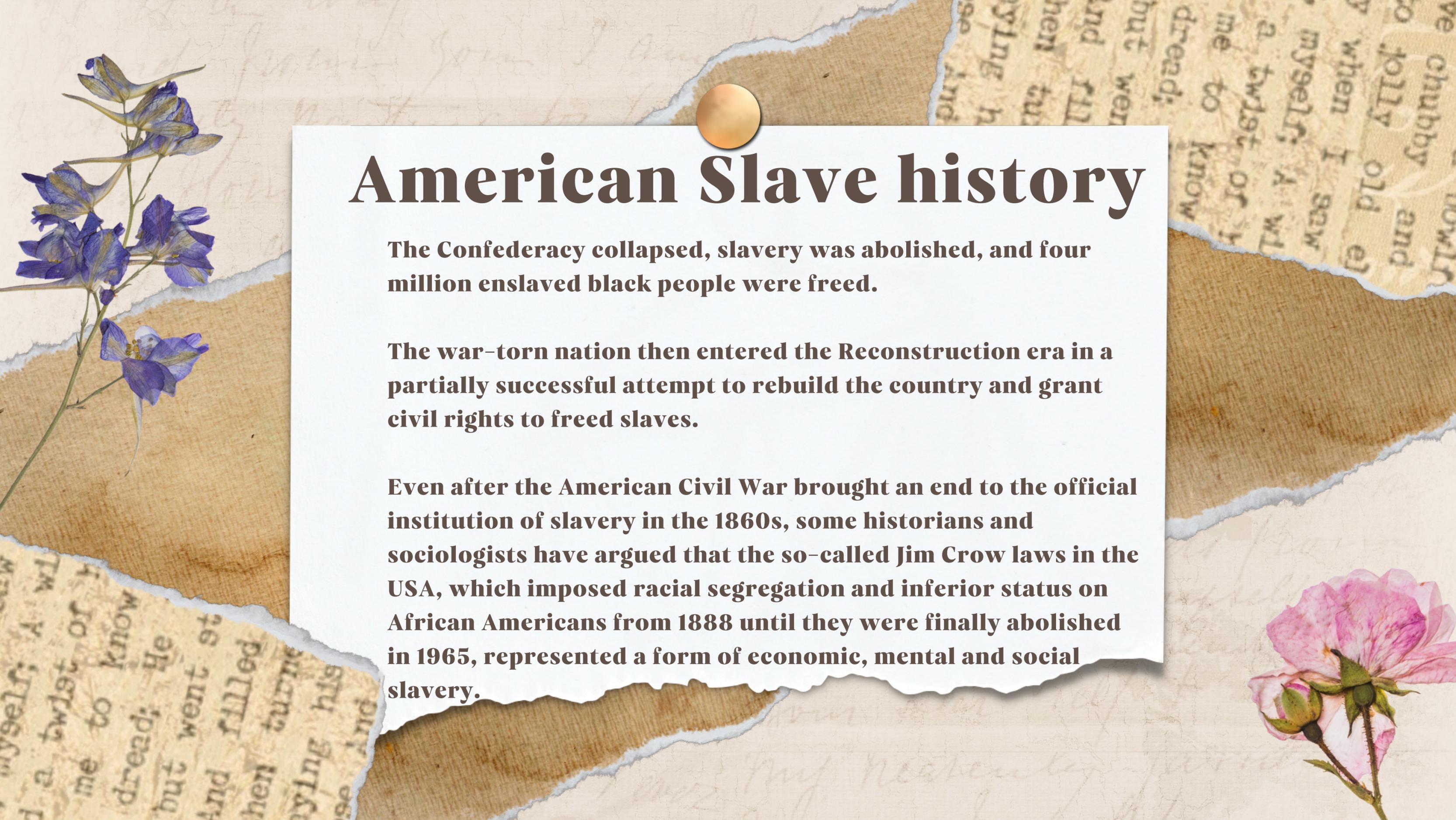
The civil war began primarily as a result of the long-standing controversy over the enslavement of black people.



Contd...

- War broke out in April 1861.
- The war effectively ended on April 9, 1865, when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Battle of Appomattox Court House. Confederate generals throughout the Southern states followed suit.



