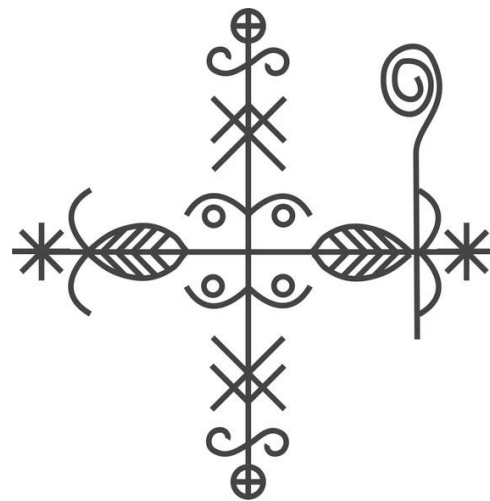
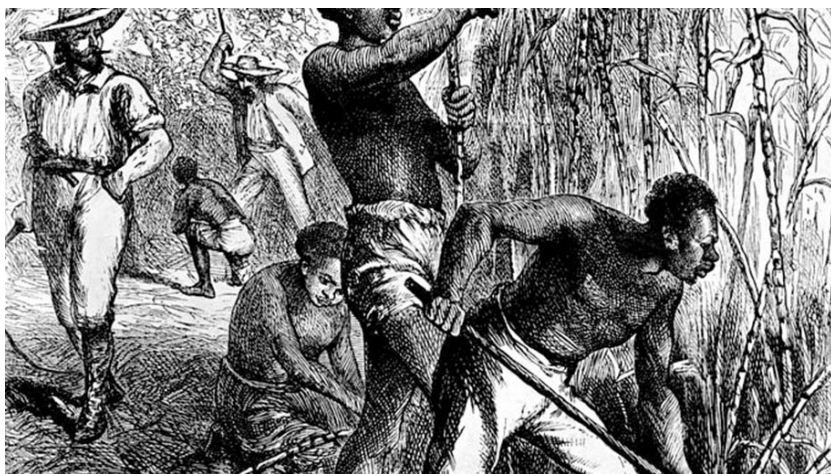


Slavery and the City of London

Richard Drayton, King's College London
Gresham College Lecture
October 28, 2019



I.

The Freedom of the City

‘stadt luft macht frei....’

II.

Slavery and Freedom

“Rule, Britannia! Britannia rule the waves:
Britons never will be slaves.....”

1679: Habeas Corpus at home vs. Colonial Slavery

"An Act for the better securing the Liberty of the Subject, and for Prevention of Imprisonment beyond the Seas", 1679, 2, 31 Charles II

For the prevention whereof and the more speedy Releife of all persons imprisoned for any such criminall or supposed criminall Matters whensoever any person or persons shall bring any Habeas Corpus directed unto any Sheriffe or Sheriffes Goaler Minister or other Person whatsoever for any person in his or their Custody and the said Writt shall be served upon the said Officer . . . that the said Officer or Officers ...shall within Three dayes after the Service thereof as aforesaid (unlesse the Committment aforesaid were for Treason . . .

Report of advocate on the slave laws of Barbados, 1679TNA: CO 1/45, f. 138.)

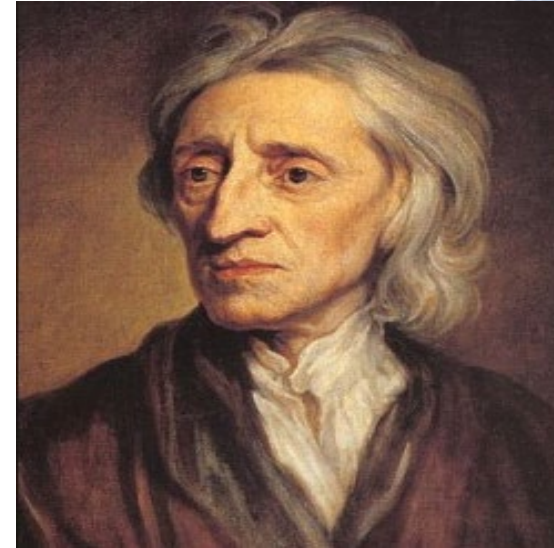
"I humbly conceive that the laws there concerning Negroes are reasonable laws, for by reason of their numbers they become dangerous, and being a brutish sort of people it is necessary or at least convenient to have Laws for the Government of them, different from the Laws of England"



John Locke:

author of *The Two Treatises of Government* (c.1680)
and also investor in the Royal African Company and involved in the
government of the Carolinas and the Board of Trade

⌘ ‘Slavery is so vile and **VS**
miserable an estate of man,
and so directly opposed to
the generous temper and
courage of our nation, that
'tis hardly to be conceived
that an Englishmen, an
much less a gentleman
should plead for it



As ‘Captives taken in a just War’,
slaves were, . . .by the Right of
Nature subjected to the Absolute
Dominion and Arbitrary Power
of their masters’.

William Beckford (1709-1770)





Public Advertiser,
November 1769

For Beckford he was chosen May'r

A wight of high renown

To see a slave he could not bear

Unless it was his own

III.

Capitalism and Slavery (and Whig history)

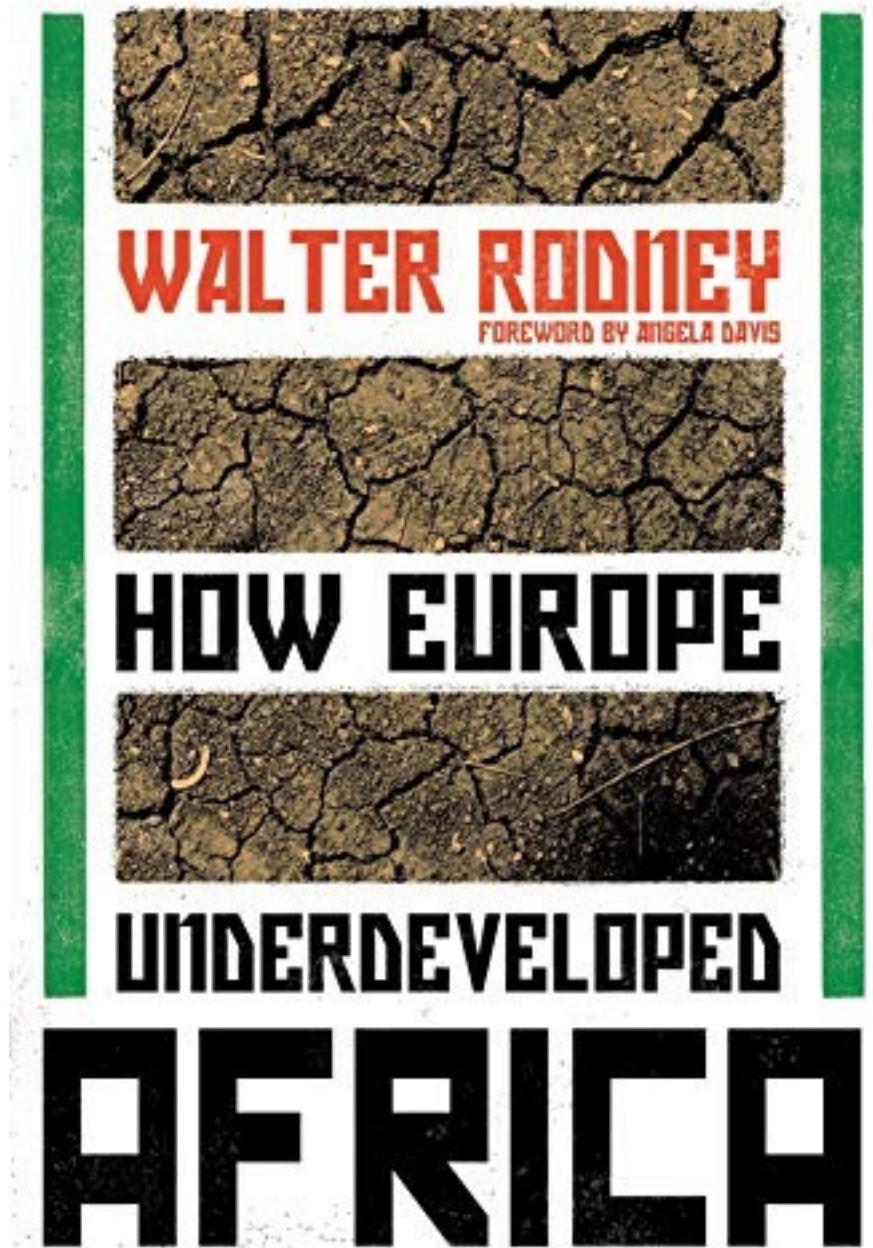
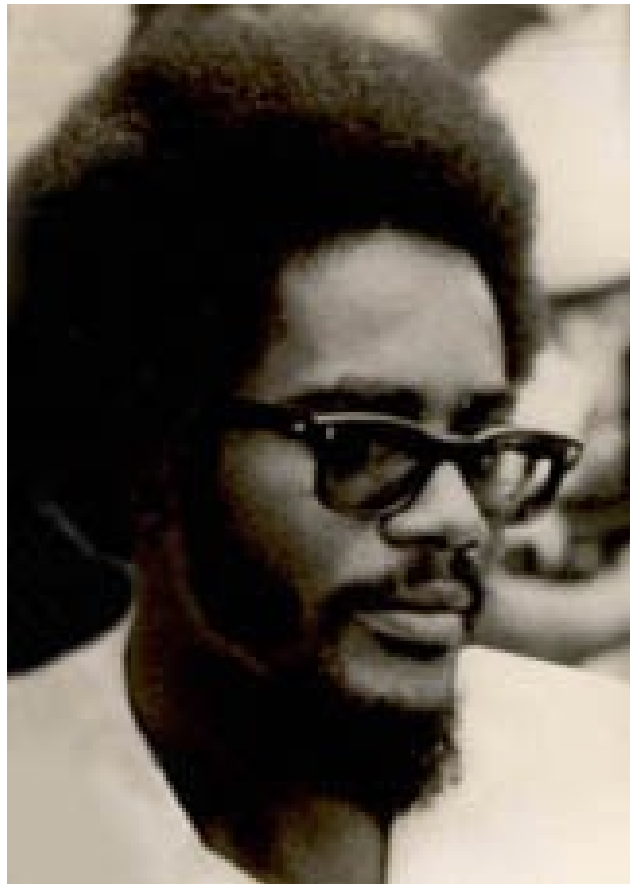
Eric Williams (1911-81)

