
15th and 16th century

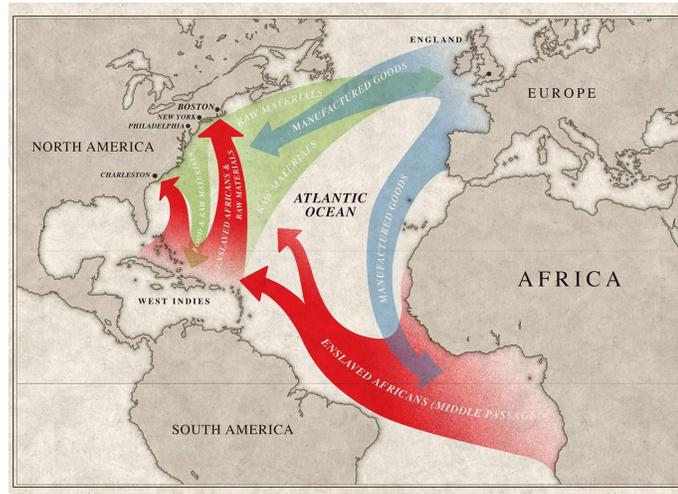
- **The peoples of the African continent had a rich and varied history and culture long before European enslavers arrived.** They had a wide variety of political arrangements, including kingdoms, city-states and others, each with their own languages and culture. Art, learning and technology flourished, and Africans were especially skilled in subjects like medicine, mathematics and astronomy. Along with domestic goods, they made fine luxury items in bronze, ivory, gold and terracotta for local use and trade.

17th Century

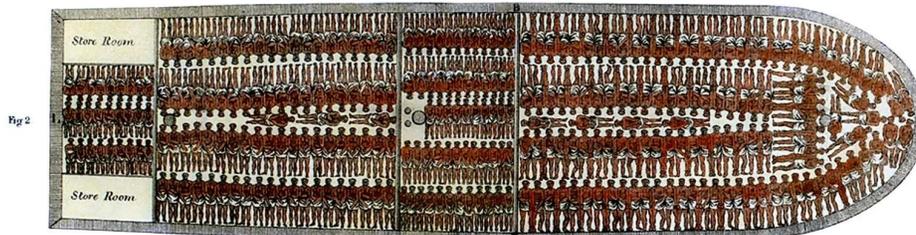
- The **Transatlantic slave trade**, was a segment of the global slave trade that **transported between 10 and 12 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas, from the 16th to the 19th century.** It was the second of three stages of the so-called "triangular trade," in which arms, textiles, and wine were shipped from Europe to Africa, enslaved people from Africa to the Americas, and sugar and coffee from the Americas to Europe.
- **Chattel slavery** is a system which **allowed people who were considered legal property, to be bought, sold and owned forever.** Chattel slavery was lawful and supported by U.S. and European powers from the 16th–18th centuries.



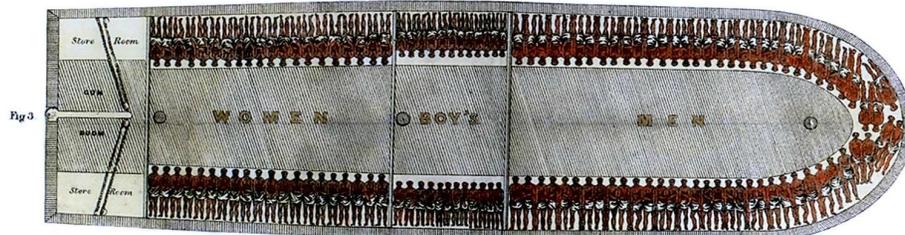
- **The Middle Passage entailed ~80 days on ships.** Human beings were packed together on or below decks without space to sit up or move around. Without ventilation or sufficient water, many grew sick and died. Enslaved people suffered physical violence and were ripped away from their families, homelands, social positions, and languages.



PLAN OF LOWER DECK WITH THE STOWAGE OF 292 SLAVES
130 OF THESE BEING STOWED UNDER THE SHELVES AS SHEWN IN FIGURE B & FIGURE 5.



PLAN SHEWING THE STOWAGE OF 130 ADDITIONAL SLAVES ROUND THE WINGS OR SIDES OF THE LOWER DECK BY MEANS OF PLATFORMS OR SHELVES (IN THE MANNER OF GALLERIES IN A CHURCH) THE SLAVES STOWED ON THE SHELVES AND BELOW THEM HAVE ONLY A HEIGHT OF 2 FEET 7 INCHES BETWEEN THE BEAMS AND FAR LESS UNDER THE BEAMS. See Fig 1.



