

ENSLAVEMENT THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

SECTION ONE

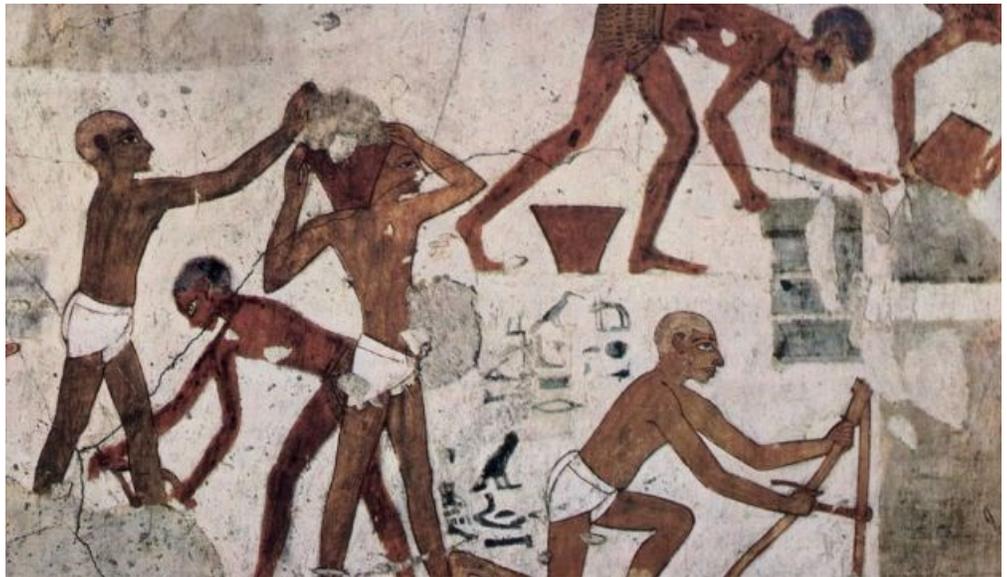
[A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW]

SOURCE: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

The Impact of the Slave Trade on West and Central Africa

The trans-Atlantic trade profoundly changed the nature and scale of slavery in Africa itself. The development of the Atlantic slave trade led to the enslavement of far greater numbers of Africans and to more intense exploitation of slave labor in Africa.

While the trade probably did not reduce the overall population, it did skew the sex ratio. In Angola, there were just 40 to 50 men per 100 women. As a result of the slave trade, there were fewer adult men to hunt, fish, rear livestock, and clear fields. The slave trade also generated violence, spread disease, and resulted in massive imports of European goods, undermining local industries.



Slaves in ancient Egypt

Slavery in Historical Perspective

Slavery in the United States was not unique in treating human beings like animals. The institution of slavery could be found in societies as diverse as ancient Assyria, Babylonia, China, Egypt, India, Persia, and Mesopotamia; in classical Greece and Rome; in Africa, the Islamic world and among the New World Indians. At the time of Christ, there were probably between two and three million slaves in Italy, making up 35 to 40 percent of the population. England's Domesday Book of 1086 indicated that 10 percent of the population was enslaved. Among some Indian tribes of the Pacific Northwest, nearly a quarter of the population consisted of

slaves. In 1644, just before the Dutch ceded Manhattan to the British, 40 percent of the population consisted of enslaved Africans.

It is notable that the modern word for slaves comes from "Slav." During the Middle Ages, most slaves in Europe and the Islamic world were people from Slavic Eastern Europe. It was only in the 15th century that slavery became linked with people from sub-Saharan Africa.

Slavery in the Roman Empire

- Some slaves revolted
- The most famous slave revolt in Italy was led by the gladiator Spartacus in 73 B.C.
- Seventy thousand slaves joined Spartacus and defeated several Roman armies before being defeated in 71 B.C.
- Spartacus was killed, and thousands of his followers were crucified



Defining Slavery

A slave is a person totally subject to her or his owners' will.

The 1926 Slavery Convention described slavery as "...the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised..." Therefore a slave is someone who cannot leave an owner, master, overseer, controller, or employer without explicit permission, and who will be returned if they stray or escape. They may be "legally" owned, or controlled to the same extent informally. (from Wikipedia)

How does slavery differ from other forms of exploitation such as serfdom, forced labor, or the subordination of women in patriarchal societies? The traditional definition of slavery was legal. Slaves were peoples' property and could be bought and sold, traded, leased, or mortgaged like a form of livestock.

Because they are under the personal dominion of an owner, slaves were always



Slavery in old Eastern Europe (whitewashed as "serfdom")

vulnerable to sexual exploitation and cruel punishment. In all cultures, slaves were symbolically dishonored. For example, they were branded, tattooed, or required to wear distinctive collars, clothing, or hairstyles.

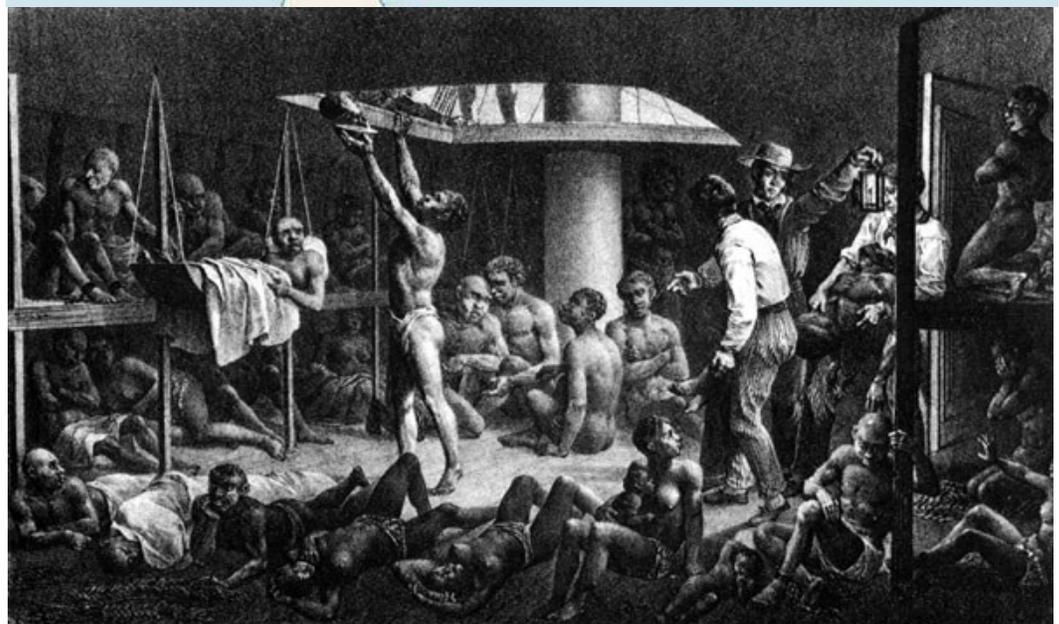
Also, regardless of place and time period or the ethnicity of the slaves, societies have imposed certain common

stereotypes on slaves - that they were licentious, childlike, lazy, irresponsible, dim-witted, and incapable of freedom.

