

Standard 2: Economy & Society

SSUSH2.a-b

Mercantilism, Trans-Atlantic trade, Middle Passage, African-American population growth and culture

MERCANTILISM

- The British interest in establishing colonies was influenced by the theory of **mercantilism**, which held that a country's ultimate goal was self-sufficiency & that all countries were in a competition to acquire the most gold & silver.
- Britain looked to the American colonies as a market for British goods, a source of raw materials that were not native to Britain, & as a producer of goods and materials to be sold to other nations.
- It was the belief that the colonies existed for the financial good of the mother country.



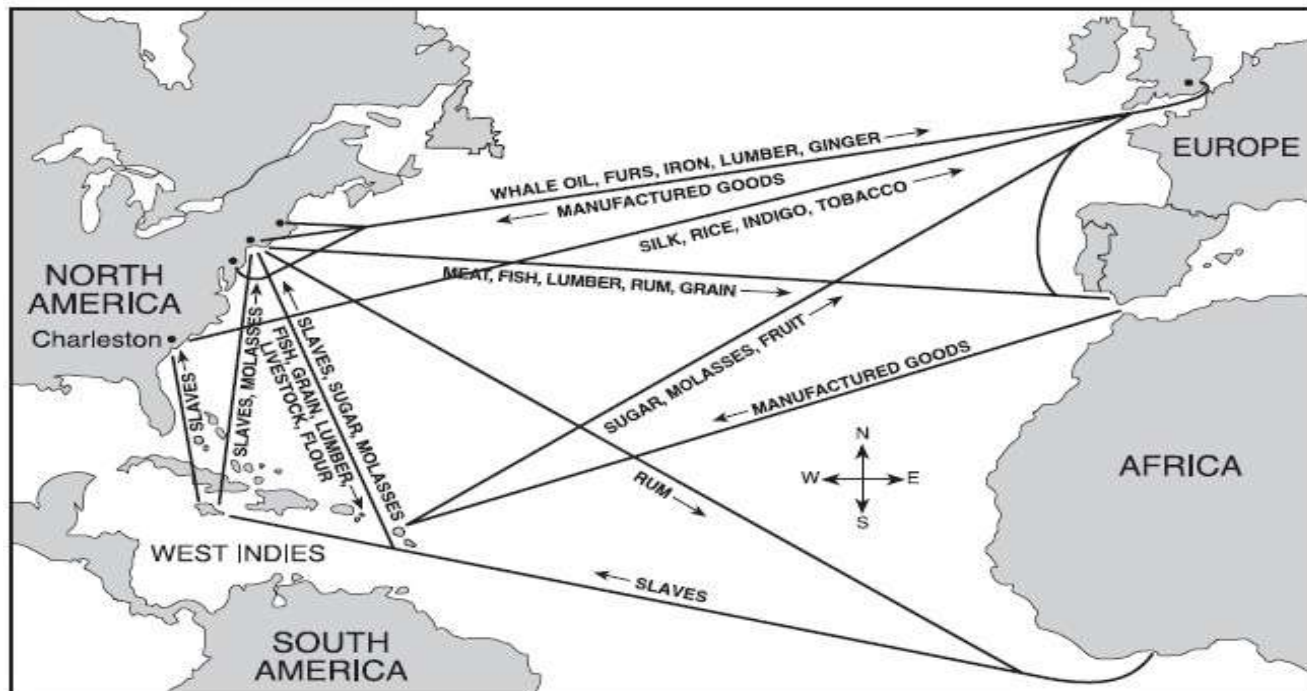
NAVIGATION ACTS

- Attempted to control the trans-Atlantic trade of British and colonial goods, including a duty, or tax, paid to the British government on items of trade.
- Massachusetts lost its charter because of violating the Navigation Acts
- Staple Act of 1663: required everything the colonies imported to come through England. All merchants bringing European goods to the colonies had to stop in England, pay taxes, and then ship the goods out again on English ships.



TRIANGULAR TRADE

- Eventually, well established and overlapping **triangular trade** routes took goods to and from British colonies in the Americas, Great Britain, and the coast of Africa.