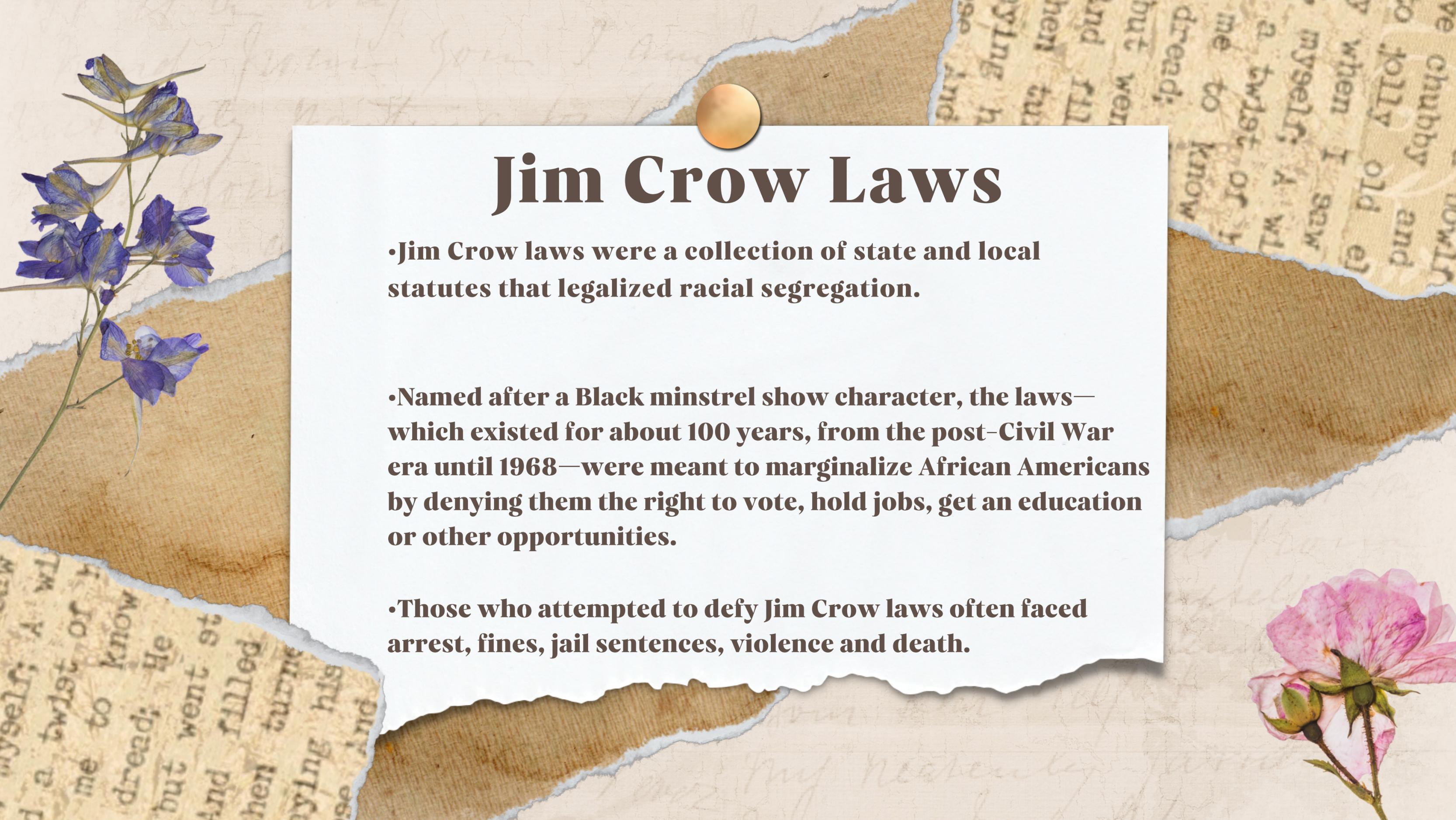


American Slave history

The Confederacy collapsed, slavery was abolished, and four million enslaved black people were freed.

The war-torn nation then entered the Reconstruction era in a partially successful attempt to rebuild the country and grant civil rights to freed slaves.

Even after the American Civil War brought an end to the official institution of slavery in the 1860s, some historians and sociologists have argued that the so-called Jim Crow laws in the USA, which imposed racial segregation and inferior status on African Americans from 1888 until they were finally abolished in 1965, represented a form of economic, mental and social slavery.



Jim Crow Laws

- **Jim Crow laws were a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation.**
- **Named after a Black minstrel show character, the laws— which existed for about 100 years, from the post-Civil War era until 1968—were meant to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities.**
- **Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence and death.**



Civil Rights Movement

- The civil rights movement was a nonviolent social movement and campaign from 1954 to 1968 in the United States to abolish legalized racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement in the country.
- The movement had its origins in the Reconstruction era during the late 19th century and had its modern roots in the 1940s, although the movement made its largest legislative gains in the 1960s after years of direct actions and grassroots protests.
- The social movement's major nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience campaigns eventually secured new protections in federal law for the civil rights of all Americans.





**Thank
you**