Slavery in the Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Worlds

Slavery dates back to prehistoric times and was apparently modeled on the domestication of animals. From the earliest periods of recorded history, slavery was found in the world's most "advanced" regions. The earliest civilizations--along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Mesopotamia, the Nile in Egypt, the Indus Valley of India, and China's Yangtze River Valley--had slavery. The earliest known system of laws, the Hammurabi Code, recognized slavery. But the percentage of slaves in these early civilizations was small, in part because male war captives were typically killed, while women were enslaved as field laborers or concubines.

Only a handful of societies made slavery the dominant labor force. The first true slave society in history emerged in ancient Greece between the 6th and 4th centuries. In Athens during the classical period, a third to a half of the population consisted of slaves. Rome would become even more dependent on slavery. It is not an accident that our modern ideas of freedom



Enslaved Africans in Hold of Slave Ship, 1827

and democracy emerged in a slave society. Most early societies lacked a word for freedom; but large-scale slavery in classical Greece and Rome made these people more aware of the distinctive nature of freedom. Slavery never disappeared from medieval Europe. While slavery declined in northwestern Europe, it persisted in Sicily, southern Italy, Russia, southern France, Spain, and North Africa. Most of these slaves were "white," coming from areas in Eastern Europe or near the Black Sea.

When Europeans began to colonize the New World at the end of the 15th century, they were well aware of the institution of slavery. As early as 1300, Europeans were using black and Russian slaves to raise sugar on Italian plantations. During the 1400s, decades before Columbus's "discovery" of the New World, Europeans exploited

African labor on slave plantations built on sugar producing islands off the coast of West Africa.



Captured slaves (by Union troops) during the U.S. Civil War, Cumberland Landing, Virginia, 1862

The Newness of [Atlantic World] Slavery

Was the slavery that developed in the New World fundamentally different from the kinds of servitude found in classical antiquity or in other societies? In one respect, New World slavery clearly was not unique. Slavery every-

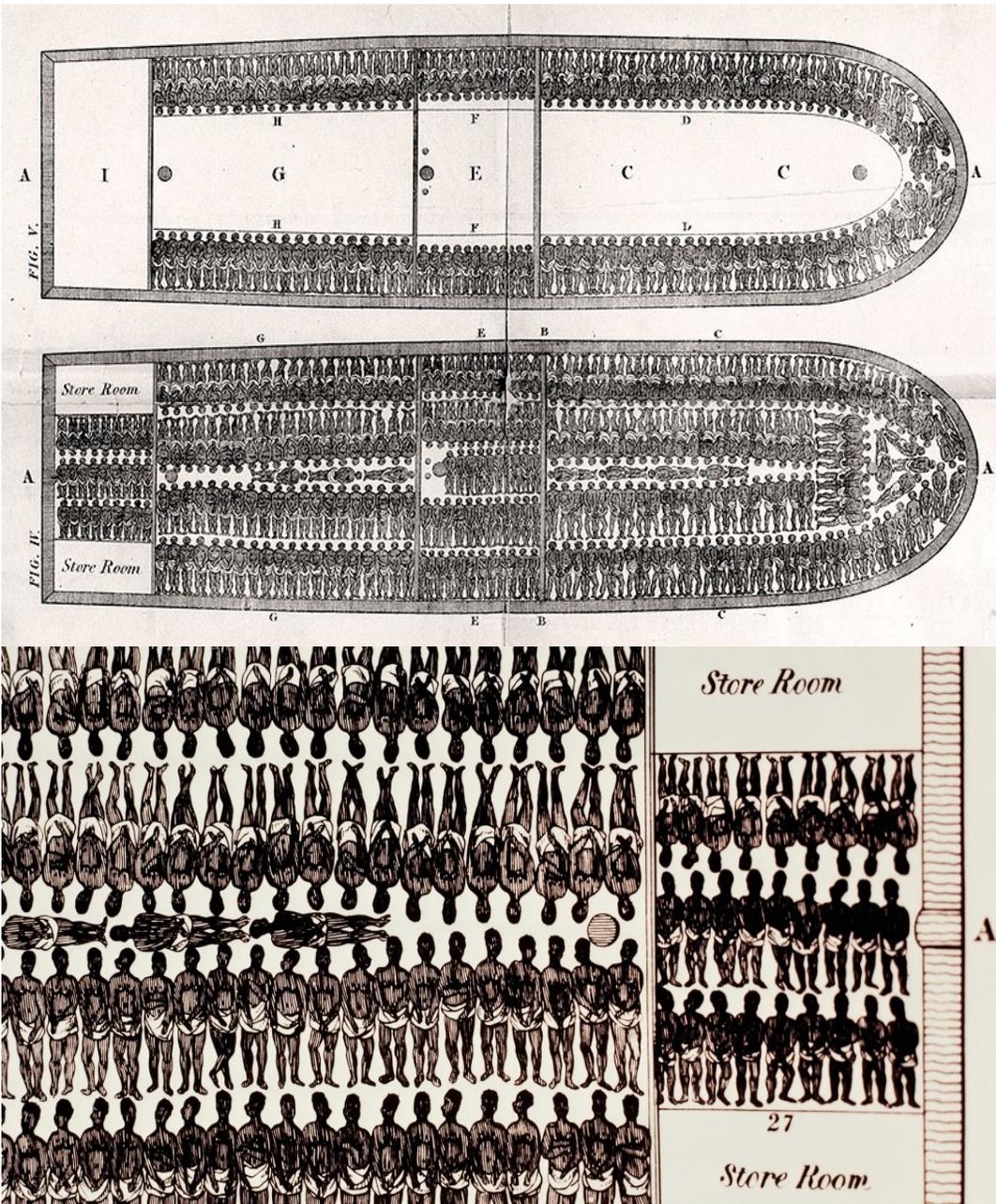
where permitted cruelty and abuse. In ancient India, Saxon England, and ancient China, a master might mistreat or even kill a slave with impunity.

Yet in four fundamental respects New World slavery differed from slavery in classical antiquity and in Africa, eastern and central Asia, or the Middle East.