1619

- On **August 20, 1619**, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, VA. They were the first Black people to be forcibly settled as involuntary laborers in the North American British Colonies.
- Slavery spread quickly through the American colonies. Some historians have estimated that **6 to 7 million enslaved people were forcibly taken to America during the 18th century alone.**



1776

- The United States was founded on a set of beliefs that were tested during the **Revolutionary War**. Among them was the idea that all people are created equal, whether European, Native American, or African American, and that these people have fundamental rights, such as liberty, free speech, freedom of religion, due process of law, and freedom of assembly.

1787

- The U.S. Constitution tacitly acknowledged the institution of slavery, guaranteeing the right to repossess any “person held to service or labor” (an obvious euphemism for slavery).
- The **Three-fifths compromise**, was an agreement between delegates from the Northern and the Southern states at the United States Constitutional Convention, that **three-fifths of the enslaved population would be counted for determining direct taxation and representation** in the House of Representatives.

1793

- **Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act**, which made it a federal crime to assist an enslaved person trying to escape. Though it was difficult to enforce, the law helped legitimize slavery as an enduring American institution. (Widespread resistance to the 1793 law led to the passage of **the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850**, which added more provisions and levied even harsher punishments for interfering with the capture of enslaved people.)

1831

- **Nat Turner** led the only reported effective slave rebellion in U.S. history in Southampton County, Virginia.

1861

- The institution of slavery was vital to the South, where Black people constituted a large percentage of the population, and the economy relied on the production of crops like tobacco and cotton. **Congress outlawed the import of new enslaved people in 1808, but the enslaved population in the U.S. nearly tripled over the next 50 years, and by 1860 it had reached nearly 4 million.**
- Conflicts that had been intensifying between North and South over the course of four decades erupted into the **American Civil War**, with 11 southern states seceding from the Union.



1863

- After the success of the Union in the Civil War, President Lincoln issued a preliminary **emancipation proclamation; on January 1, 1863**, he made it official that enslaved people within any State, or designated part of a State in rebellion, “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” But, not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free.

1865

- Freedom came on **June 19, 1865**, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than *250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth."*
- The federal government compensated the “owners” of enslaved people for their “loss of property.” The people who were freed were not compensated, nor given any assistance for the transition to freedom.



Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900 held in "East Woods" on East 24th Street in Austin. Credit: Austin History Center.

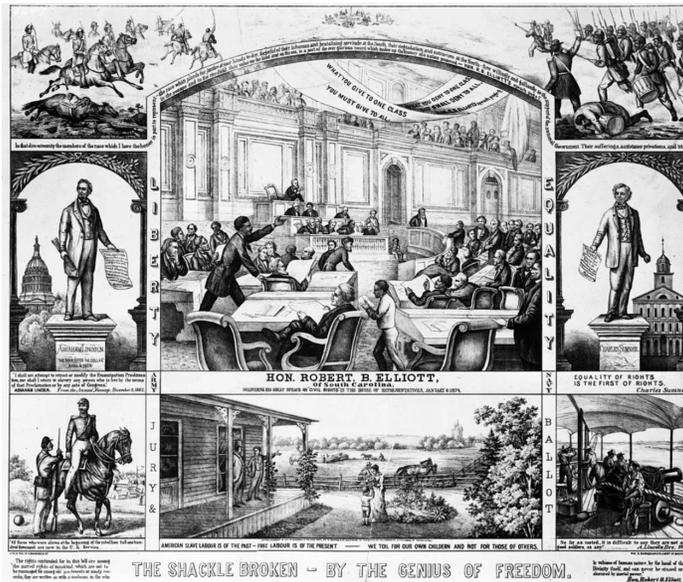
- Significant challenges awaited Black people during the **Reconstruction period.** The 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery. White southerners in the former Confederate states, enacted a series of laws known as the **Black Codes**, which were designed to restrict freed Black peoples’ activity and ensure their availability as a labor force.

1867

- The **14th Amendment** granted "equal protection" of the Constitution to people who had been enslaved. Congress required southern states to ratify the 14th Amendment and enact universal male suffrage before they could rejoin the Union.

1870

- The **15th Amendment** guaranteed that a citizen’s right to vote would not be denied "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Black Americans won election to southern state governments and even to the U.S. Congress. Their growing influence greatly dismayed many white southerners, who felt control slipping ever further away from them. The white protective societies that arose during this period—the largest of which was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK)—worked to disenfranchise Black voters by using voter suppression and intimidation, as well as more extreme violence.



A circa 1874 lithograph of South Carolina Congressman Robert B. Elliott delivering a speech on civil rights to the House of Representatives. MPI—Getty Images

1877

- When the last federal soldiers left the South and Reconstruction drew to a close, Black Americans had seen dishearteningly little improvement in their economic and social status, and what political gains they had made, were wiped away by the vigorous efforts of white supremacist forces.