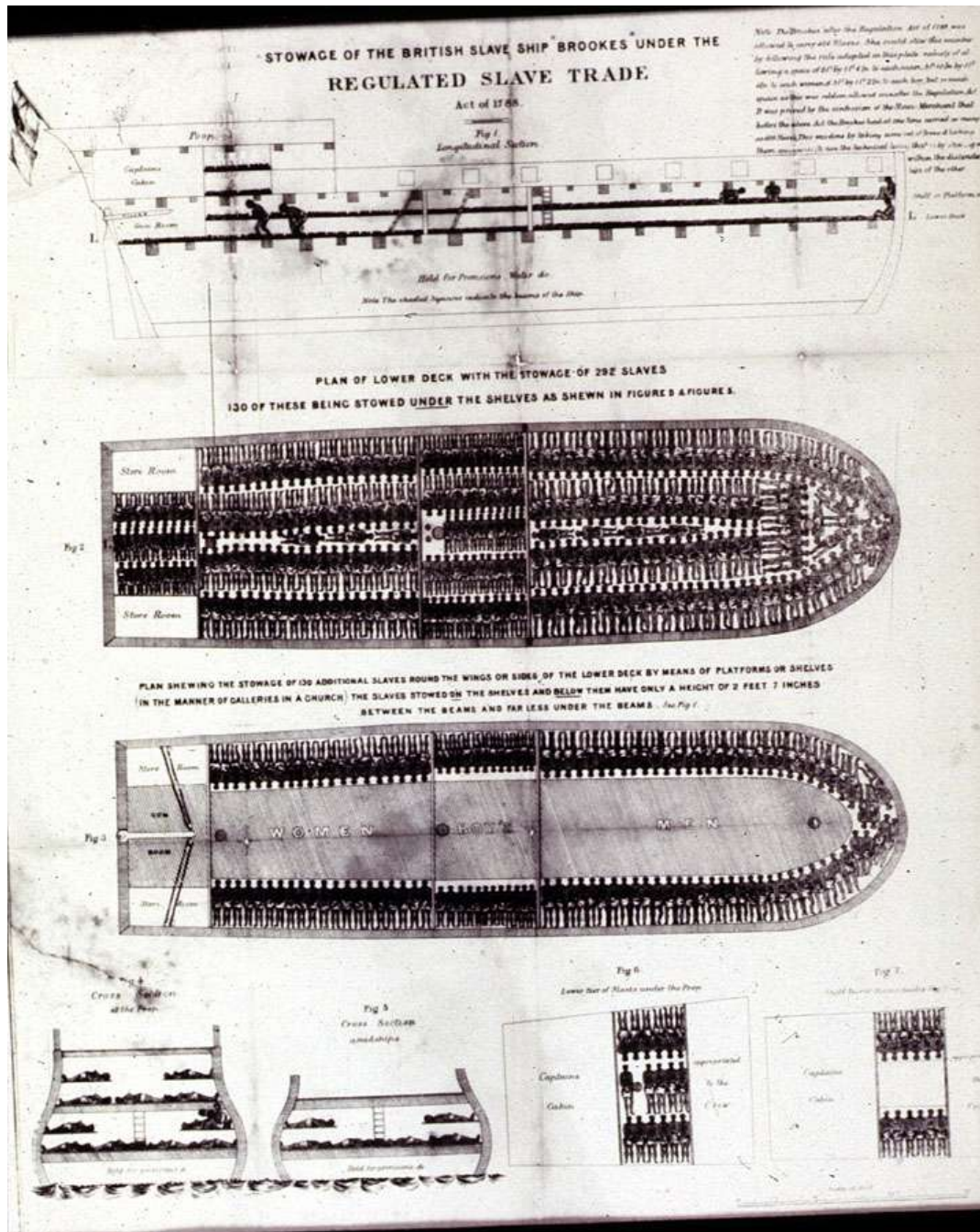
Source: Steven Goldberg and Judith Clark DuPré, *Brief Review in Global History and Geography*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

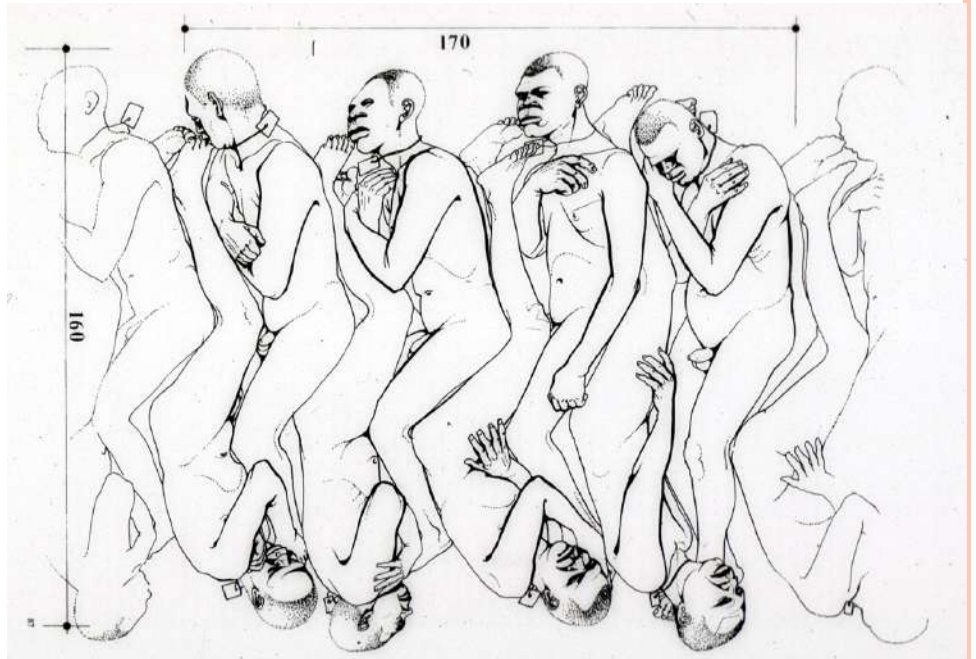
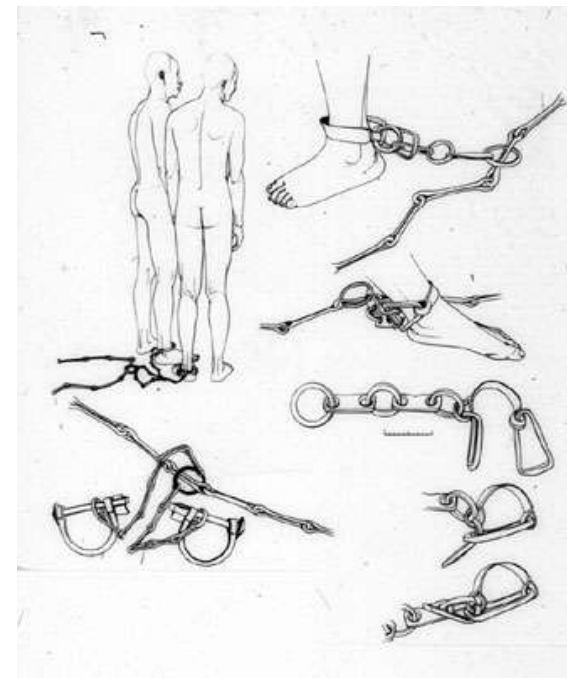
MIDDLE PASSAGE