1. Slavery in the classical and the early medieval worlds was not based on racial distinctions. Racial slavery originated during the Middle Ages, when Christians and Muslims increasingly began to recruit slaves from east, north central, and west Africa. As late as the 15th century, slavery did not automatically mean black slavery. Many slaves came from the Crimea, the Balkans, and the steppes of western Asia. But after 1453, when the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople, the capital of eastern Christendom, Christian slave traders drew increasingly upon captive black Muslims, known as Moors, and upon slaves purchased on the West African coast or transported across the Sahara Desert.

2. The ancient world did not necessarily regard slavery as a permanent condition. In many societies, including ancient Greece and Rome, manumission of slaves was common, and former slaves carried little stigma from their previous status.

- Slaves did not necessarily hold the lowest status in premodern societies. In classical Greece, many educators, scholars, poets, and physicians were in fact slaves.
- It was only in the New World that slavery provided the labor force for a high-pressure profit-making capitalist system of plantation agriculture producing cotton, sugar, coffee, and cocoa for distant markets. Most slaves in Africa, in the Islamic world, and in the New World prior to European colonization worked as farmers or household servants, or served as concubines or eunuchs. They were symbols of prestige, luxury, and power rather than a source of labor.



Slave Packing of the Tran-Atlantic slave ship

Justifications of Slavery

Many ancient societies considered slavery a matter of bad luck or accident. Slaves in these societies were often war captives or victims of piracy or children who had been abandoned by their parents.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle developed a new justification for slavery: the notion of the "natural slave." Slaves, in his view, lacked the higher qualities of the soul necessary for freedom.

In the Christian world, the most important rationalization for slavery was the so-called "Curse of Ham." According to this doctrine, the Biblical figure Noah had cursed his son Ham with blackness and the condition

of slavery. In fact, this story rested on a misunderstanding of Biblical texts. In the Bible, Noah curses Canaan, the ancestor of the Canaanites, and not Ham. But the "Curse of Ham" was the first justification of slavery based on

ethnicity.

It was not until the late 18th century that pseudo-scientific racism provided the basic justification for slavery. Yet even before this era, Europeans associated whiteness with purity. Blackness had sinister and even satanic connotations since black was the color of the Devil.

Slavery in Africa

Slavery existed in Africa before the arrival of Europeans--as did a slave trade that exported a small number of sub-Saharan Africans to North Africa, the Middle East, and the Persian Gulf. But this system of slavery differed from the plantation slavery that developed in the New World.

Hereditary slavery, extending over several generations, was rare. Most slaves in Africa were female. Women were preferred because they bore children and because they performed most field labor. Slavery in early sub-Saharan Africa took a variety of forms. While most slaves were field workers, some served in royal courts, where they served as officials, soldiers, servants, and artisans. Under a system known as "pawnship," youths (usually girls) served as collateral for their family's debts. If their parents or kin defaulted on these debts, then these young girls were forced to labor to repay these debts. In many instances, these young women eventually married into their owner's lineage, and their family's debt was cancelled.

Under a system known as "clientage," slaves owed a share of their crop or their labor to an owner or a lineage. Yet they owned the bulk of their crop and were allowed to participate in the society's political activities. These slaves were often treated no differently than other peasant or tenant farmers.

Why Africa?

Why was Africa so vulnerable to the slave trade? Because of West and Central Africa's political fragmentation. Many of the region's larger political units--such as Ghana and Mali--had declined, and the absence of strong, stable political units made it more difficult to resist the slave trade.

In retrospect, it seems clear that the Atlantic slave trade depended upon a highly complex set of variables. Trade winds and ocean currents needed to make it easy to sail from the western African coast to Brazil and the Caribbean. Africa needed to have a high birth rate. It is an unsettling historical irony that crops from the new World--such as cassava, squash, and peanuts--stimulated population growth in Africa. Rapid population growth, in turn, made the slave trade possible.

Enslavement

Many Americans mistakenly believe that most slaves were captured by Europeans who landed on the African coast and captured or ambushed people. It is important to understand that Europeans were incapable, on their own, of

kidnapping 20 million Africans.

Most slaves sold to Europeans had not been slaves in Africa. They were free people who were captured in war or were victims of banditry or were enslaved as punishment for certain crimes or as repayment for a debt. In most cases, rulers or merchants were not selling their own subjects, but people they regarded as alien.

Apologists for the African slave trade long argued that European traders purchased Africans who had already been enslaved and who otherwise would have been put to death. Thus, apologists claimed, the slave trade actually saved lives. This is a serious distortion of the facts. Some independent slave merchants did stage raids on unprotected African villages and kidnapped enslaved Africans. Professional slave traders, however, set up bases along the west African coast where they purchased slaves from Africans in exchange for firearms and other goods. Before the end of the 17th century, England, France, Denmark, Holland, and Portugal had all established slave trading posts on the west African coast.

The massive European demand for slaves and the introduction of firearms radically transformed west African society. A growing number of Africans were enslaved for petty debts or minor criminal or religious offenses or following unprovoked raids on unprotected villages. An increasing number of religious wars broke out with the goal of capturing slaves. European weapons made it easier to capture slaves.

Some African societies like Benin in southern Nigeria refused to sell slaves. Others, like Dahomey, appear to have specialized in enslavement. Drought, famine, or periods of violent conflict might lead a ruler or a merchant to sell slaves. In addition, many rulers sold slaves in order to acquire the trade goods--textiles, alcohol, and other rare imports--that were necessary to secure the loyalty of their subjects.

After capture, the captives were bound together at the neck and marched barefoot hundreds of miles to the Atlantic coast. African captives typically suffered death rates of 20 percent or more while being marched overland. Observers reported seeing hundreds of skeletons along the slave caravan routes. At the coast, the captives were held in pens (known as barracoons) guarded by dogs. Our best guess is that another 15 to 30 percent of Africans died during capture, the march from the interior, or the wait for slave ships along the coast.

The Middle Passage

Between 10 and 16 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic between 1500 and 1900. But this figure grossly understates the actual number of Africans enslaved, killed, or displaced as a result of the slave trade. At least 2 million Africans--10 to 15 percent--died during the infamous "Middle Passage" across the Atlantic. Another 15 to 30 percent died during the march to or confinement along the coast. Altogether then, for every 100 slaves who reached the New World, 40 died in Africa or during the Middle Passage.

On shipboard, slaves were chained together and crammed into spaces sometimes less than five feet high. Conditions within the slave ships were unspeakably awful. Inside the hold, slaves had only half the space provided for indentured servants or convicts. Urine, vomit, mucous, and horrific odors filled the hold.

The Middle Passage usually took more than seven weeks. Men and women were separated, with men usually placed toward the bow and women toward the stern. The men were chained together and forced to lie shoulder to shoulder. During the voyage, the enslaved Africans were usually fed only once or twice a day and brought on deck for limited times.