Capitalism and Slavery (1944)

- (1) Atlantic slavery shaped modern racism
 - (2) The Slave and Plantation trades were central to economic and social modernity in Britain
 - (3) The new capitalism which arose out of the Atlantic system was hostile to both 'mercantilism' and to slavery
 - (4) Abolition came through the convergent activity of white abolitionists in Britain and slave resistance and rebellion:
Haiti 1792-1804, Barbados 1816,
Demerara 1823, Jamaica 1831
- "Emancipation from above or from below: but emancipation!"



Walter Rodney, 1942-80



IV.

The City and African Slavery, c. 1550-1880

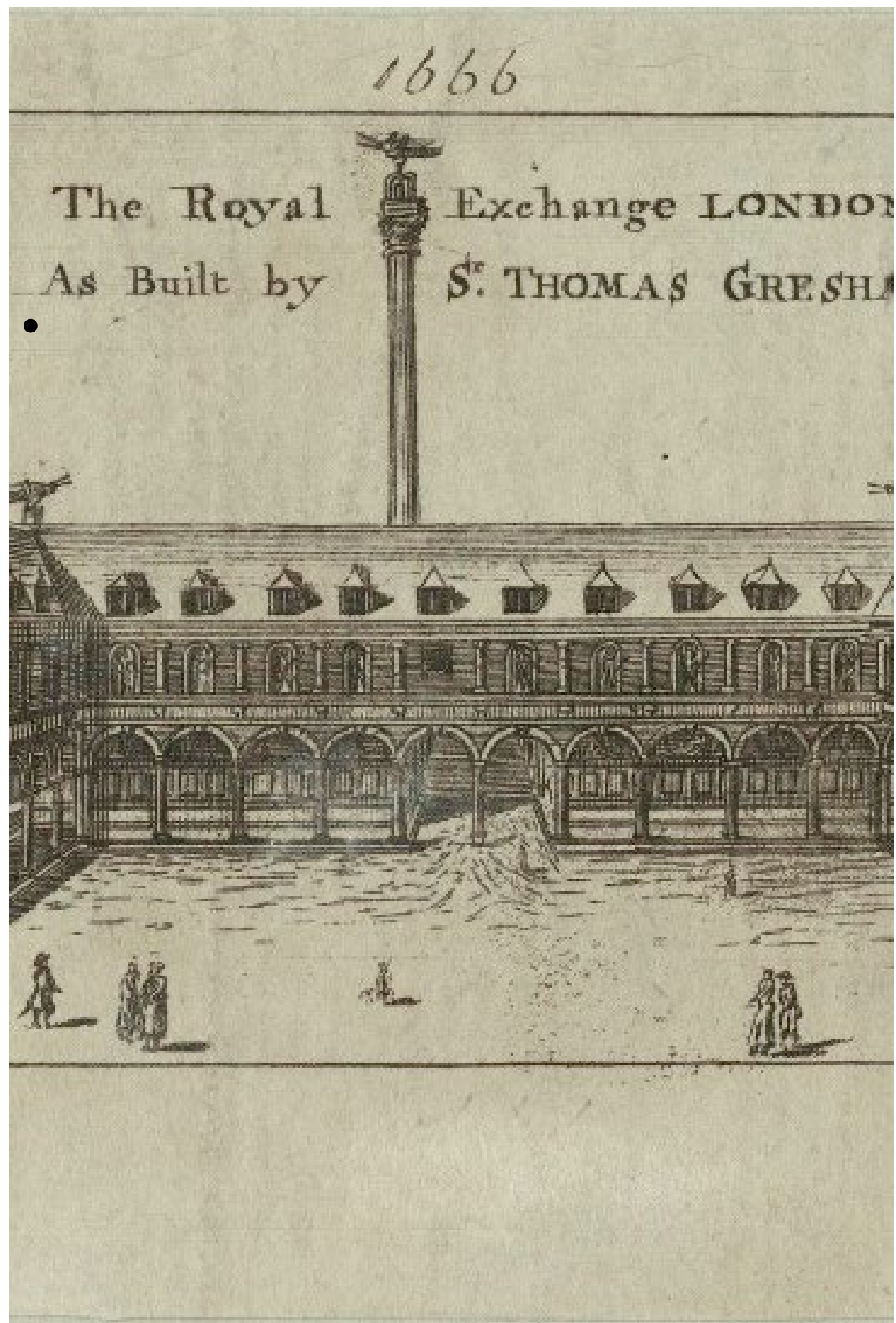
Thomas Gresham (1519-1579)

Founder of Gresham College



Antwerp: the economic centre of northern Europe c. 1500-1560s





Sir William Garrard

(1507-1571)

Sir William Courteen and Barbados

By 1690:

“Sugar has contributed more to England’s pleasure, glory and grandeur than any other commodity we deal in or produce, wool not excepted’



