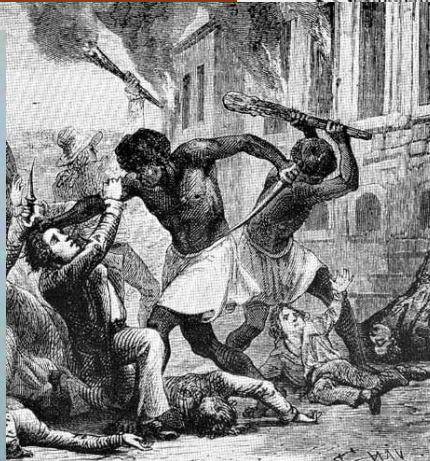
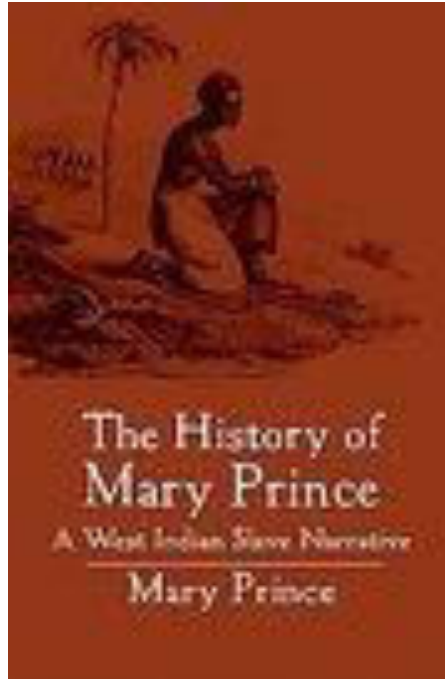


# Enslaved Resistance and Revolt



# Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to
- List, compare and contrast servile **laws** of the Spanish, French and British
- Describe and assess **four major forms of enslaved resistance**

# Servile Laws in the Spanish West Indies

## The Siete Partidas

- Compiled in the 13<sup>th</sup> century
- The enslaved were considered **persons** but were completely at their **owner's disposal**
- Protected the **life** and **limb** of the enslaved and made provision for **religious** life
- Made legal provisions for **manumission**
- <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/335/>

# The French Code Noir or Black Code

- Passed by French King **Louis XIV** and remained in effect from 1685 to 1789
- Children born in the colonies took **their mothers' status**
- **Flogging** was legal
- **Selling sugar** and other goods without the owners' permission was punished
- Enslaved persons were forbidden from being **litigants** in court cases
- Enslaved **maroons** faced **chopped ears, branding or death**
- **Baptism** of all enslaved persons in the **RC** religion
- The code protected enslaved families living together from separation through sale

# Slave Laws in the British West Indies

- **Separate servile laws** ruled each English colony
- The enslaved were **property** and as **chattel** could be sold for debts or be mortgaged
- Laws were passed to pursue, capture, suppress and punish **maroons**
- The enslaved could not **wander around** without passes, blow **horns**, beat **drums**, **assemble** in large numbers or carry **firearms** so as to curtail the possibility of insurrection
- For **insulting or striking whites**, the enslaved could face **whipping, mutilation or death**
- They were entitled to shelter, food and clothing once a year

# Enslaved Resistance to Slavery

- 1. Day to Day Acts of Resistance**
- 2. Marronage**
- 3. Revolts**
- 4. Scribal Resistance**

# #1 Day to Day Act of Resistance - See Craton, Michael *Testing the Chains*

1. **Malingering** - working slowly and displaying other poor work ethics
2. Deliberate **mishandling** estate machinery
3. **Maiming** animals deliberately
4. Feigning to **misunderstand** instructions
5. Feigned **illness**
6. Deliberately **self injury**
7. Abused the opportunity to perform **bodily functions**

# Day to Day Acts of Resistance

- **Gynecological resistance** - prolonging **breast feeding**, **abortion** and **infanticide** – See Mathurin Mair, Lucille– *The Rebel Woman in the British West Indies*
- Dropping **insulting** remarks and singing **derogatory** and **lamentation** songs
- **10. Petticoat resistance** - minimizing production by deliberately wasting time complaining
- **11. Poisoning**
- **Combined effect** - created a very unwilling, distrustful and sloppy work force resulting in reducing productivity on the plantations