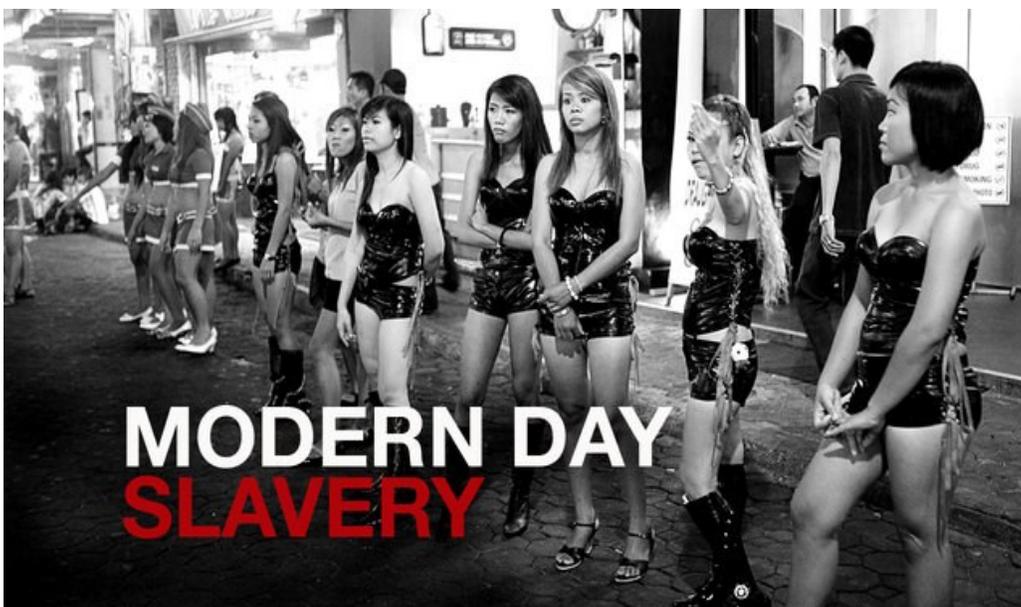
The death rate on these slave ships was very high, reaching 25 percent in the 17th and early 18th centuries. It remained around ten percent in the 19th century as a result of malnutrition and such diseases as dysentery, measles, scurvy, and smallpox. The most serious danger was dehydration due to inadequate water rations. Diarrhea was widespread and many Africans arrived in the New World covered with sores or suffering fevers. Many Africans resisted enslavement. On shipboard, many slaves mutinied, attempted suicide, jumped overboard, or refused to eat. Our best estimate is that there was a revolt on one in every ten voyages across the Atlantic.

The level of slave exports grew from about 36,000 a year in the early 18th century to almost 80,000 a year during the 1780s. By 1750, slavers usually contained at least 400 slaves, with some carrying more than 700. During the peak years of the slave trade, between 1740 and 1810, Africa supplied 60,000 captives a year--outnumbering Europeans migrating to the New World.

SECTION TWO

MODERN DAY SLAVERY

SOURCE: <http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-most-modern-slaves-today.html>



Countries with the Most Modern Slaves Today

This information was last updated on April 25, 2017, by James Karuga

Based on data from the UN Development Program, Walk Free Foundation, and Global Slavery Index, slavery is still a serious problem around our globe.

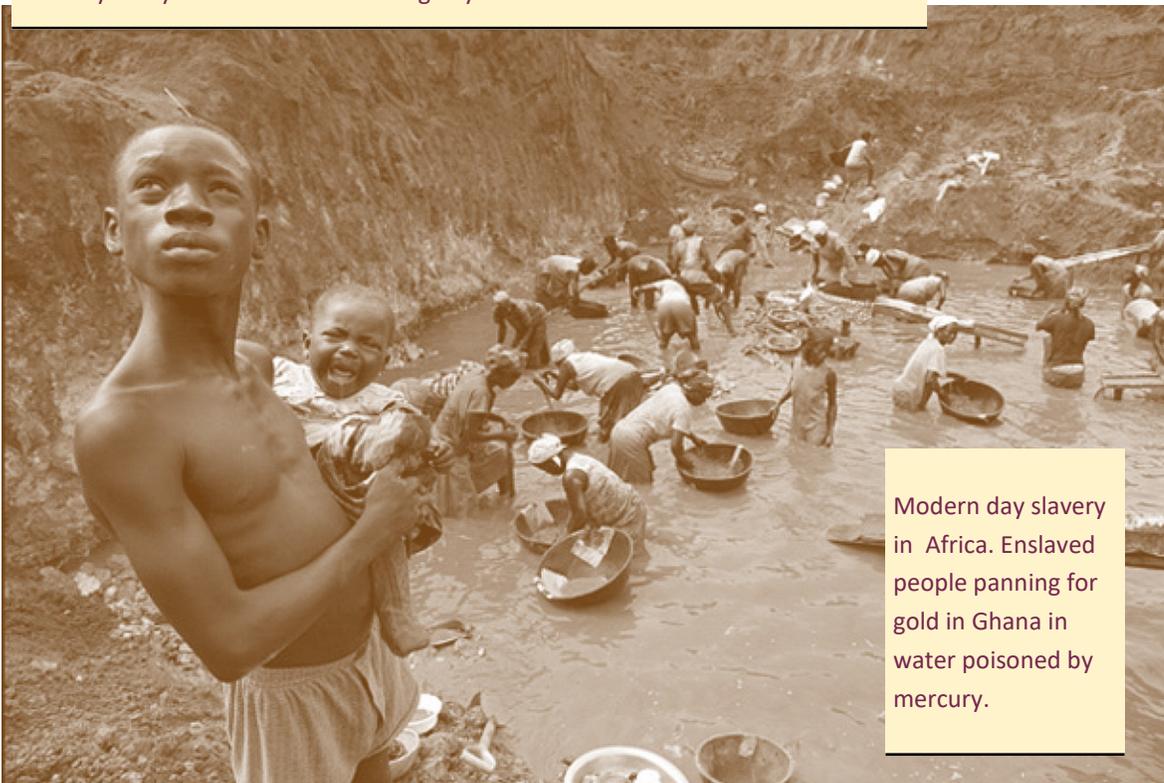
According to the Global Slav-

"Elementary students across America are taught that slavery ended in the 19th Century. But, sadly, nearly 150 years later, the fight to end this global scourge is far from over." —Hillary Clinton (U.S. Secretary of State)



Modern Day Child Slavery. In Ghana children are sold by their parents to the fishing industry. They are forced to work long days under horrible circumstances.

ery Index (GSI), there are an estimated 35.8 million slaves around the world today. This modern day slavery is in many instances not all too different from that in medieval times, as people are still being owned as property by others in some countries around the world. However, unlike ancient forms where slaves were not paid at all, in modern day slavery payment may be there for those in bondage, though



Modern day slavery in Africa. Enslaved people panning for gold in Ghana in water poisoned by mercury.

meager and riddled with exploitation. The International Labour Organization estimates that 26% of modern slaves are children. Adult male slaves, meanwhile, are often forced into labor due to financial debts, while females are often exploited for prostitution.

