

The slavery system

It is an extreme form of inequality in which some individuals are owned by others as their property.

Slavery is a system of stratification in which one person owns another, as he or she would own property, and exploits the slave's labor for economic gain.

Slaves are one of the lowest categories in any stratification system, as they possess virtually no power or wealth of their own.

- It is an extreme form of inequality in which some individuals are owned by others as their property.
- The slave owner has full control including using violence over the slave.
- L.T Hobhouse defined slave as a man whom law and custom regard as the property of another.
- In extreme cases he is wholly without rights. He is in lower condition as compared with freemen.
- The slaves have no political rights he does not choose his government, he does not attend the public councils. Socially he is despised.
- He is compelled to work.

- The slavery system has existed sporadically at many times and places but there are two major examples of slavery - societies of the ancient world based upon slavery (Greek and Roman) and southern states of USA in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- According to H.J Nieboer the basis of slavery is always economic because with it emerged a kind of aristocracy which lived upon slave labour.

Slavery is a system under which people are treated as property to be bought and sold, and are forced to work.

Slaves can be held against their will from the time of their capture, purchase, or birth; and can also be deprived of the right to leave, to refuse to work, or to demand compensation.

- Slavery predates written records and has existed in many [cultures](#). The number of slaves today is higher than at any point in history, remaining as high as 12 million to 27 million.
- Most are debt slaves, largely in South Asia, who are under debt bondage incurred by lenders, sometimes even for generations.
- Human trafficking, or the illegal trade of humans, is primarily used for forcing women and children into sex industries.
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- Historically, slavery was institutionally recognized by many societies.
- In more recent times slavery has been outlawed in most societies, but continues through the practices of debt bondage, indentured servitude, serfdom, domestic servants kept in captivity, certain adoptions in which children are forced to work as slaves, child soldiers, and forced marriage

SLAVE-BRANDING.





- The [Atlantic slave trade](#) brought African slaves to the Americas from the 1600's to the 1900's, spurring the growth of slave use on plantations in the U.S., where the slave [population](#) reached 4 million before slavery was made illegal in 1863.
- It is an institution or social practice of owning human beings as property, especially for use as forced laborers

- **Slavery** is a legal or economic system in which principles of property law can apply to humans so that people can be treated as property, and can be owned, bought and sold accordingly, and cannot withdraw unilaterally from the arrangement.
- While a person is a slave, the owner is entitled to the slave's labour, without any remuneration.
- The rights and protection of the slave may be regulated by laws and customs in a particular time and place, and a person may become a slave from the time of their capture, purchase or birth.
- Such slavery is commonly referred to as chattel slavery or traditional slavery. It is the least prevalent form of slavery in the world today.

- Today, chattel slavery is unlawful in all countries, but a person may still be described as a slave if he or she is forced to work for another person without an ability on their part to unilaterally terminate the arrangement.
- Such situations are today commonly referred to as "practices similar to slavery". The present form of the slave trade is commonly referred to as human trafficking

- Slavery existed before written history and in many [cultures](#). It was once institutionally recognized by most societies, but has now been outlawed in [all countries](#), the last being Mauritania in 2007.
- However, it continues through such practices as [debt bondage](#), [serfdom](#), [domestic servants](#) kept in captivity, certain adoptions in which children are forced to work as slaves, [child soldiers](#), [human trafficking](#) and [forced marriage](#). Accordingly, there are still an estimated 20 million to 36 million slaves worldwide.

- An example of modern slavery is much of the sex industry in Thailand.
- In particular, girls from the mountains in northern Thailand are sent into brothels in the southern cities to pay off loans to their families, but they are usually prevented from earning sufficient wages to pay back the loan and earn their freedom.

Types of Slavery

Chattel slavery,

- Chattel slavery, so named because people are treated as the personal property, chattels, of an owner and are bought and sold as commodities, is the original form of slavery.
- **When taking these chattels across national borders, it is referred to as human trafficking, especially when these slaves provide sexual services**

bonded labor

- **Debt bondage** or bonded labor occurs when a person pledges himself or herself against a loan. The services required to repay the debt and their duration may be undefined.
- Debt bondage can be passed on from generation to generation, with children required to pay off their parents' debt. It is the most widespread form of slavery today

- Forced labor is when an individual is forced to work against his or her will, under threat of violence or other punishment, with restrictions on their freedom.
- It is also used as a general term to describe all types of slavery and may also include [institutions](#) not commonly classified as slavery, such as serfdom, conscription (compulsory service) and penal labor.
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History of Slavery

- Evidence of slavery predates written records, and has existed in many cultures. Prehistoric graves from about 8000 BCE in Lower Egypt suggest that a Libyan people enslaved a San-like tribe.
- Slavery is rare among [hunter-gatherer](#) populations, as slavery is a system of social stratification. Mass slavery also requires economic surpluses and a high [population density](#) to be viable.
- Due to these factors, the practice of slavery would have only proliferated after the invention of [agriculture](#) during the [Neolithic Revolution](#) about 11,000 years ago.

- In the United [States](#), the most notorious instance of slavery is the Atlantic slave trade, through which African slaves were brought to work on plantations in the Caribbean Islands, Latin America, and the southern United States primarily.
- An estimated 12 million Africans arrived in the Americas from the 1600's to the 1900's. Of these, an estimated 645,000 were brought to what is now the United States.
- The usual estimate is that about 15 percent of slaves died during the voyage, with [mortality rates](#) considerably higher in Africa itself as the process of capturing and transporting [indigenous](#) peoples to the ships often proved fatal.

- Although the trans-Atlantic slave trade ended shortly after the American Revolution, slavery remained a central economic institution in the southern states of the United States, from where slavery expanded with the westward movement of population.
- By 1860, 500,000 American slaves had grown to 4 million. Slavery was officially abolished in 1863; but, even after the Civil War, many former slaves were essentially enslaved as tenant farmers .

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- All societies are stratified, but the criteria used to categorize people vary widely. Social stratification has taken many forms throughout history, including slavery, the estate system, indentured servitude, the caste system, and the class system.

- **Slavery's Global History**

- Many Americans view slavery as a phenomenon that began with the colonization of the New World and ended with the Civil War, but slavery has existed for a very long time.
- Slavery appears in the Old Testament of the Bible, as well as in the Qur'an. It was common practice in ancient Greece and Rome .

The Causes of Slavery

- A common assumption about slavery is that it is generally based on racism.
- Though racism was the primary cause of slavery in the United States, it was not the main reason that people in other areas were enslaved.
- Reasons for slavery include debt, crime, war, and beliefs of inherent superiority.

- **Debt:** Individuals who could not pay their way out of debt sometimes had to literally sell themselves.
- If a slave's debt was not paid off before his or her death, the debt was often passed down to his or her children, enslaving several generations of the same family.
- **Crime:** Families against whom a crime had been committed might enslave members of the perpetrator's family as compensation.

- **Prisoners of war:** Slaves were often taken during wartime, or when a new territory was being invaded. When Rome was colonizing much of the known world approximately 2,000 years ago, it routinely took slaves from the lands it conquered.
- **Beliefs of inherent superiority:** Some people believe that they have a right to enslave those who they believe are inherently inferior to them.

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