1885

- Southern state legislatures began enacting the first segregation laws, known as the **“Jim Crow” laws**. Taken from a much-copied minstrel routine written by a white actor who performed often in blackface, the name “Jim Crow” became a derogatory term for African Americans in the post-Reconstruction South. By 1885, many states had laws requiring separate schools for Black and white students.

1896

- “Persons of color” were required to be separated from white people in railroad cars and depots, hotels, theaters, restaurants, barber shops and other establishments.
- On May 18, 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its verdict in **Plessy v. Ferguson**. By an 8–1 majority, the Court upheld a Louisiana law that required the segregation of passengers on railroad cars. By asserting that the equal protection clause was not violated as long as reasonably equal conditions were provided to both groups, the Court established the “**separate but equal**” doctrine that would thereafter be used for assessing the constitutionality of racial segregation laws.

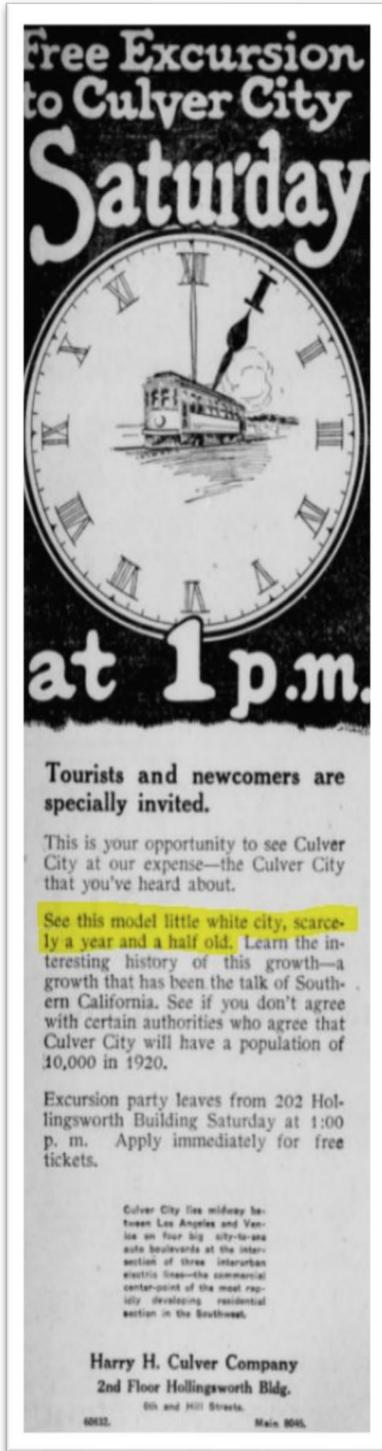


At the bus station in Durham, North Carolina, May 1940. Library of Congress

1913

- Harry H. Culver founded **Culver City** in 1913, and it became an incorporated entity in 1917. Culver City was a “**sundown town**,” a town that excluded nonwhite people—most often African Americans—from remaining in town after sunset. More generally, the term sundown town is used to describe a place where, through deliberate actions, the resident population was overwhelmingly composed of white people.

5. That said premises shall not, nor shall any part thereof, ever be conveyed, transferred, leased or demised to any person other than of the White or Caucasian race.



- The methods for enforcing such racial segregation in sundown towns ranged from episodes of collective violence such as public lynchings, to police enforcement, to ongoing housing discrimination enacted via exclusionary covenants that prevented Black people from owning property.

- The term sundown town originated from the signs posted at the limits of such towns warning African Americans: “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on You in ____.”

1954

- In **Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas**, the Supreme Court overturned legal school segregation at all levels.

1955-6

- Rosa Parks, a Black woman, refused to change seats on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. On December 5, 1955, Black people began a **boycott of the bus system** which continued until shortly after December 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.

1963

- **The March on Washington** was the largest civil rights demonstration ever (until the 2020 George Floyd civil rights protests). Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his, "I Have a Dream" speech.

1964

- **The Civil Rights Act of 1964**, gave the federal government more power to protect citizens against discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex or national origin. It mandated the desegregation of most public accommodations, including lunch counters, bus depots, parks and swimming pools,

and established the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** to ensure equal treatment of minorities in the workplace.

- This act also authorized the U.S. Office of Education to provide aid to assist with school desegregation.

1965

- Less than a week after the Selma-to-Montgomery marchers were beaten and bloodied by Alabama state troopers, President Lyndon Johnson called for federal legislation to ensure protection of the voting rights of African Americans. The result was the **Voting Rights Act**, which sought to overcome the legal barriers that still existed at the state and local levels preventing Black citizens from exercising the right to vote given them by the 15th Amendment.
- It banned literacy tests as a requirement for voting, mandated federal oversight of voter registration in areas where tests had previously been used and gave the U.S. attorney general the duty of challenging the use of poll taxes for state and local elections.



This photograph shows President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. appears in the photo standing behind Johnson among politicians and civil rights activists.