11. Bangladesh (343,000 modern slaves)

According to GSI, hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis are modern day slaves. But the real number may be even higher, as 7.4 million children aged from 5 to 17 years old are in child labor, according to UNICEF. These children work in fisheries, agriculture, textile industry, mining, brick kilns, recycling, and garbage collection industries, among others. Young Bangladeshi girls also get tricked into working as house girls, where they are overworked, underpaid or not paid, and will at times be sexually abused. Children trafficked to neighboring countries like Thailand work as sex slaves or are used to smuggle drugs or guns. Human traffickers also smuggle men to



countries like Thailand where they work for little to no pay in the exploitative, but lucrative, fishing sector there. In such countries, Bangladeshi illegal workers get into debt bondage and must work for long times for the benefit of their slave masters until their debts are paid, if they ever are. In Bangladesh, unsafe factories also collapse and kill those workers locked up inside them, most of whom are already working for very low wages.

10. Myanmar (384,000 modern slaves)

In Myanmar there are an estimated 384,000 modern day slaves according to the GSI report from 2013. The country

Modern day slavery in Europe. The Human Trafficking Foundation charity estimates 20,000 people are working in slavery in the United Kingdom, and says that number is rising.

abounds with trafficking, where men, women, and children alike are trafficked to such countries as Thailand, China, India, Pakistan, South Korea, and Malaysia, where they face lives of sexual exploitation, domestic work, and other forced labor. Most of those trafficked end up in bonded labor or prostitution in those countries, though their original intention was searching for greener pastures. Thailand has become a haven for the sexual exploitation of young girls from Myanmar, who are tricked by promises that they will get jobs like waitresses or dishwashers, and earn well. But once they get to Thailand, they are closed up in brothels where they can't escape, and are made into sex slaves. Men trafficked from Myanmar also end up as slaves in countries like Indonesia and Thailand, working for no pay, especially in the lucrative seafood industry in ships, as forced labor.

9. DR Congo (462,000 modern slaves)

Political instability is the core cause to explain why there are so many people in modern day slavery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) according to GSI. The current estimate of slaves there is equivalent to 1.13 percent of the country's population. Locals displaced by wars often end up working as slaves in the country's re-

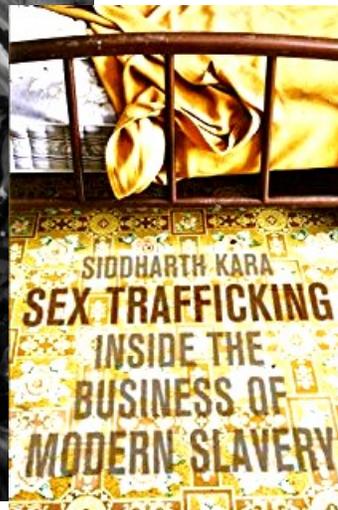


Slavery in Libya today. Victim being taken to be sold at an auction.

source-rich mines, which are at times controlled by warlords or corrupt army officials. Men are trapped in debt bondage, from where they must work for food, accommodations, and to repay back their "employers" money they borrowed to buy mining tools. This practice is especially

prominent in the regions of North and South Kivu, Orientale, and Katanga, where deposits of gold, tin, coltan, and tantalum are found. Due to instability, women and young girls also fall prey to sexual exploitation, a form of slavery in the Democratic Republic of Congo that is widely documented around much of the rest of the world.

8. Thailand (473,000 modern slaves)



Thailand is a choice destination for labor migrants. As most of them enter illegally without proper documentation, they become easy targets of forced labor. The country, according to GSI, has 473,000 people enslaved, mostly comprised by

immigrants. These immigrants work in the fish, construction, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors for, at times, no pay. Of those, the fishing sector is the most culpable for slavery tendencies, as it's a multibillion-dollar industry annually where bottom lines come first at all cost, especially in the shrimp processing sector. Laborers from Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and elsewhere are tricked and trafficked to provide cheap or free labor in Thailand. Young girls also from those same countries are trafficked as well, and turned into sex slaves in Thai brothels.

7. Ethiopia (651,000 modern slaves)

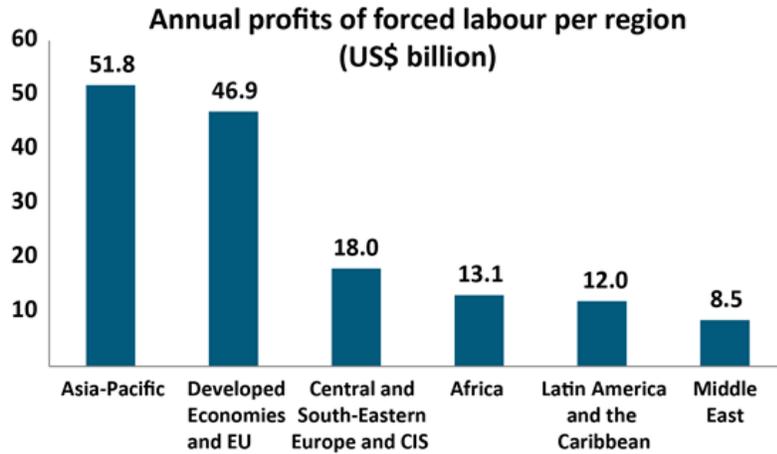
As of 2013, in Ethiopia, 651,000 people were enslaved, though more recently GSI reports that there are about 389,700 slaves within the country. These slaves primarily work in the beef and textile industries. Ethiopia also has a big problem of child labor, which UNICEF reports as a form of modern day slavery. A number of economic factors encourage the practice of slavery in Ethiopia. When crops fail due to drought, especially in the northern regions of the country, rural to urban migrations ensue. Those who come to urban areas are compelled to work for meager pay to survive, which itself can lead to being trapped in a form of slavery. Another facet of migration happens when Ethiopians migrate abroad in search of work. In some instances in the Middle East, they work for very low pay in demanding, yet low skill, jobs, where they are exploited as well.