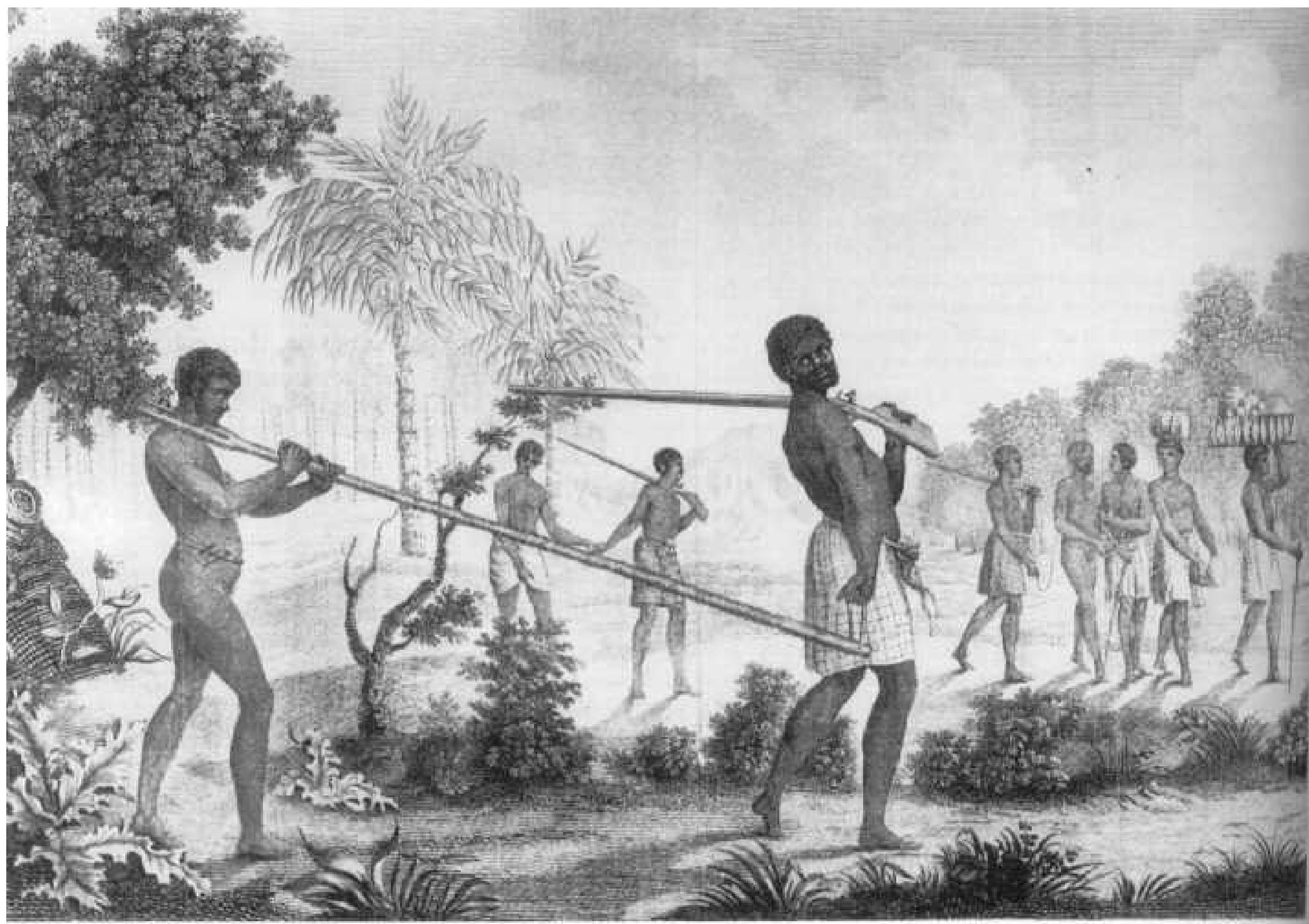
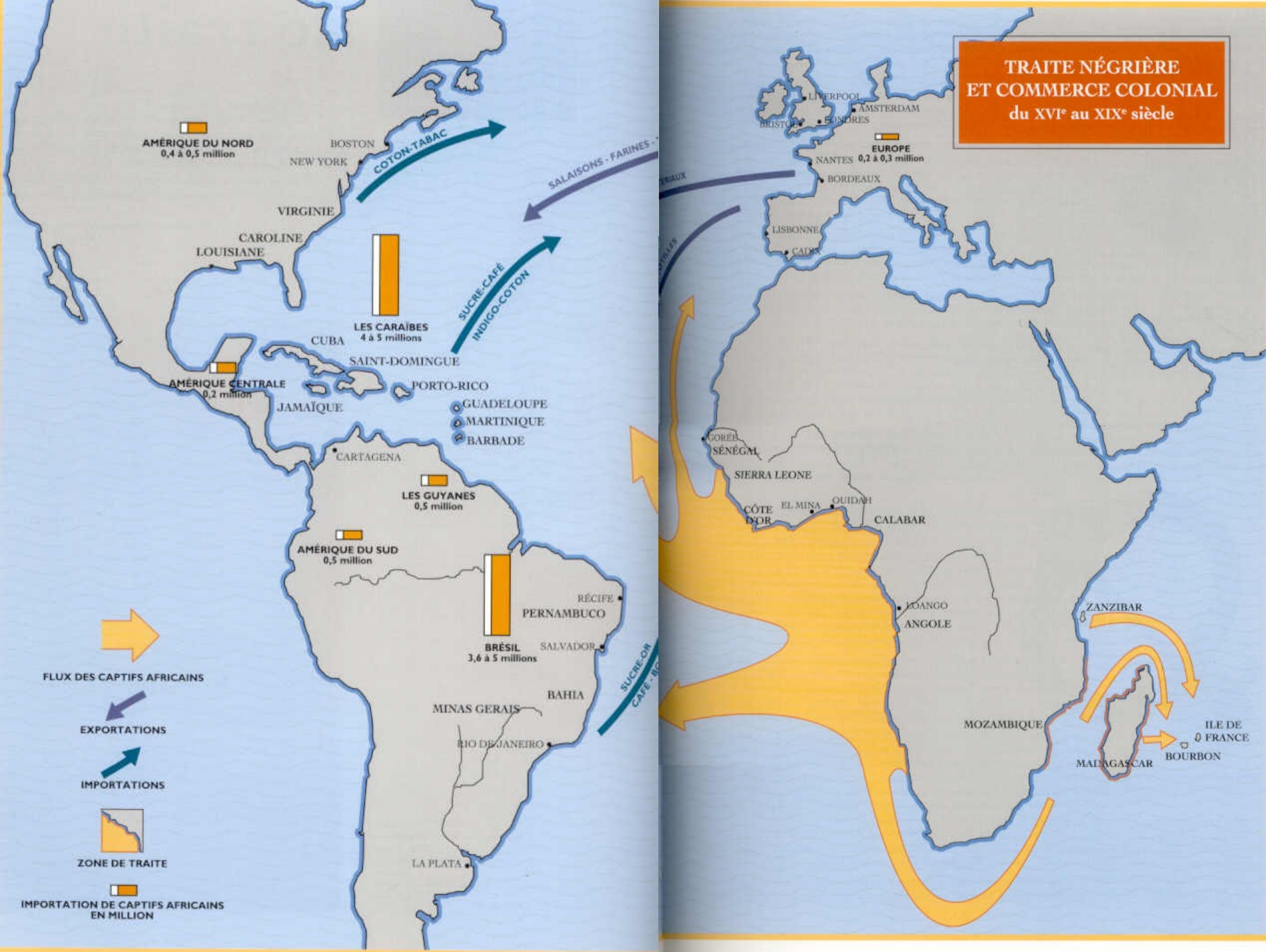
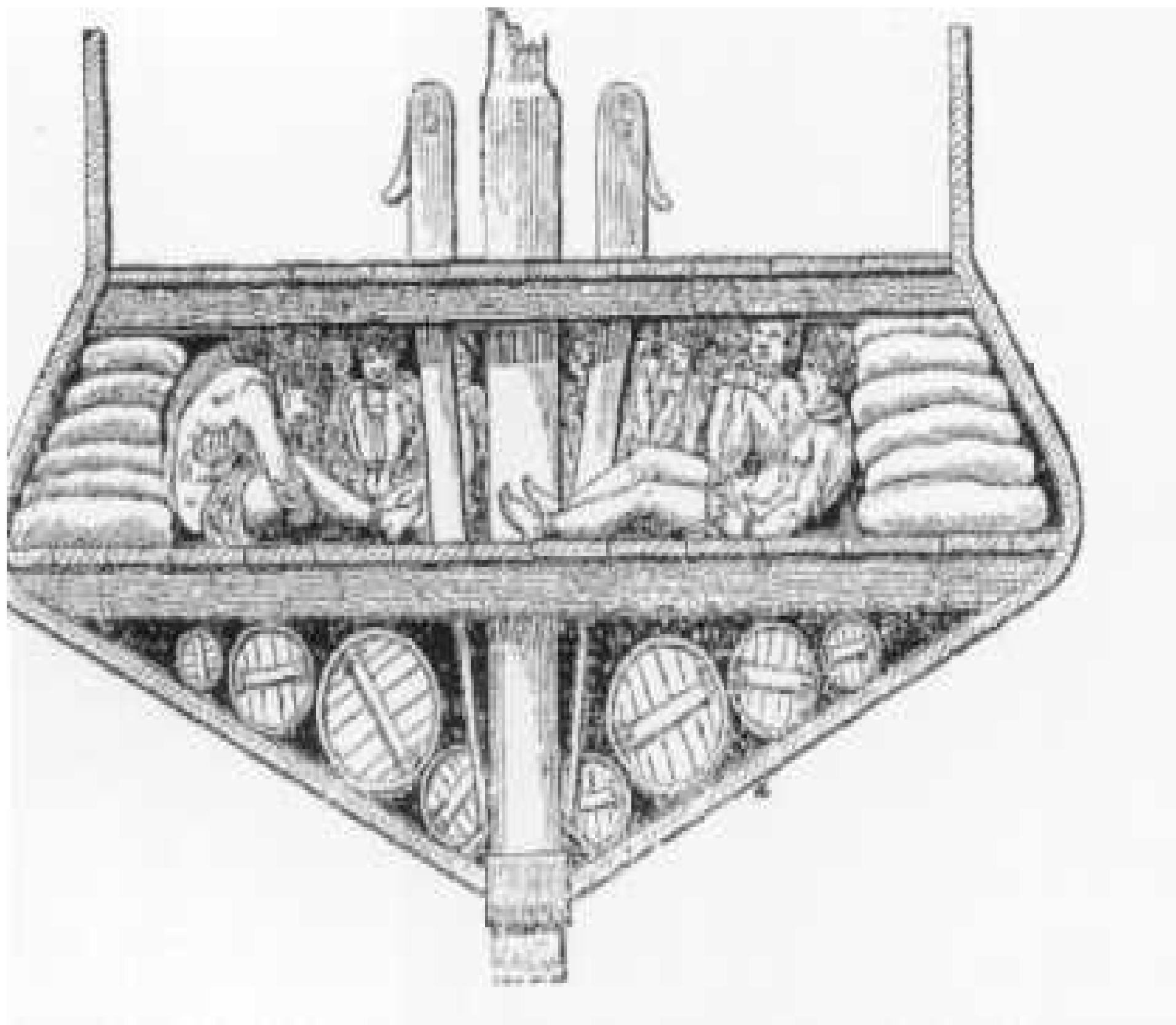


