

## The Atlantic Slave Trade

- I. The Plantation System
  - a. Origins in Cape Verde and Brazil
  - b. Established in the Caribbean
  - c. Triangles of Trade
- II. Slavery in Africa
  - a. Olaudah Equiano
- III. Africans in the New World
  - a. West Indies
  - b. Eastern Seaboard
  - c. South America

**Summary:** The Atlantic Slave Trade was the bedrock of European expansion and commerce in the New World. It was also a vibrant and terrifying exchange of violence as well as ideas that permanently altered peoples, nations and landscapes around the world. This lecture introduces us to the origins of the slave trade in Africa, its use by European traders and the effects of Africans in the New World on Europeans and Africans. We will explore the rise of the slave plantation, the slave trade inside Africa, and three different contexts where Europeans enslaved Africans.

### Further Reading:

*The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex and Cross-Cultural Trade in World History*, Philip Curtin  
*Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800*, John Thornton

*Sweetness and Power*, Sidney Mintz

*The Origins of the Modern World*, Robert B. Marks

[The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano](#) (1794)

And for a wonderful history of 18<sup>th</sup> century U.S. slavery history, read Jill Lepore, *New York Burning*