6. Nigeria (701,000 modern slaves)

Compared to the 701,000-strong figure for slaves in Nigeria from a few years ago, that number is still growing alongside the population. There are about 834,200 people working as slaves in Nigeria today, per the most recent reports, amounting to about 0.4805 percent of the country's population. Boys from the country, according to GSI, are trafficked to work as juvenile slaves, often doing so as street vendors, domestic servants, or miners. They are also forced to work in stone quarries, farms, or as beggars around West Africa. Dubious young Nigerian girls also get tricked, as they will get jobs as nannies in Western countries but end up as sex slaves in cities in the United Kingdom, Italy, or Belgium. Others get into forced marriages or work as domestic servants, but are not paid as they are without legal immigration status, a fact that their employers exploit to enslave them. The issue of girls be-

Forced labour generates annual profits of US\$ 150 billion



ing abducted and turned into sex slaves is especially rampant in Northern Nigeria, where Boko Haram terrorists wreak havoc, and the consequent instability allows the slave trade to flourish.

5. Russia (1.0 million modern slaves)

Over a million people live in modern day Russia as slaves, equivalent to

0.7315 percent of the country’s population, according to GSI. These workers (often foreign migrants) work in forced labor situations in the agriculture, construction, textiles, and timber sectors, while women and children are suffer sexual exploitation. Brothels in Russia have girls trafficked as sex slaves from such neighboring countries as Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and other former Soviet republics. The country also serves as a transit point for men, women, and children trafficked into and out of countries like China, Oman, Bahrain, Turkey, Japan, and South Korea, where many are forced to work as slaves, or be used as commercial sex workers.

4. Uzbekistan (1.2 million modern slaves)

In the Central Asian country of Uzbekistan, 3.9729 percent of the population are under the shackles modern day slavery, according to GSI, equivalent to 1,201,400 people. Much of this slavery is concentrated in the cotton-growing agricultural sector, where there is state-sanctioned forced labor. The government forces over a million



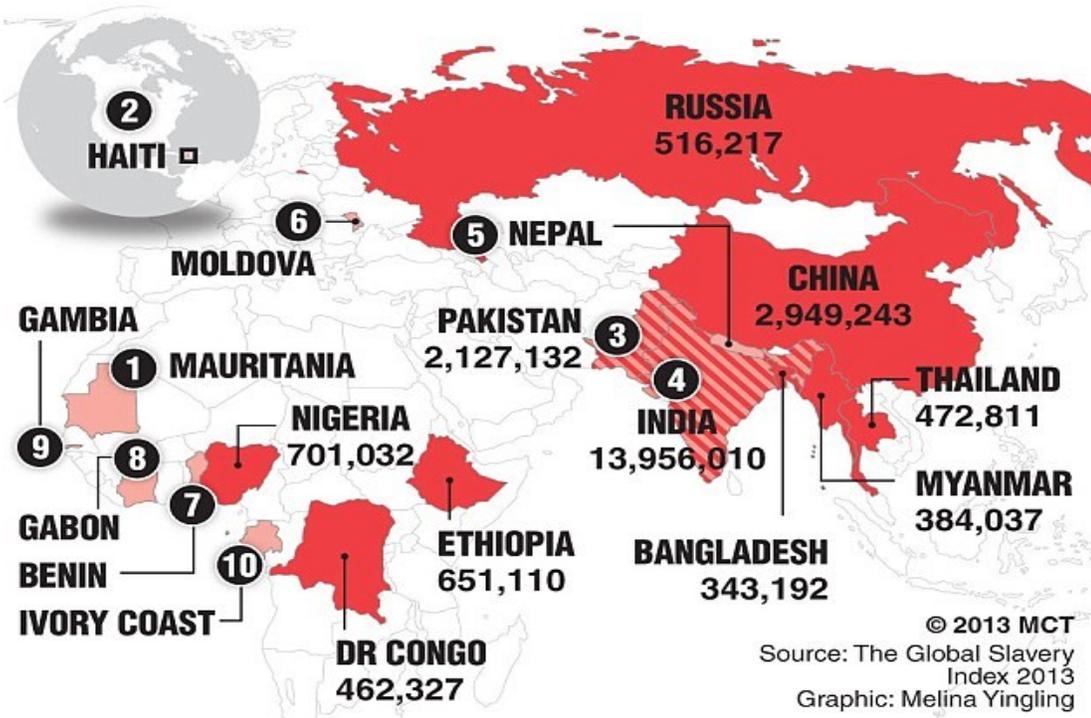
farmers to grow cotton, and forces them to harvest it every autumn for the state's benefit. According to anti-slavery advocacy groups, those wishing to avoid picking pay \$200 to their local government, which is a huge burden to the very poor. These farmers are also forced to sell their cotton to the govern-

480,000 modern slaves in Turkey

Global slavery

Nearly 30 million people are living in slavery across the globe.

■ Highest number of slaves ■ Highest prevalence of slavery



ment at extremely low prices, yet the government, by way of exporting the cotton, earns over \$1 billion in revenues depending on the world's market prices, and this money goes into the country's ruling elites' pockets. While picking the cotton, there have been illnesses reported, such as those due to malnutrition, after weeks of endless, tiring labor.

3. Pakistan (2.1 million modern slaves)

Debt slavery, or bonded

labor, is the most rampant form of modern slavery in Pakistan, according to the Global Slavery Index, with the Punjab and Sindh provinces being the hot-spots for such practices. Nationally, 1.13 percent of the country's population is enslaved today. Poor families become trapped into slavery when they approach an affluent person in need of a loan for an emergency like a sickness. The affluent person adds the entire family into his collection of "property" in return for providing medical financing. The family is forced to work for long hours for low wages, of which half is retained by the affluent person. This loan at times may take a generation or more to be repaid, and, until then, the whole family will still remain the property of the affluent person. In Pakistan it's