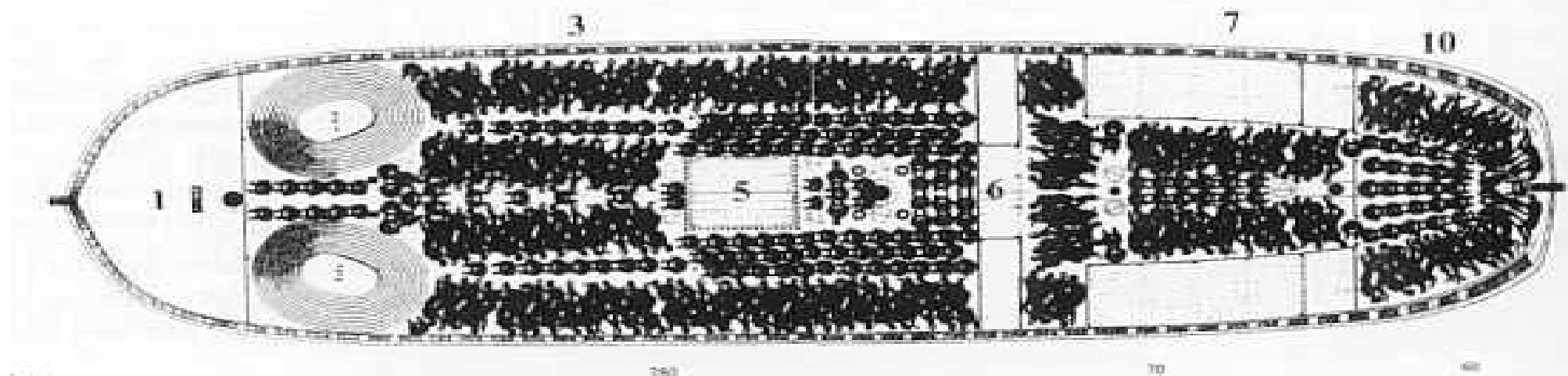
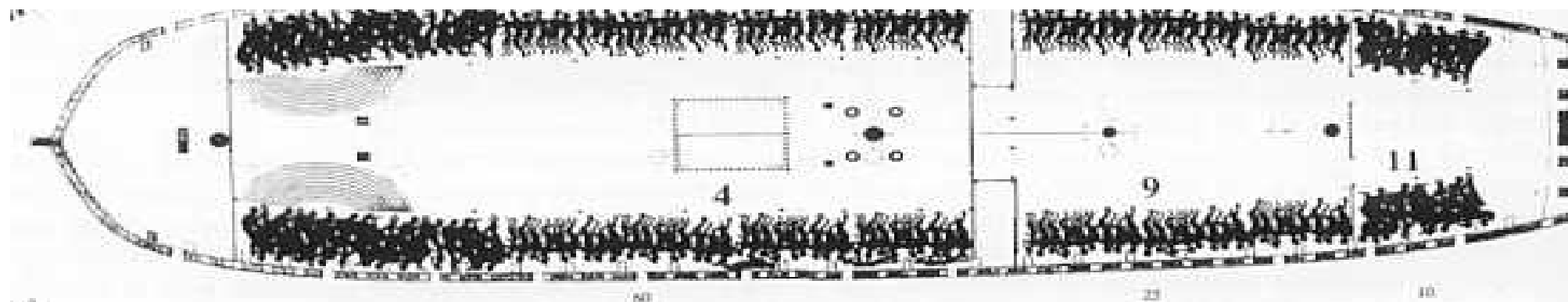