- The transport of enslaved people from Africa across the Atlantic to the West Indies & later the Americas.
- Known as the “middle passage” because it was considered the middle leg of the transatlantic trade triangle.
- Thousands of people died on the journey because of the horrific conditions.
- Once traded, the enslaved Africans toiled from sun-up to sundown, most of them in southern plantation fields.



An example of the British slave ship "Brookes" published in 1790





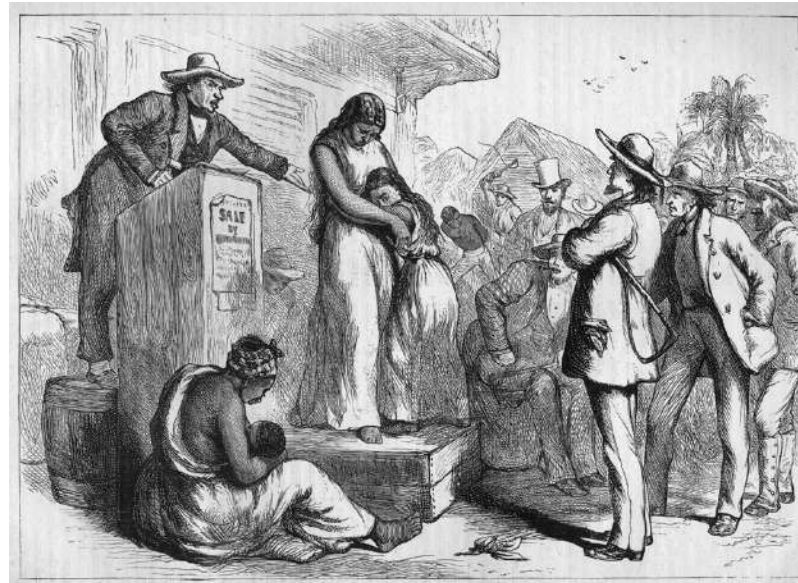
MIDDLE PASSAGE CONTINUED

- Congress banned the Atlantic slave trade in 1808.
- Enslaved Africans were a large percentage of the population in the southern states and even outnumbered whites in South Carolina.
- The southern states became more and more dependent on slavery for their economic success.
- The process of slavery continued long after the Atlantic slave trade was banned.



AFRICANS COPE IN THEIR NEW WORLD

- Though torn from their homelands, Africans brought with them their rich traditions, songs, languages, & religions.
- Biological families were torn apart quite frequently, so slaves created new families among the people with whom they lived.



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- What was the purpose of the Navigation Acts?
 - A) to stop the Middle Passage
 - B) to control the trans-Atlantic trade
 - C) to end the Atlantic slave trade
 - D) to halt the triangular trade



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- What effect did the 1808 ban on the Atlantic slave trade have on slavery in America?
 - A) it ended slavery in the South
 - B) it resulted in a gradual end to slavery in America
 - C) it had little effect
 - D) it slowed the expansion of slavery



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Though captured from their villages, and forced to endure the horrific Middle Passage, Africans arrived at America's shores embracing their traditions and cultures. What happened to African cultures after Africans were sold into slavery?
 - A) they were outlawed by the federal government
 - B) they were expressed in the customs of enslaved Africans
 - C) they never became a part of plantation life
 - D) they were abandoned once Africans were enslaved