Slaves peeling shrimp for export around the world in Thailand

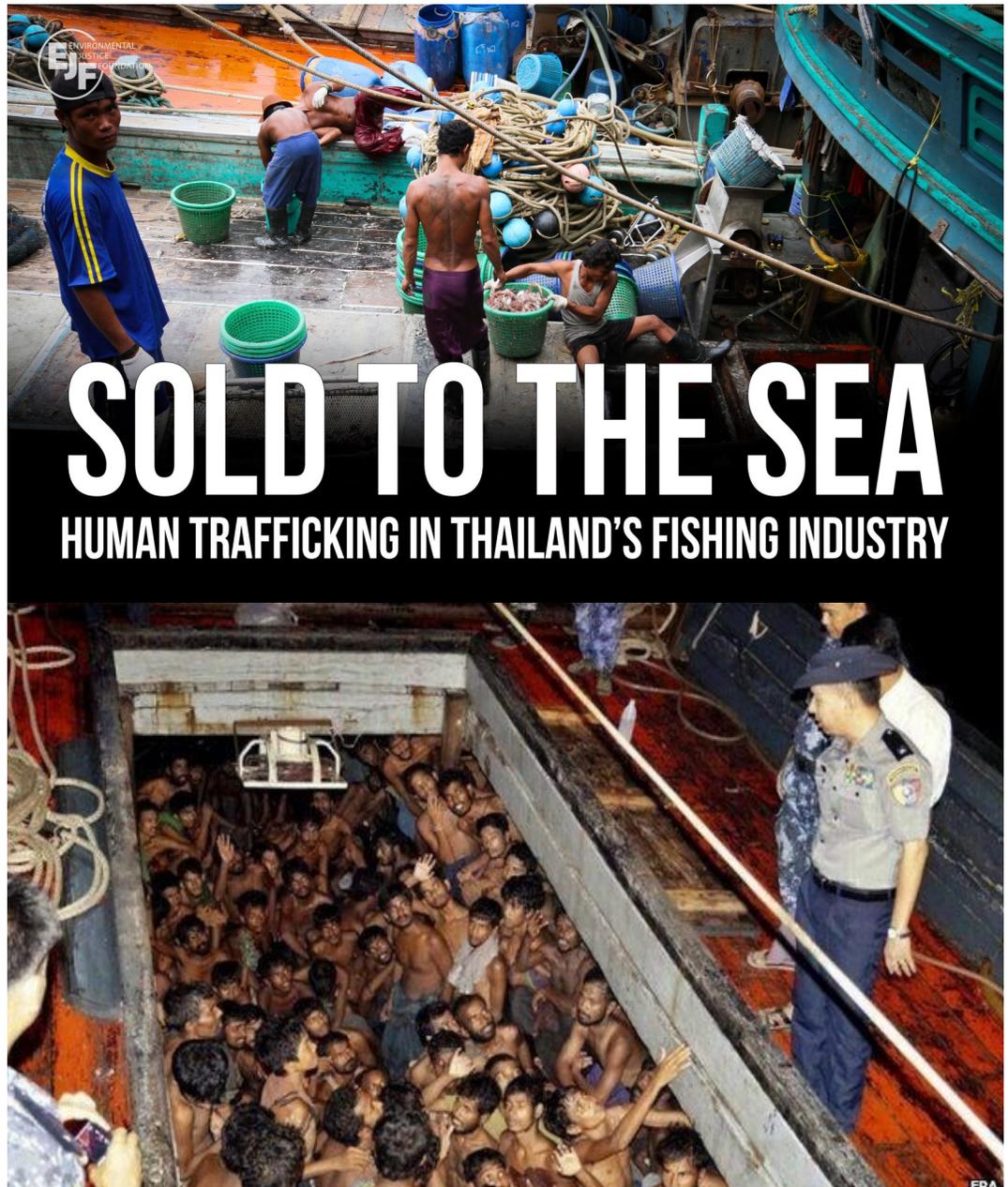
common for wealthy persons to own brick kilns, coal mines, and carpet-making factories, or to conduct agriculture, like the farming of cotton, wheat, or rice, with much of the work being carried out by forced labor. Brick

kilns are the factories where much of this slavery occurs, and bond and free combined is reported to employ 4.5 million people in the country.

2. China (3.2 million modern slaves)

As of 2014, the Global Slavery Index reported China had 3.24 million slaves. Rapid modernization is cited as being the main driver for slavery in the country. These slaves work in construction, mines, heavy industries, and housekeeping. In 2013, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics, 166 million people regarded as domestic migrants left their homes to go work elsewhere in China, and they included many women and children.

That desperation exposes the poor migrants to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and forced marriages. Sexual slavery is also prominent in China, as young girls from countries like Cambodia and Vietnam are trafficked into China, and sold as brides

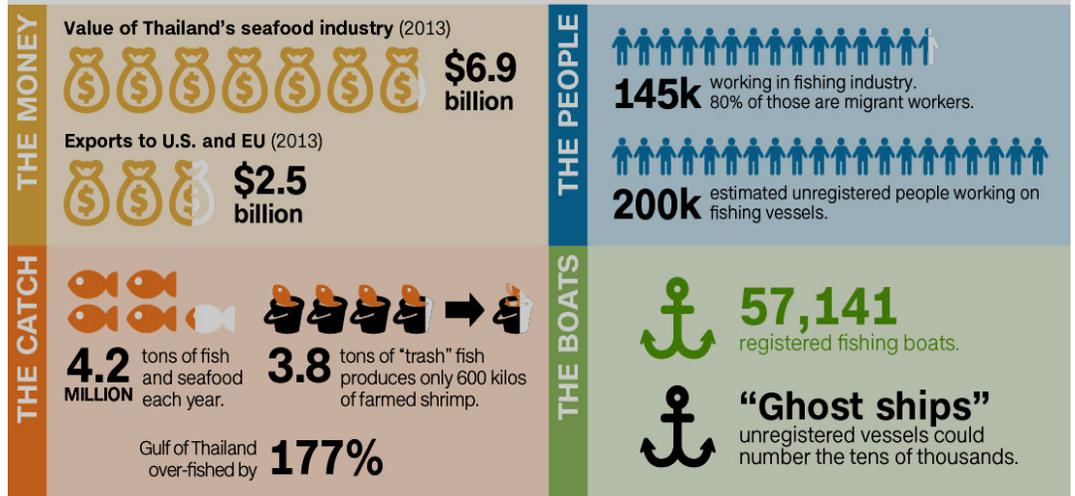


SOLD TO THE SEA

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THAILAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY

SLAVERY IN YOUR SEAFOOD

Investigations have found multiple cases of human trafficking, slavery and rights abuses in Thailand's fishing industry and supply chain.



SOURCE: International Labour Organization; International Organization for Migration; Fisheries Department, Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; U.S. State Department; Environmental Justice Foundation; Raks Thai Foundation.

into marriages that can be abusive.

1. India (14.3 million modern slaves)

India is regarded as the modern day slave capital of the world. According to Free the Slaves, the slave-holding culture is deeply entrenched there. Slaves work in brick kilns, rice mills, embroidery factories, quarries, farms, and private homes as servants. When one is unable to pay a debt, they are seized by the debtor and compelled to repay it through endless labor. Interest rates charged are high to ensure the slaves are never able to pay off the debts. Debts also have unreasonable terms, such as when the slave misses work due to sickness, the debt grows. A whole family, children included, can also be forced to work for the debtor. There is also sexual slavery in India, wherein young girls and women in debt sell their bodies on the red-light districts to be able to pay off debts. Much of this exploitation occurs in impoverished portions of Indian society, where uneducated people don't even know they have any rights to protect them from such practices. In 2014, the Global Slavery Index reported India had 14.29 million slaves.