Fig. 1

TRAITE NÉGRÈRE ET COMMERCE COLONIAL du XVI^e au XIX^e siècle

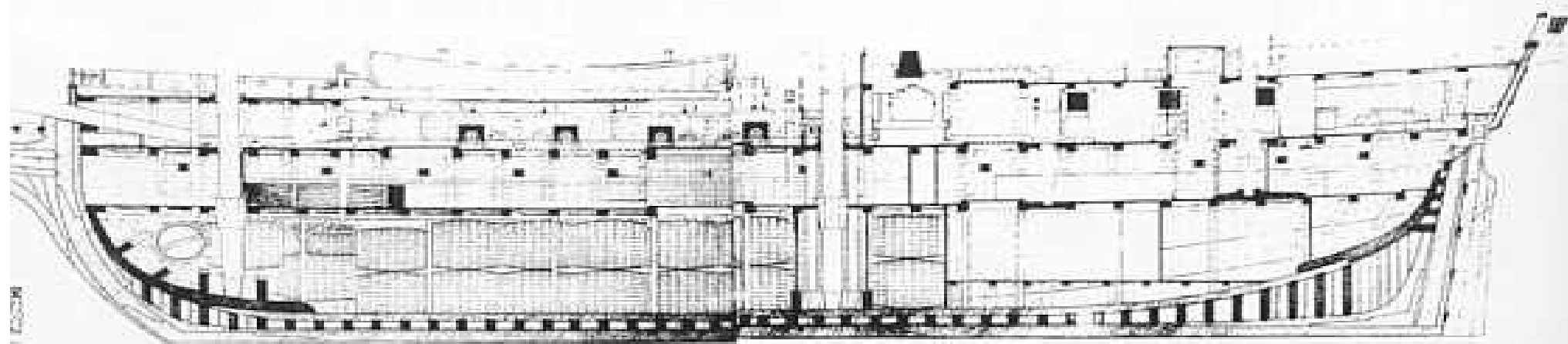


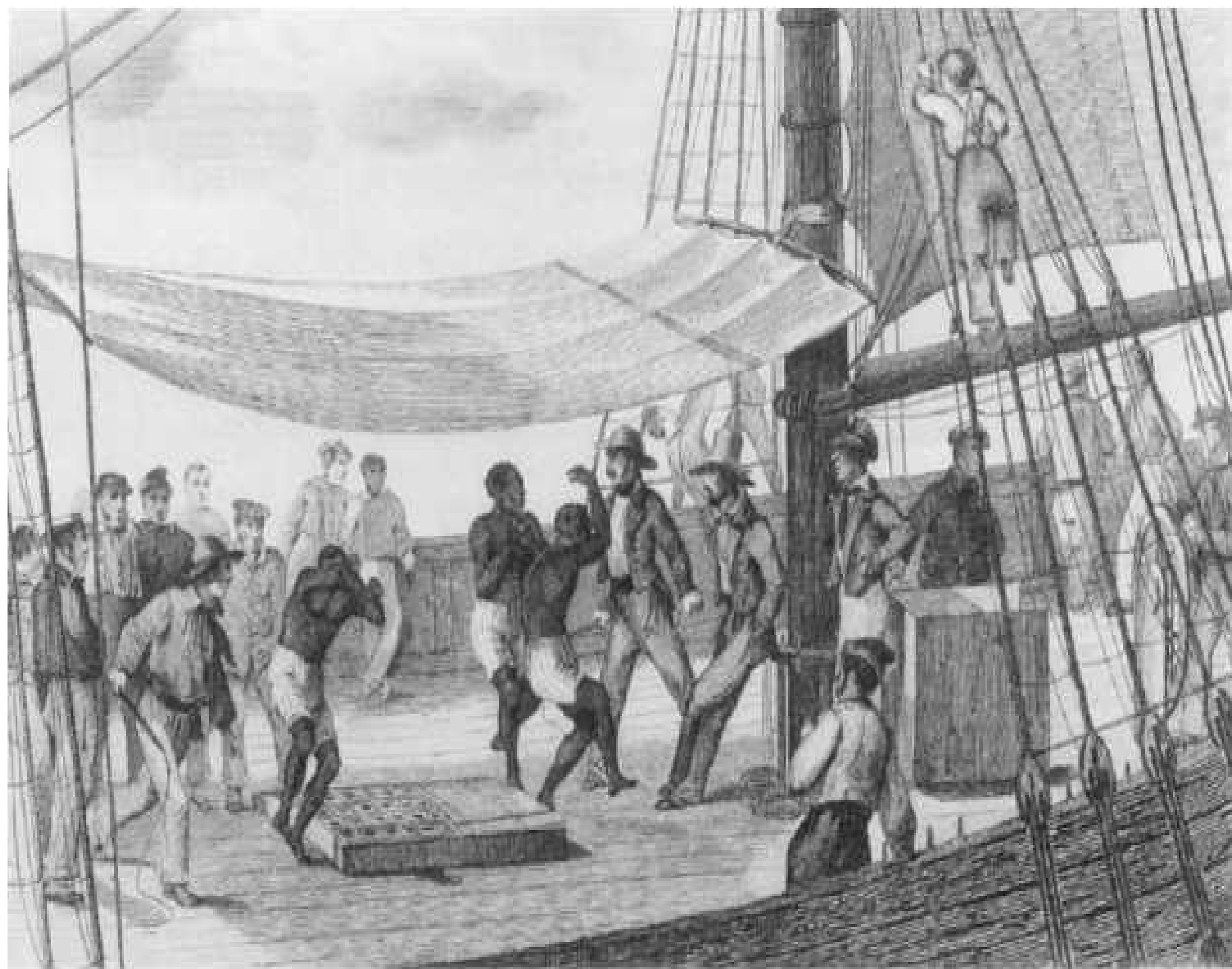


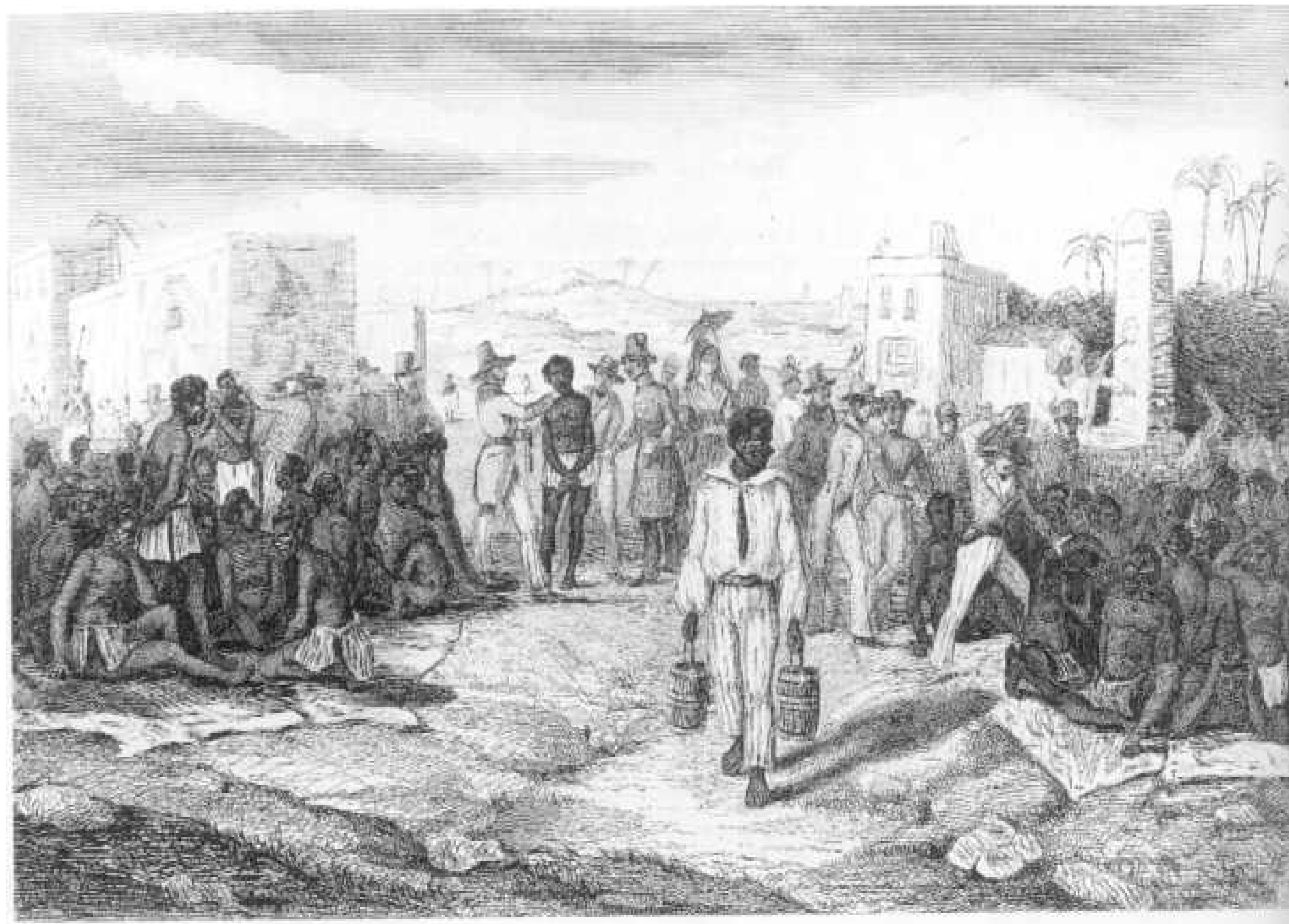


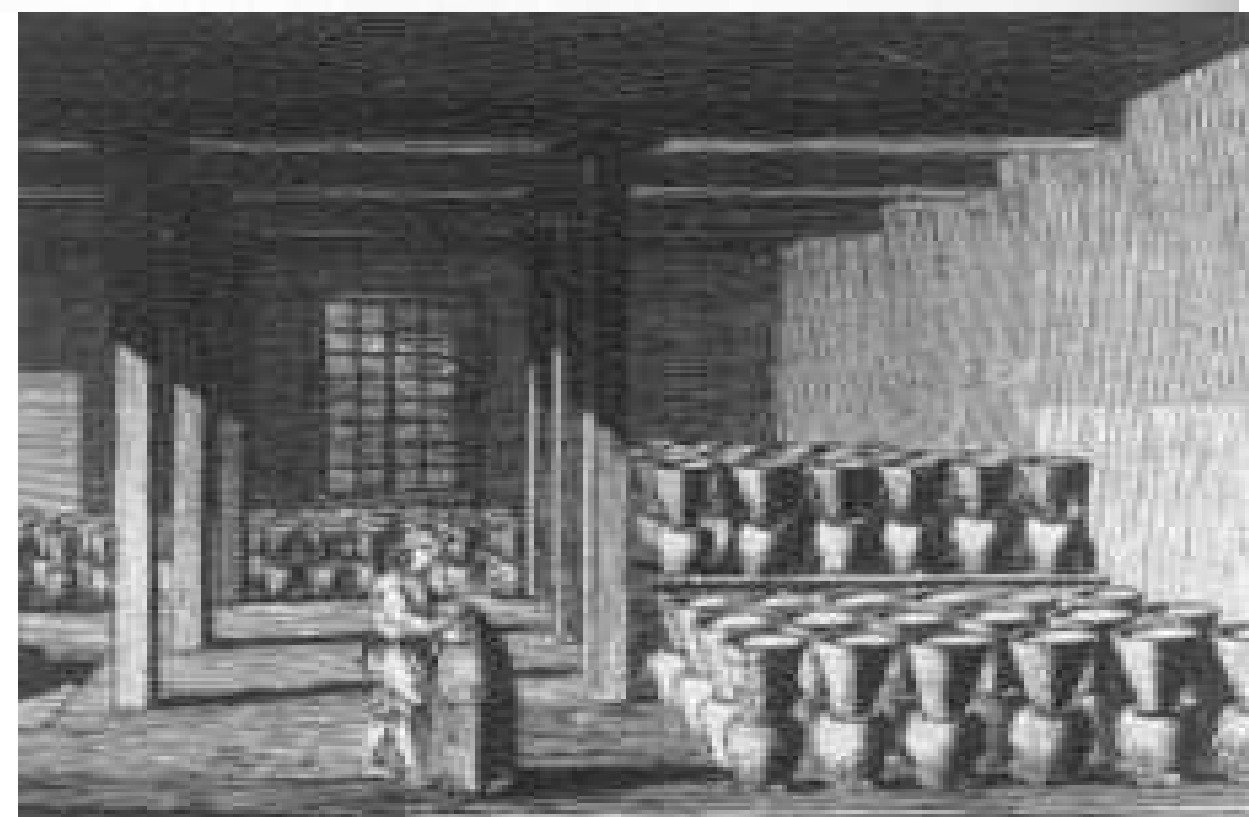
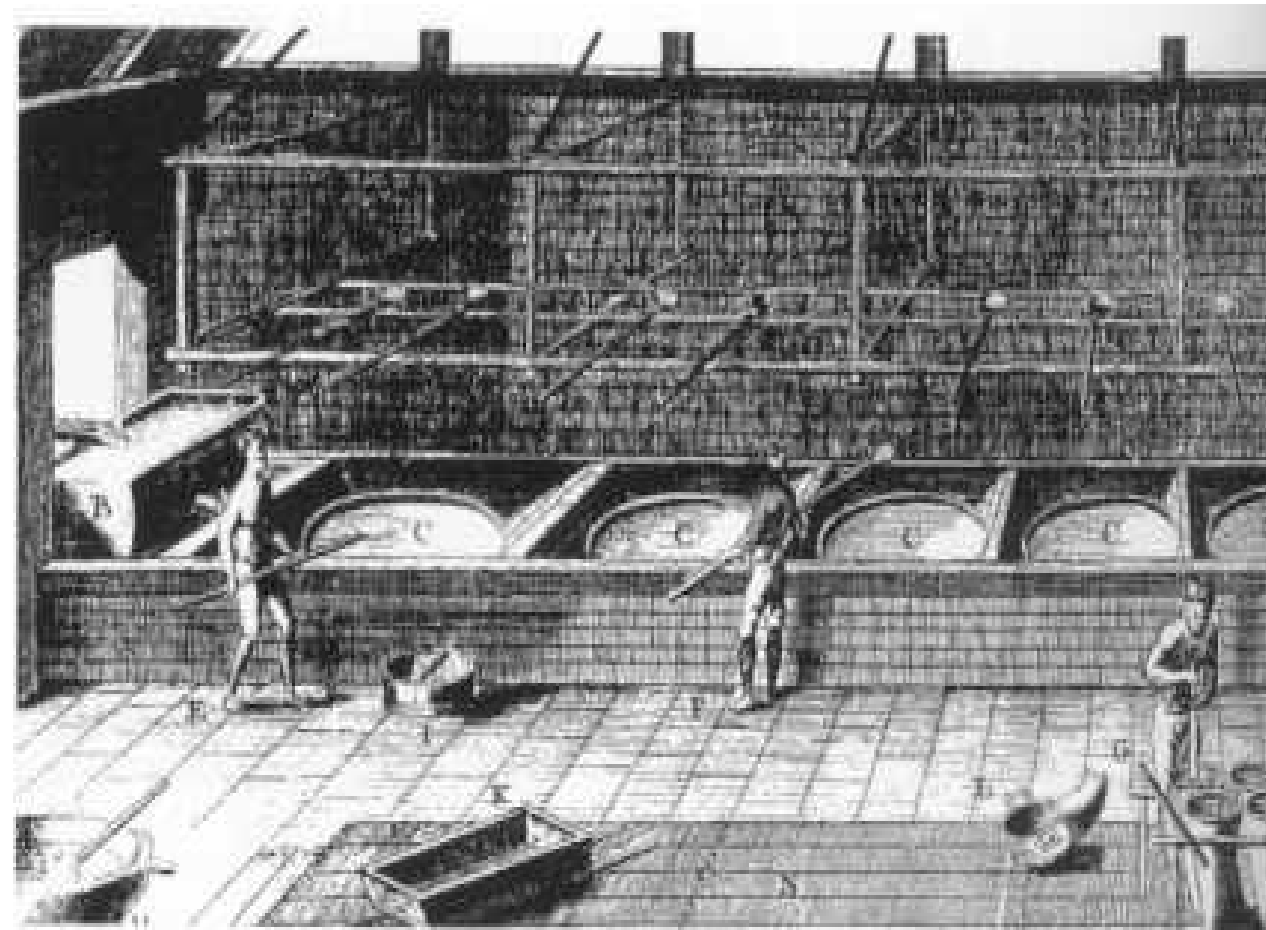
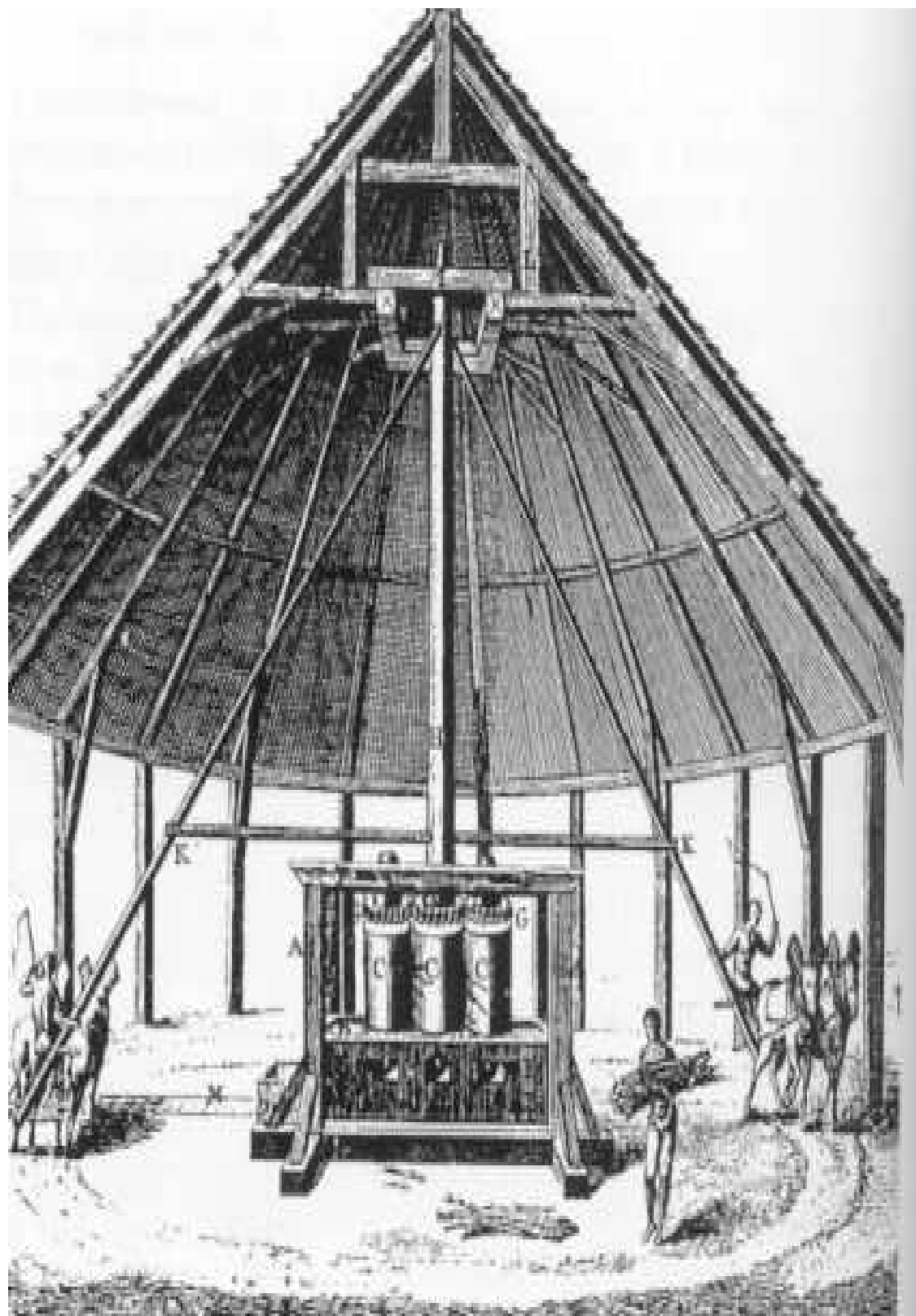
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Cambuse. | 7. Parc des femmes, 70. |
| 2. Câbles des ancres. | 8. Soutes vivres. |
| 3. Parc des hommes, 280 individus. | 9. Parc des femmes (échafaud) 50. |
| 4. Parc des hommes (échafaud) 120 individus. | 10. Ste Barbe 60. |
| 5. Grande écoutille. | 11. Ste Barbe (échafaud) 20. |
| 6. Rambarde. | |

Au total 600 individus sont entassés dans l'entrepont, à raison de trois au mètre carré de surface utile!
 Les installations sur échafaud permettent d'y placer presque un tiers de l'effectif total.
 Dessins tirés de Traité et navire négrier de Jean Boudriot.









