

## ***Emancipation and the African-American "Freedmen's" Experience***

- I. Slavery in General
  1. Old as humanity- not Euro-American
    - a. American Indians raid enemy villages for slaves to replace people who have died (loved ones) for warfare, etc.
    - b. Romans allowed slaves to buy their freedom
    - c. After a set period of time, kids won't be slaves
    - d. Not based on race
- II. The Worldwide History of Slavery
  1. Four Unique Characteristics of Euro-American Slavery
    - a. Economic source
    - b. Slaves seen as property in the eyes of the law; have monetary worth
    - c. Permanent; hereditary
    - d. Racially based
  2. Euro-American slave trade began in the Caribbean
  3. 75% slaves in Caribbean and Brazil produced sugar
  4. American slavery inherited from Europe
    - a. Virginia, 1619- tobacco
    - b. First slaves were natives because they knew the land
      1. Ended because they fought back, and disease
    - c. Colonists tried to enslave each other (indentured servitude)
    - d. Switched to African slaves because they were cheap and easy to control
- III. Slavery and the South - the "Keystone" of Southern Society and Culture

1. slavery as a source of economic/political power
  2. slavery and poor whites – the “social floor”
    - a. “may be poor, white trash, but at least you’re not a slave”
  3. After the war: recreating the slave system without slavery
  4. 75% southern whites don’t own slaves
  5. 4 million slaves in the south. Mostly deep south
- IV. The End of Slavery and the Beginning of Freedom – Now What?
1. Searching for family
  2. Schools and education
  3. Establishing Churches
  4. Entering Politics
  5. Want to live a normal, American life
    - a. School/education from Freedman’s Bureau
    - b. Established black colleges
    - c. Want jobs
    - d. Want to live the (1865) American Dream- have a farm, grow enough for your family, and maybe have some left over to sell
- V. The Problem of Making a Living – the Rise of Sharecropping
1. The Freedmen’s dream: independent “yeoman” farming
    - a. “Nothing But Freedom” – no longer slaves, but no land, forced to work for old owners, leads to share cropping
    - b. Resistance to Black Codes and the Old Plantation
    - c. How to make a living?
  2. White plantation owners – need cheap labor. How to get it?

3. Northerners want to help former slaves → 40 acres and a mule
  - a. Seen as too radical in the south
4. Solution – the Sharecropping System
  - a. benefits both parties (although whites get the better end of the deal)
  - b. Freedmen supply labor, white owners supply equipment, tools – all profits split 50/50 (in theory)
  - c. The Problem of “Debt Peonage” and the sharecropping trap

Final Thought – if the North had had more willpower, would Reconstruction have ended differently?