Modern Day Slavery DOES Exist in [the U.S.]: How Our Children Are Victims Today

Updated Mar 17, 2017

SOURCE: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/modern-day-slavery-does-exist-in-america-how-our-children_us_58ac3afae4b029c1d1f88ead

Modern day slavery exists for children in the United States.

Children, sold hour after hour after hour, day after day, week after week, mostly for reasons of sex.

Right here, in the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Children just like the ones that live in your home. Children just like the ones you are related to. Children just like the ones that live in your neighborhood.

In the first few days of February of 2017 alone, several arrests of child sex traffickers were reported. In California, over 470 people were arrested over a three day period as the state's "Operation Reclaim and Rebuild rescued dozens of children, many of them taken from the



foster care system in some way. 22 more were arrested in Detroit, Michigan, this time at North American International Auto Show, as police rescued two more young children, under the age of 16. In Dallas, Texas, during the



same month, a 15 year old girl was rescued from a child sex trafficker. Another 16 year old girl, also from Texas, was also a victim of child sex trafficking. Police arrested an individual in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this time rescuing three minors from child sex trafficking.

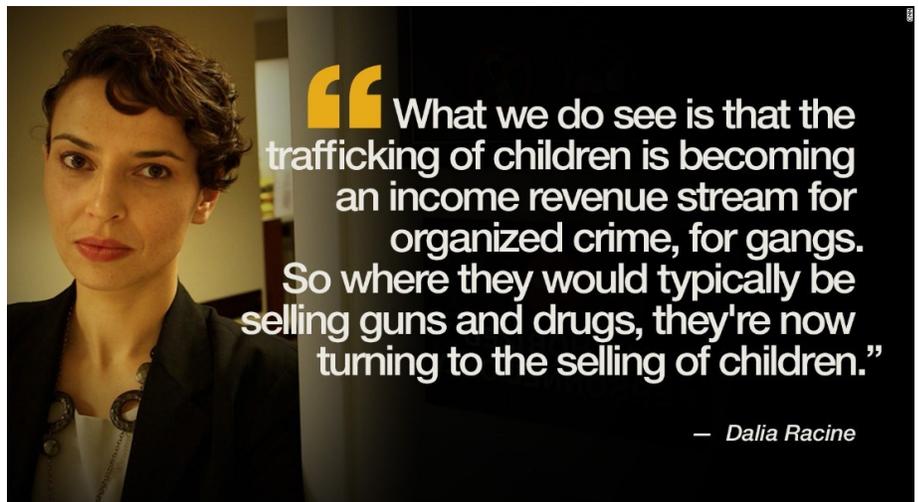
Modern day slavery does exist. Right here, in America.

Yet, so many refuse to acknowledge it. So many in our society turn away. Why is this?

Child sex trafficking makes us feel uncomfortable. It is not something we want to discuss, as the realities of it are heart wrenching, are disturbing, are tragic. Yet, child sex trafficking is happening, today, all around us. It is in our cities, and even in our neighborhoods. And it is happening to our children, with the average age of a child being trafficked at only 12 years old. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn put it wisely when she said, “They’re not even old enough to go to a prom, not even old enough to get a driver’s license and yet we still are seeing more and more of it on the Internet.” The number of children being contacted by sexual predators online is disturbing and astounding at the same time. Approximately one out of every seven children is sexually contacted, or solicited, by a predator while online. Furthermore, many of these children are seriously pursued online by these predators, singling out these children in an attempt to lure them in.

Annika Mack, who now sits on the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Action Team and is a public speaker about child sex trafficking, was a runaway youth at the age of 16. The young teenager was trying to

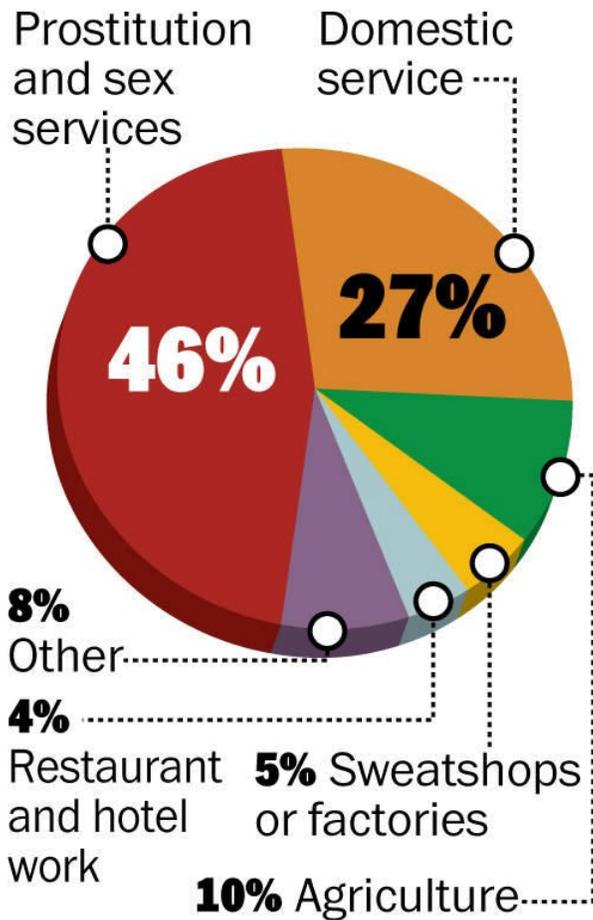
escape the sexual and physical abuse she was receiving at home. Over the next twelve months, Annika was running from one state to another. According to Annika, “One day, as I was getting ready to get on a bus to travel to another state, a car pulled up with a girl who looked younger than me. She asked me if I wanted to party, I said yes. Later that night, I met the girl’s pimp, and was trafficked by him. It led to kidnapping, tor-



Sex trafficking: the new slavery in the U.S.

ture (Russian Roulette, pistol whipping, water boarding) and domestic servitude and sex trafficking. My trafficker was a gorilla pimp, which mean he used extreme amounts of violence and fear to keep me scared to leave.” After being on the end of several severe beatings, Annika was able to escape her trafficker, and ended up in the hospital, where she was hospitalized for a month and had 12 surgeries.

Modern-day slavery in America



SOURCE: U.C. Berkeley

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

Tragically, there are thousands of children today, in the United States alone, who are being beaten and are trafficked, just like Annika. For Annika, she is a survivor, and is building a new life, one filled with hope. For thousands of others, the day to day, and moment to moment horrors continue.

Modern day slavery exists, and it is all around you.