*Intérieur d'une purgerie : les formes contenant le sucre
sont posées sur des jarres (on « recotte à mûlasse »).*





Gold from West Africa and Brazil

The Guinea

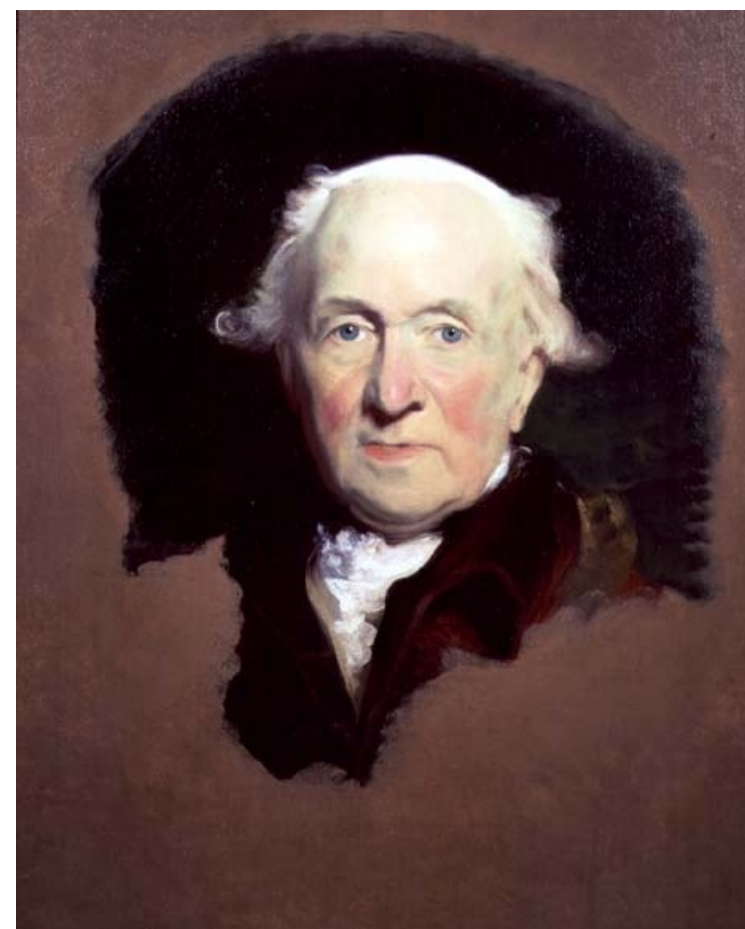




EDWARD BACKWELL ESQ.^R ALDERMAN of LONDON

Obit 1679.

Published Dec.^r 1st 1802, by W.^m Richardson, York House, 51, Strand.



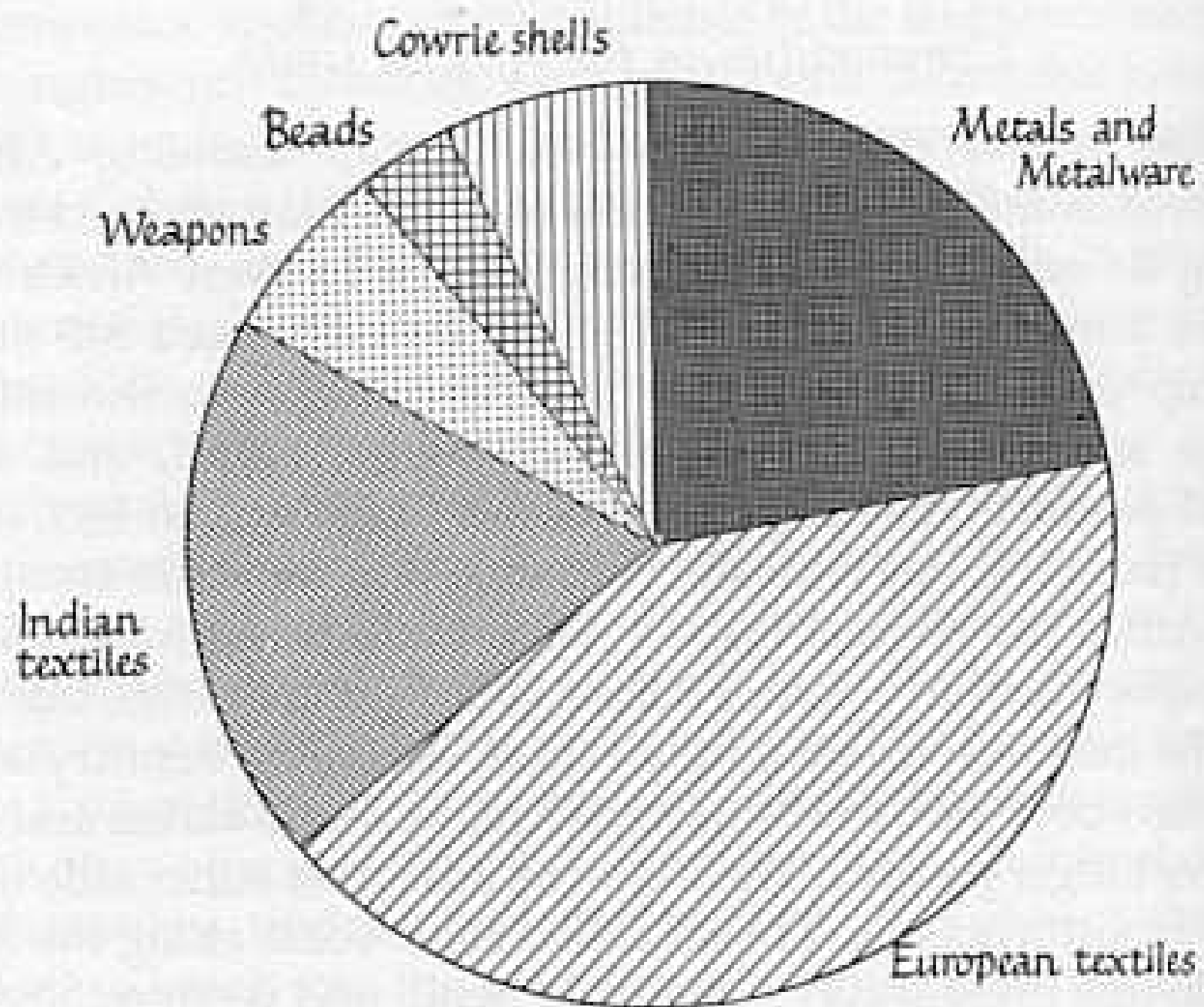
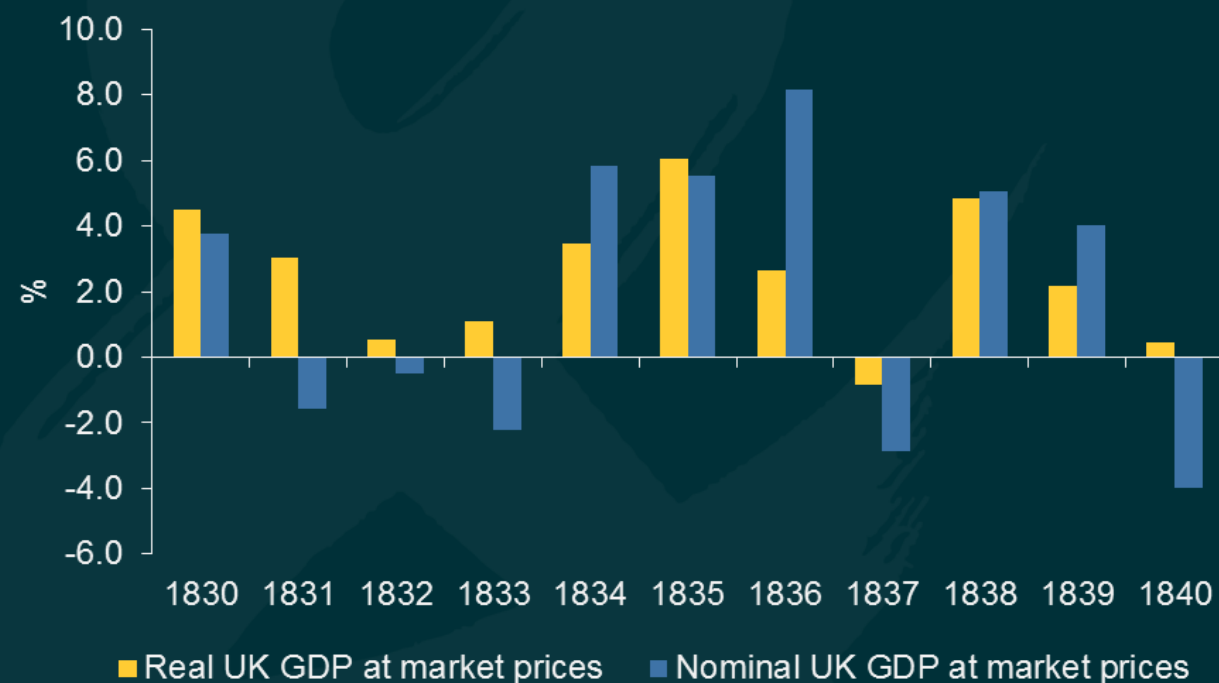
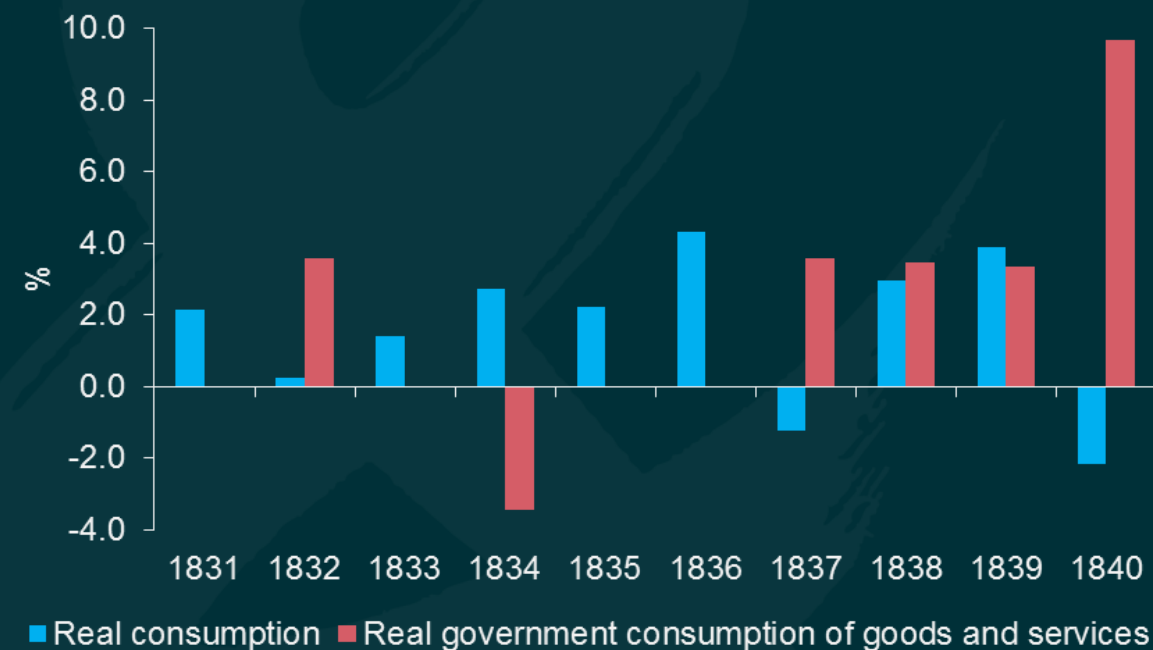


