Set-up for 18th Century Slavery

- The growth of the West Indies plantation system did not end the Brazilian sugar industry or the slave system
  - It seriously affected the Colonial economy
- Plantation owners were losing money because of the rising slave prices and the sugar prices crashing
Minas Gerais: Gold

- The crown tried to find new sources of income
- A new type of slavery emerged at the beginning of the 18th century: slave mining
- Before the 1690s the interior region of Minas Gerais had been totally unpopulated
  - There was a high demand for slaves, so they had to start getting all of them from Africa rather than using the Native people
- The gold fever caused the control system to lapse in many places
  - Lavras were elaborate hydraulic operations on river banks that mined gold
- In over half of the gold mining situations, however, slaves were sent out to mine in small, unsupervised groups
  - These slave miners and prospectors were known as fasqueiros
- A sizable free colored population grew in mining camps
  - Portugal was not happy about this
Minas Gerais: Diamonds

- In 1729, diamonds were discovered by northern rivers in Minas Gerais
  - Diamonds were harder for the government to tax and control since they didn’t require smelting
  - Diamond mining required less slave labor and the holdings were much farther scattered
- The gold boom shifted Brazilian economic power and population
- The mines had been discovered by *paulista bandeiras*, which were eventually backed by Rio de Janeiro investors
- Rio grew because of all the shipping into their port, and eventually replaced Bahia as the capital in 1763
Diamond Mining in Brazil
Carlos Julião
Circa 1770
Bahian Slaves

- Bahia was in a geographically beneficial location with rivers that provided constant contact with the mines.
- The Crown did not want slaves to be traded into the mines because they worried it would take labor from the plantations
  - Sugar prices rose in 1711, so the Crown loosened the reins and allowed the import of Bahian slaves to the mines
- This caused even more distribution of slavery throughout Brazil
  - Farming on the frontier, and cattle working in both the northern coastal areas and southern pasturelands
Agriculture and Stock Breeding

- During the gold fever people in the interior regions were mining, and there were not enough producers of food.
  - The coastal regions became producers of agriculture and stock breeding
- The São Paulo region began producing to feed the mining industry, but it wasn’t enough, so production moved elsewhere.
  - The plains of Rio Grande do Sul were major cattle producers
    - Slavery increased so much in the Rio Grande do Sul region that there were 21,000 slaves and 5,000 free colored out of a total of 71,000 people in the region
  - Many trails between São Paulo and this region were formed at this time
  - The population was only 18,000 so they had a slower response time than other producers.
The trade routes were still not as direct as those to Rio de Janeiro, so that and the lower population eventually caused production to move to Rio de Janeiro.

- Rio de Janeiro started producing everything, and became the main port for both export and import of goods, which included slaves.
Cows

- The gauchos in the more northern Campos Gerais area were slaves
  - There was around one slave cowboy for every 800 cows, as well as an overseer (also a slave)
  - More slaves on the estate would prepare hides and meat, craft necessary items, and transport products to market.
- Jerky was made in the Rio Grande do Sul region in special factories run almost entirely on slave labor
  - About 5,000 slaves worked in the industry
  - It was mostly domestic import eaten by slaves because Portuguese jerky was not considered as good as the Spanish version.

Ella
Plantations: Overview

- Started with native labor in the 16th century
- Encomienda system
  - A Spanish conquistador was given laborers who paid tribute to him and he protected them from war
  - Intended to be a mutualistic relationship but ended up being a form of slavery
- Encomienda system became a full-scale plantation by the end of the 17th century and Africans replaced Indians
Venezuelan Plantations

- Cacao
  - Labor needs were less intense, minimal supervision of slaves
  - Minimal equipment
  - Mulateers
  - Most plantations had around 30 slaves
Cotton and Sugar Plantations

- **Cotton Plantations**
  - About 50 slaves per plantation
  - Cotton major export of Brazil (export to Portugal)
  - Major plantations areas: Maranhao and Pernambuco provinces
    - Began in 1760’s
    - Production rose steadily until early 19th century (lost to US ginned cotton production)
  - 30k slaves involved in cotton in cotton industry in Brazil by 1800

Noah
Naval: Slaves as Sailors

- Slaves were largely involved in Coastwise shipping
  - Probably 10,000 slaves ended up involved as sailors in cabotage trade
  - Slaves were even used in the Atlantic slave trade, taking slaves from Africa directly to Brazil
  - Records say that 2,058 out of a total of 12,250 sailors in the slave trade were slaves themselves between 1795 and 1811
Whaling became a popular industry when the settlements became more economically stable, and people wanted to find wealth in the second half of the 18th century.
- Catarina was the whaling capital, bringing in 1,000 whales a year by 1770.
- Anyone could go whaling; free colored, poor white, and slave fisherman boats all found wealth this way. Some more than others, but it was a viable source of income at least from June to September.

