

Appendix: Chronology of Measures against Slavery

- 1772 Lord Mansfield's decision: Slaves become free upon entering the British Isles, thus making it illegal to repossess fugitive slaves.
- 1780 Pennsylvania passes act for the gradual abolition of slavery.
- 1783 The Society of Friends (England) forms an antislavery association for the relief of slaves and the discouragement of the slave trade.
- 1783 Massachusetts declares slavery illegal.
- 1787 The Abolition Society of Samuel Wilberforce founds Freetown, Sierra Leone, as a home for liberated slaves.
- 1788 Dolben Act regulates British slave trade.
- 1789 British Parliament debates the abolition of the slave trade.
- 1791 Slaves rebel on the French island of Saint Domingue. The last European forces are evacuated in 1798, and the independent, black government of Haiti is established.
- 1791 First U.S. measures abolishing the slave trade.
- 1792 Denmark declares its intention to abolish the slave trade.
- 1794 French Republic abolishes slavery (subsequently revoked by Napoleon, 1802).
- 1799 The Church Missionary Society (England) is founded to pursue humanitarian aims in Africa, including the fight against the slave trade.
- 1803 Denmark abolishes the slave trade.
- 1804 Haiti recognized as independent country, abolishes slavery.
- 1805 British Order-in-Council restricts the import of slaves into colonies captured from France and Holland (Le., since 1802).
- 1806 Act of Parliament prohibits British participation in the slave trade to foreign territories, effectively outlawing two-thirds of the British trade.

- 1807 The Abolition Act prohibits all British subjects from participation in the slave trade as of January 1, 1808. A naval squadron that eventually reaches one-sixth of the total strength of the Royal Navy is dispatched to blockade the West African coast.
- 1808 Sierra Leone becomes a British colony and a center of antislave trade activities.
- 1808 The United States abolishes slave trade.
- 1810 Anglo-Portuguese treaty whereby Portugal agrees to restrict its slave trade to its own colonies.
- 1811 Parliament strengthens the Abolition Act by declaring that British subjects engaged in the slave trade are to be considered pirates.
- 1813 Anglo-Swedish treaty whereby Sweden outlaws the slave trade.
- 1814 The Treaty of Paris: France and Britain agree that the slave trade is “repugnant to the principles of natural justice.” France agrees to limit its trade to its own colonies and to abolish the trade in five years.
- 1814 Anglo-Netherlands treaty whereby the latter outlaws the slave trade.
- 1814 Anglo-Spanish treaty whereby Spain limits its slave trade to its own colonies and prohibits the trade north of the equator after 1817 and south of the equator after 1820 in return for £400,000 in compensation.
- 1815 Anglo-Portuguese treaty whereby Portugal agrees to limit its slave trade to its possessions south of the equator. In return, Britain waives Portugal’s war debt of £450,000.
- 1815 Congress of Vienna: Britain, France, Prussia, Russia, Portugal, Spain, Austria, and Sweden condemn the slave trade as “repugnant to the principles of humanity and universal morality.”
- 1817 British convention with Portugal limits the Portuguese slave trade in East Africa to an area from Cape Delgado to the Bay of Lourenco Marques. Portugal also concedes visit-and-search rights on Portuguese ships suspected of violating this and other agreements.
- 1817 British treaty with Imerina prohibits the export of slaves from Madagascar in return for compensation of £2,000 per year. Imerina outlaws slave raiding in the Comoro Islands on penalty of being reduced to slavery.
- 1817 Anglo-Spanish treaty grants Britain the right to detain Spanish ships.
- 1818 France outlaws the slave trade.
- 1820 British treaty with Imerina is extended.
- 1820–5 Slavery is outlawed throughout the newly independent Spanish countries of Latin America.
- 1821 Slave imports into Cuba become illegal, although the effect is minimal.
- 1822 The American Colonization Society establishes Liberia as a home for liberated American slaves.