Figure 10.1 Royal Africa Company exports.

Real and nominal growth increased post-stimulus (%, y/y growth)



Some of the stimulus was used to consume goods and services... (%, y/y growth)



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Source: M&G, Thomas, R and Dimsdale, N (2017) "A Millennium of UK Data", Bank of England OBRA dataset,
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/research/Pages/onebank/threecenturies.aspx>

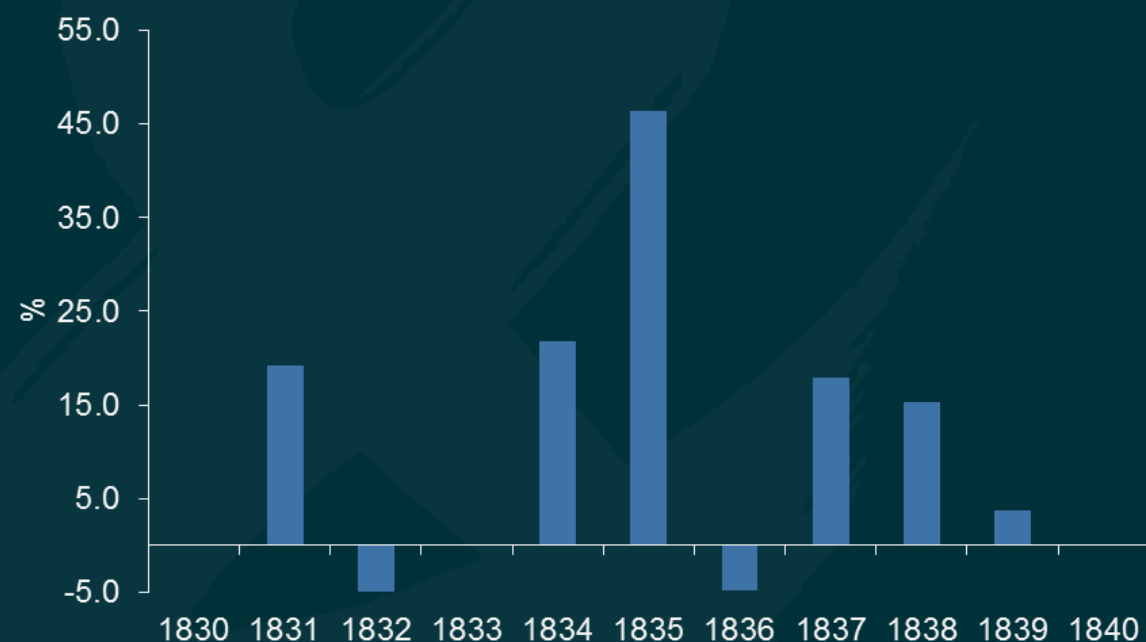


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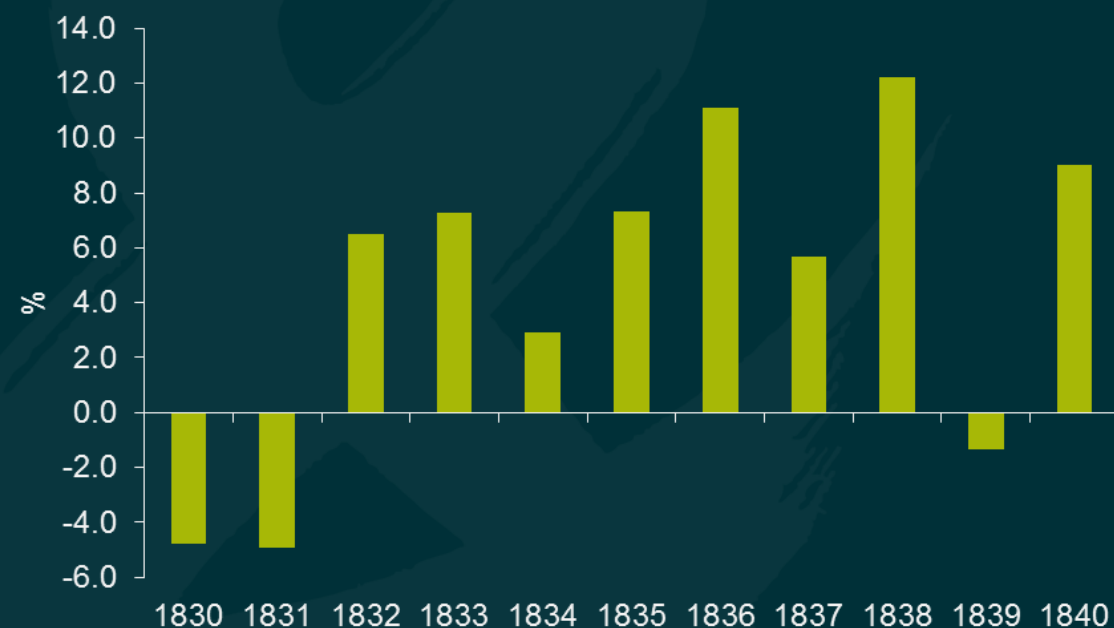
Source: M&G, Thomas, R and Dimsdale, N (2017) "A Millennium of UK Data", Bank of England OBRA dataset,
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/research/Pages/onebank/threecenturies.aspx>



Most of the stimulus was invested, with real investment growing 46% in 1835 (%, y/y growth)



The equity market registered solid gains post-stimulus (%, y/y return)



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Source: M&G, Thomas, R and Dimsdale, N (2017) "A Millennium of UK Data", Bank of England OBRA dataset,
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/research/Pages/onebank/threecenturies.aspx>



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Source: M&G, Thomas, R and Dimsdale, N (2017) "A Millennium of UK Data", Bank of England OBRA dataset,
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/research/Pages/onebank/threecenturies.aspx>



V.
And now?