1968

- **The Fair Housing Act of 1968**, originally intended to extend federal protection to civil rights workers, was later expanded to address racial discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing units. Over the next years, however, there was little decrease in housing segregation, and violence arose from Black efforts to seek housing in white neighborhoods.
- From 1950 to 1980, America’s urban centers experienced **white flight**. This was a phenomenon characterized by white people leaving cities for outlying, majority white, middle-class enclaves. “White flight” was a direct response to the inward migration of black residents, regardless of changes in incomes or home prices.
- One study of census data from this period by Leah Boustan, an economics professor at Princeton University, found that the arrival of every African-American person led to the departure of between two and three white people.

1991-4

- In March 1991, officers with the California Highway Patrol attempted to pull an African American man named Rodney King over for speeding on a Los Angeles freeway. After King allegedly resisted arrest and threatened them, four LAPD officers shot him with a TASER gun and severely beat him.
- Caught on videotape and broadcast around the world, the beating inspired widespread outrage in the city’s African American community, who had long condemned the racial profiling and abuse its members suffered at the hands of the police force. The King case was eventually tried, and in April 1992 a jury found the officers not guilty. Rage over the verdict sparked the four days of the L.A. riots.
- In 1994, the Culver City Police Department later hired one of the infamous officers involved in the King beating.

2013

- The term **“Black Lives Matter”** was first used by organizer Alicia Garza in a July 2013 Facebook post in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, a Florida man who shot and killed unarmed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin on February 26, 2012. Martin’s death set off nationwide protests. In 2013, Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi formed the Black Lives Matter Network, with the mission to “eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.”



- A series of deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police officers continued to spark outrage and protests, including Eric Garner in New York City, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Tamir Rice in Cleveland Ohio and Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Maryland.

2020

- The movement swelled to a critical juncture on May 25, 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic when 46-year-old George Floyd was killed after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by police officer Derek Chauvin. Chauvin was filmed kneeling on Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes. Floyd had been accused of using a counterfeit \$20 bill at a local deli in Minneapolis.



TONY L. CLARK HOLDING A PHOTO OF GEORGE FLOYD AMONG PROTESTORS IN FRONT OF THE CUP FOOD STORE WHERE GEORGE FLOYD WAS KILLED.&NBSP;

- Floyd’s killing came on the heels of two other high-profile cases in 2020. On February 23, 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery was killed while out on a run after being followed by three white men in a pickup truck. And on March 13, 26-year-old EMT Breonna Taylor was shot eight times and killed after police broke down the door to her apartment while executing a nighttime warrant.

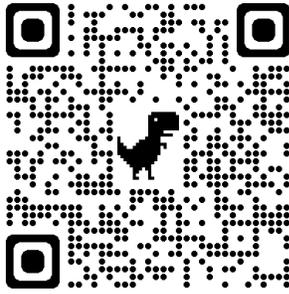
2021

- The Culver City Council passed an Apology Resolution in June 2021 on a 3-2 vote. “Several aspects of the city’s past are officially acknowledged for the first time in this resolution, including the city’s history as a ‘sundown town.’ Previous city councils have held discussions on the matter, but a subcommittee consisting of Vice Mayor Daniel Lee and councilmember Yasmine Imani-McMorrin put pen to paper for a June 17 meeting.”



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- President Joe Biden signed the legislation that made Juneteenth a federal holiday in June 2021.
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Culver City Historical Context Study



Culver City is developing a historical context study to better understand how past policy practices of the City and surrounding areas have shaped the City’s current landscape and experience of its inhabitants.

As a part of this project, the City is seeking public input about past and current experiences of discrimination while living and working in Culver City. Examples of such experiences could include (but not limited to):

- Knowledge of past discrimination perpetuated against groups and individuals living and/or working in Culver City
 - Lived experiences living or working in Culver City as a BIPOC individual in the past or the present
 - Experiences with discrimination while living or working in Culver City
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Looking Forward

- Although there are limits to the impacts of representation, there has been some progress in representation in Culver City, CA.
 - Dr. Saundra Davis was Culver City's first Black elected official when she was seated on the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) School Board in 2001. Daniel Lee is the first Black man to be elected to the City Council in Culver City, and Yasmine-Imani McMorrin is the first Black woman elected to the council. (Culver City was also previously represented by two other leaders of color; Thomas Small, a Filipino American, and Christopher Armenta, a Latinx American.) Triston Ezidore is the first Black man to be elected to the CCUSD School Board.
 - Despite the progress made, there’s so much more to be done to ensure that we know our collective history and work to make our community truly “free” for us all.
 - Curious about learning more? Please see the official [Juneteenth Reading List](https://s.si.edu/3JiNvMvn) from the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** at <https://s.si.edu/3JiNvMvn>.
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