- 1822 Moresby Treaty between Britain and Muscat prohibits the export of slaves by Europeans in East Africa and establishes a British observer at Zanzibar. Britain recognizes Omani claims in East Africa, including the existence of slavery.
- 1823 A third treaty with Imerina whereby Britain is authorized to seize slavers; it also provides for the resettlement of liberated slaves.
- 1823 Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Dominions is founded.
- 1824 Establishment of British protectorate over Mombasa with intention to restrict slave trade; protectorate terminates in 1826 under Zanzibar pressure.
- 1825 Hugh Clapperton and Dixon Denham negotiate treaties with the Sokoto Caliphate and Borno to end slave exports in return for trade in European goods.
- 1826 Newly independent Brazil accepts Portugal's treaty obligations with Britain and promises to abolish the slave trade in three years.
- 1829 Mexico abolishes slavery.
- 1831 Anglo-French treaty provides for mutual, limited right to search vessels suspected of carrying slaves.
- 1831 Brazil officially abolishes slave trade.
- 1833 Britain emancipates slaves in its West Indian colonies, South Africa, and Mauritius, with compensation to slave owners; emancipation takes effect on August 1, 1834, although a system of apprenticeship lasts for four years in some colonies.
- 1835 Anglo-Spanish treaty for condemnation of slave ships.
- 1836 Portugal abolishes slave trade.
- 1838 Thomas F. Buxton launches a campaign against slavery, advocating free trade and the colonization of the African interior with freed, Christian slaves. Buxton's efforts result in the strengthening of the British naval squadron off the West African coast and the signing of antislave trade treaties with African states.
- 1839 Convention between Oman (Zanzibar) and Britain, which extends rights of search and seizure.
- 1839 Joseph Sturge founds the British Anti-Slavery Society.
- 1839 Buxton establishes the African Civilization Society as part of his abolition campaign.
- 1841 The British Aborigines' Protection Society is founded in England.
- 1841 Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia agree to extend rights of search and seizure to halt the slave trade, although France refuses to ratify the treaty.
- 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty: Britain and the United States agree to maintain a naval force of at least eighty guns off the African coast as part of a joint commitment to suppress the slave trade.

- 1843 The legal status of slavery is abolished in India and elsewhere, although slaves are not emancipated.
- 1843 France initiates *engage* or “free labor” emigration in its colonial possessions to circumvent antislavery treaties.
- 1844 Britain signs treaty with Sultanate of Anjouin (Comoro Islands) to prevent French recruitment of *engage* labor.
- 1845 Anglo-French treaty: Both powers agree to maintain at least twenty-six cruisers off the African coast as an antislave-trade force; rights of search and seizure are abrogated. France does not adhere to the treaty, which is allowed to expire after ten years.
- 1845 British treaty with Oman (Zanzibar): Slave trade is restricted to Oman’s possessions in Arabia and East Africa; Britain secures the right of search and seizure.
- 1846 Tunisia abolishes the slave trade to gain British support against the Ottoman Empire.
- 1847 The Ottoman Empire prohibits the slave trade in the Persian Gulf and closes public slave markets in Constantinople.
- 1847 Liberia becomes an independent republic.
- 1848 Persia bans the maritime slave trade.
- 1848 France emancipates slaves in its colonies.
- 1849 French preventative squadron off the West African coast is reduced.
- 1849 France establishes Libreville, Gabon, as a settlement for freed slaves.
- 1849 Establishment of British consuls and agents in West Africa to supervise treaty obligations, including antislave trade provisions. Royal Navy squadron is strengthened.
- 1850 Brazil enforces slave trade abolition.
- 1851 Britain deposes the ruler of Lagos for his refusal to take action against the slave trade. Antislave trade treaties are signed with Lagos, Dahomey, Porto Novo, Badagry, and Abeokuta.
- 1851 Anglo-Persian treaty grants Britain right of search and seizure.
- 1854 Portugal decrees that slaves in its territories are *libertos*.
- 1854 Egypt bans public slave markets, although trade continues in private.
- 1854 The Ottoman Empire prohibits the white slave trade.
- 1855 First of several treaties with principalities on the Red Sea coast that grant right of search and seizure to Britain; official appointed to Berbera.
- 1857 The Ottoman Empire prohibits the slave trade in its domains, although the decree is not enforced.
- 1859 France abolishes the *engage* system, although enforcement is not strict.
- 1861 The Canning Award: Zanzibar and Oman are separated, thereby setting the stage for the further suppression of the slave trade in the Indian Ocean.