The whales would be boiled into oils and the oil would be sold as a source of illumination.
- The factories were run on slave labor (somewhere between 50 and 100 slaves).
- As many as 3,000 slaves could be employed in this industry during a good year.
Baroque Culture

- Minas Gerais had a dozen cities in the 10000-20000 range which supported a highly urban lifestyle
- These cities had a developed Barroco Mineiro
  - Brought to Brazil by the Jesuits
  - There was also a very distinct type of music generated in the Portuguese colony
  - Aleijadinho was the most famous Brazilian baroque sculptor
  - There were also many poems and styles of clothing that accompanied this culture
Toccata in G minor (allegro)
Unknown composer
1785
Enslaved Marketing Women
Carlos Juliao
Circa 1770s

Caravane De Marchands Allant à Tijuca
Chaillot after H. Lalaisse
1838
Maria Graham

- Journal of a Voyage to Brazil
- Journal with illustrations and a history of Brazil
- Importance
- Shows how people of the time viewed slavery
Spanish Slave Code

- The Spanish Slave code was the laws about what slaves could/couldn’t do, what masters could do, and the punishments.
- The Spanish monarch directly issued orders regarding laws about slavery
- Included many Spanish cultural ideas about slavery
  - Self-purchase (gradual enfranchisement)
- Early abolitionist (1766) lauded the Spanish Slave Code as “A considerable step towards abolishing absolute slavery.”
- The Slave code was updated multiple times during the late 18th century to both help the slaves and slave owners
Spanish Slave Code: Treatment of Slaves

- “Humane” treatment of slaves:
  - No explicit civil rights, but did have many of the same legal protections and human rights as illegitimate “bastard” children (food, shelter, etc.), just without citizenship.
  - From roughly 1730-1750: courts ruled that slaves were human, were subject to human rights, and that mistreatment by masters was punishable.
- Royal/government positions created to (somewhat) defend the poor/disenfranchised in legal system (including slaves). Court-appointed royal bureaucrat: Defender of the Poor, Indians, and Slaves.
Changes to the Spanish Slave Code

- 1785: Carolinian Slave Code
- Teaching of Catholicism
- Teaching “a love of the Spanish nation”
- Granted the rights to small plots of land for personal use
- Outlined 10 ways a slave could be granted freedom by the state
  - Saving the life of a white person
  - Completing 30 years of faithful service
  - Surviving a shipwreck during a transatlantic crossing
- Allowed legal slave marriages to (Catholic) slaves
1789: Royal Instructions for the Education, Trade, and Work of Slaves
- Nothing about slave’s rights or manumission
- Mainly about slave owners and legal protections for slaves from their masters
  - Particularly: “Owners who caused ‘serious injury, loss of blood, or mutilation’ were to be punished ‘corresponding to the crime committed, as if the injured person were free’”
- Also provided ways for authorities to monitor the actions of slave owners

At the same times as this law was passed, Spain also allowed foreigners to directly import slaves to Spanish colonies
Mining: New Granada

- Indian labor not used successfully so they used African slaves
- End of 18th century: gold output declined and depressed conditions set in
- Slavery also declined as slaves bought their freedom and mining declined
Spanish islands

- European conflict over islands
- Growth of new slave centers in Latin America
- Asiento system was a contract between the Spanish crown and a person or power who was granted a monopoly in supplying slaves to Spanish colonies in the Americas
  - All colonial powers expanded slavery through this system
Mexico and Peru

- Did not participate in slavery
  - Lack of interest
- Met needs of agriculture, mining, and artisanal with Indian and mestizo (mixed race) labor forces
Cuba

- Sugar, tobacco, coffee, and mining
- Indian slave labor force
- 16th century no one was too interested in Cuba
- Defensive port in Havana that protected the silver armadas at the end of the 16th century
- Royal control over productions didn’t allow industries to grow
- Siege of Havana in 1760s
  - British opened up Cuba to international trade
- Spanish recovery in 1763
  - Allowed exploitation of the interior
- Cuba became the largest slave colony in Spanish America
Economic and Social Impacts of Slavery

- Slaves were forced into their masters’ cultures thus taking away their own and creating mixed cultures
- Many slaves practiced their religions in secret
- Slavery Started racial prejudice
- Slaves were a cheap resource in mines and plantations more beneficial to owners
  - Plantation owners gained more wealth
- With slaves the productions increased/boosted economy
Conclusion

● Slavery was very important in Spanish and Portuguese lands
● Brazil was the biggest slave colony
● Slavery began to decline in the 18th century
● Free colored class
Recap Timeline

Before 1690: Minas Gerais empty; interior region (gold mining region) unpopulated.
1700: Sugar production in Brazil backbone of the economy.
1711: Sugar prices rose; Bahian slaves exported to mines of Minas Gerais.
1726: Mining expanded significantly with more capital and manpower.
1730: 36,000 tons sugar exported from Brazil each year.
1735: Portuguese Crown removes the gold tax, instead resorting to a per-slave tax.
1740: Slave imports to Minas Gerais peaks; slave communities in area being decline.
    Major decline in gold production.
1750: 60% decrease in slave population in Minas Gerais since 1740’s.
1760: Cotton plantations appear for the first time in Brazil (Manahao and Pernambuco).

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1766: Beginnings of abolitionist movement in Spain.
1770: Catarina becomes whaling capital.
1780: Sugar industry regains strength; 20,000 tons per year (10% of all sugar exports).
1785: Carolinian Slave Code created by Spanish Crown.
1786: 174,000 slaves in Minas Gerais and at least 123,000 free people of color.
1789: Additions to Spanish Slave Code made.
    Spain allows any foreigners to import slaves directly to any Spanish colony.
1790: British abolitionist pressure on Spain.
1800: 30,000 slaves in Brazilian cotton plantations.
    Slave population at least 1,000,000 in Brazil.
1817: Spain (unsuccessfully) abolished slavery.