## #2 Marronage

See Alvin O. Thompson *Flight to Freedom*



# Marronage

- **Petit Marronage** - temporary **absconding** from the plantations
- More common in the smaller and flatter territories
- Usually **discreet, non violent** and **non destructive**
- This form of **absenteeism** interrupted plantation schedule

# Grand Marronage

- **Consisted of fight followed by flight**
- **Accompanied by violence –**
  - arms were taken
  - property destroyed
  - Some whites and many blacks lost their lives

# Examples of Caribbean Maroon Communities and their impact

- ❑ Leeward maroons in eastern **Jamaican** mountains led by **Nanny**
- ❑ **Windward maroons** in western **Jamaican** mountains led by **Cudjoe**
- ❑ **Palmares** in **Brazil**, parts of **Cuba**, **St Domingue**, **Suriname**, **Dominica**
- ❑ **Bush Negroes of the Guianas**

## Impact –

- ❖ **loss of the proprietor's investment in labor force**
- ❖ **the nuisance factor of maroons raiding** plantations for food, weapons, tools and women
- ❖ economic encumbrance -**spending money on usually futile hunting**
- ❖ **Losses in the lives of whites during maroon expeditions**
- ❖ **humiliation of admitting defeat** and making overtures through treaties with black freedom fighters
- ❖ Egs. - The Jamaican maroons in **1739** and the Bush Negroes of Surinam in the **1760s** signed treaties with white colonists granting them **freedom, land** and **trading rights** in exchange for assistance in **suppressing servile revolts**
- ❖ **psychological blow to slavery** – Maroons lived a life of freedom in the midst of slavery

# #3 Revolts

- Pre nineteenth century enslaved revolts –
  - **Tacky's** Revolt of 1760 in Jamaica
  - **Cuffy's** Revolt of 1763 in Berbice
  - The **Haitian Revolt** of 1791 led by Dutty Boukman and Toussaint L'Ouverture
- **Common Characteristics:**
  - **Dominated by Africans**
  - Absence of **collaboration between black and white freedom fighters**
  - Aimed at **annihilating whites** and establishing black rule

# Haiti during the 1791 – 1804 Revolution



# The Emancipation Revolts-

See Matthews, Gelien *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement*

- Examples - **Barbados 1816** led by **Bussa**, **Demerara 1823** led by **Quamina** and **Jamaica 1831 – 1832** led by **Sam Sharpe**
- **Features:**
  - **Coincided with the anti slavery campaign in Britain**
  - **Creole born enslaved persons dominated**
  - **Major aim of freedom fighters - rights - wages, time off and freedom**
  - **Arson was extensive**

# Sam Sharpe's Rebellion, the Jamaican Rebellion, the Baptist War or The Christmas Rebellion 1831/ 1832



# Impact of the Pre and post Nineteenth Century Enslaved Revolts

1. **Death of rebels** representing loss of investment in labor.
2. Interrupted **labour**
3. Reduced **trade**
4. Destroyed **property**
5. Damaged **investor confidence**
6. **Freed Haiti** of slavery and colonial slavery
7. Demonstrated that there was **no security** of property in slavery
8. Presented the enslaved as not only victims of slavery but also **agents of anti-slavery**
9. Contributed to **amelioration and abolition**

## #4 Black Abolitionists in Britain used the pen to fight enslavement



*Olaudah Equiano,*  
or  
GUSTAVUS VASSA,  
*the African.*



# Black Abolitionist Writers in England

1. *Letters of **Ignatius Sancho**, an African, to Which are Prefixed Memoirs of his Life – 1787*
2. **Quobna Ottobah Cuagano** -1787 publication of *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evils and Wicked Traffic of the Commerce of the Human Species*
3. **Olaudah Equiano** - 1789 publication of *The Interesting Narrative of the Life Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*
4. *The History of **Mary Prince** a West Indian Slave published in 1831*