- 1862 Treaty of Washington: The United States grants Britain the right of search and seizure.
- 1865 Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishes slavery.
- 1865 British treaty with Imerina whereby Imerina prohibits the importation of slaves.
- 1867 Cuba ends slave trade.
- 1869 The Royal Navy begins intensive patrolling against Arab slave trade.
- 1869 Portugal abolishes slavery.
- 1870 Ownership of slaves becomes illegal in India.
- 1873 Kirk-Barghash treaty: Zanzibar bans public slave markets and promises to protect liberated slaves.
- 1874 Proclamation for the emancipation of slaves on the Gold Coast, following the British defeat of Asante.
- 1875 British treaty with Tunisia confirming abolition of slavery and the slave trade. Annexation subsequently revoked.
- 1876 France incorporates Walo and Dimar into Senegal, thereby abolishing slavery.
- 1876 British Royal Commission investigates the treatment of fugitive slaves in East Africa but opposes asylum for fugitives except in cases of physical danger.
- 1877 Anglo-Egyptian treaty prohibits the import, export, and transit of slaves in Egypt; domestic slavery to be outlawed by 1884 in Egypt and 1889 in the Nilotic Sudan.
- 1877 Britain undertakes to reorganize the Zanzibar army to combat the slave trade in the interior.
- 1877 Imerina declares all slaves from Mozambique free.
- 1878 Portugal abolishes legal status of slavery.
- 1880 Anglo-Ottoman Convention reaffirms the prohibition of the slave trade and grants Britain rights of search.
- 1882 Colonel Charles Gordon, seeking to check the Mahdist rebellion, rescinds the law banning the slave trade in the Nilotic Sudan.
- 1883 Morocco rejects the “friendly appeal” of the British Foreign Office for the abolition of slavery.
- 1883 The African Department of the British Foreign Office replaces the Slave Trade Department as the era of “moral temporizing” ends.
- 1883 Britain assigns four traveling consuls to East Africa to replace naval action against the slave trade.
- 1884 France and Britain forbid employees and *proteges* in Morocco to own slaves.
- 1884 British treaty with Ethiopia grants Ethiopia access to the Red Sea through Massawa on a condition that slave trade ends in the interior.

- 1885 Berlin Conference: Britain, France, Austria, Germany, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Italy, the Ottoman Empire, Sweden, Denmark, and the United States agree to “help in suppressing slavery,” although no direct measures are taken against the slave trade in Africa.
- 1888 Brazil becomes the last American country to abolish slavery.
- 1888 Cardinal Lavigerie inaugurates a campaign against the slave trade in central Africa, thereby revitalizing the humanitarian cause in Britain and Europe.
- 1888 Imperial British East Africa Company pays more than £3,000 compensation for 1,400 fugitive slaves at the CMS mission stations near Mombasa.
- 1888 Germany, Britain, and Italy blockade the coast of Zanzibar, ostensibly to suppress the slave trade.
- 1889 Zanzibar grants the British and Germans perpetual right of search, decrees that new slaves entering its domains after November 1, 1889 shall be free, and provides for the emancipation of all slave children born after January 1, 1890.
- 1889 Brussels Conference: The participants of the Berlin Conference, plus Persia, Zanzibar, and the Congo Free State, condemn slavery and the slave trade. Bureaux are established in Brussels and Zanzibar to collate and disseminate information on the slave trade.
- 1892 Convention between France and the independent states of Senegal in which slaves are recognized as servants; French courts grant certificates of liberty to those slaves buying their freedom.
- 1893 Renwell Rodd’s report to the British parliament recommending the gradual abolition of the slave trade in East Africa.
- 1894 British emancipation ordinance in the Gambia for gradual termination of slavery; slaves to be free at death of master or payment of £10 (adults) or £5 (children).
- 1896 Legal status of slavery abolished in Sierra Leone.
- 1897 Legal status of slavery abolished in Zanzibar.
- 1897 Slavery is abolished in Madagascar, following the French invasion of Imerina in 1895.
- 1899 Joint deputation of Quakers and the Anti-Slavery Society meets with the British Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs to demand emancipation of slaves in Africa.
- 1900 Britain abolishes the legal status of slavery in the occupied parts of Nigeria with the intention of extending the decree throughout Nigeria.
- 1909 Institution of slavery abolished in Zanzibar.
- 1919 Treaty of Saint Germain-en-Laye: The Allies limit (but do not prohibit) the slave trade in Africa. The signatories pledge to “secure the

- complete suppression of slavery in all its forms and of the slave trade by land and sea.”
- 1926 Forty-four countries ratify the slavery convention of the League of Nations.
- 1928 Institution of slavery is abolished in Sierra Leone.
- 1930 League of Nations’ prohibition of slavery is extended to include all forms of forced labor.
- 1936 League of Nations establishes a Permanent Advisory Committee on the suppression of the slave trade.
- 1942 Legal status of slavery is abolished in Ethiopia.
- 1962 Saudi Arabia becomes the last country to abolish the legal status of slavery.

