In these notes black is what the material assigned says and red are my comments

The Story of the World’s First Racist Chapter 1

The year is 1415 and Prince Henry convinced his father, King John of Portugal,.. to capture the main Muslim trading depot on the northeastern tip of Morrocco. Why?..The Muslims had riches, and if Prince Hen ry could get the Muslims out fo the way, then those riches and resources could be easily accessed. Stolen...The take, a bountiful supply of gold. And Africans….I mean property, Human property.

The author doesn’t tell you that the Ummayad’s had [conquered](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) the Iberian peninsula 700 years before. So why doesn’t he consider the Ummayad’s the world’s first racist. He says Zurara gave religious justification to slavery but Muhammad did a long time before Zurara.

More recent attempts to conquer spain

Zurara wrote about Prince Henry and wrote about enslaving people as missionary work in which they were civilizing African savages. Zurara was saying that they were enslaving people to save their wretched souls.

(The British actually did abolish slavery in Africa while they were in control and so did other european countries. They got rid of the ritual of sati in India)

Prince Henry was more of a gangster but it was framed as a noble cause. Zurara was the first to write about and defend human ownership.

Islam defends slavery. The Koran permits slavery.

Zurara’s book the Chonicle fo there Discovery and Conquest of Guinea was a hit. Zurara’s book became an anthem. A song sung all across Europe as the primary source of knowledge on unknown Africa and African peoples for the original slave traders and enslavers in Spain, Holland France and England. Zurara depicted Africans as savage animals that needed taming.

Al Hasan Ibn Muhammad al Wazzan al Fasi was a well educated Moroccan who was captured and enslaved. He was freed and converted to Christianity by Pope Leo X. He was then called Leo Africanus or Leo the African. He himself described Africans as hypersexual savages amking hin the first known African racist. When I was growing up we called this “drinking the Kool Aid” or selling out”.

A lot of Africans were savage. This is what Zurara wrote:

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 All the Numidians being moft ignorant of naturall, domefticall, & commonwealth-matters, are principally addicted vnto treafon, trecherie, murther, theft, and robberie.  This nation, becaufe it is moft flauifh, will right gladly accept of any eruice among the Barbarians, be it neuer fo vile or contemptible.  For fome will take vpon them to be dung-farmers, others to be feullians, fome others to bee oftlers, and fuch like feruile occupations.  Likewife the inhabitants of Libya liue a brutifh kind of life; who negleting all kinds of good artes and fciences, doe wholy apply their mindes vnto theft and violence.  Neuer as yet had they any religion, any lawes, or any good forme of liuing' but alwaies ahd, and euer will haue a moft miferable and diftreffed life.  There cannot any trechery or villanie be inuented fo damnable, which for lucres fake they dare not attempt.  They fpend all their daies either in moft lewd practifes, or in hunting, or elfe in warfare' neihter weare they any fhooes nor garments.  The Negros likewife leade a beaftly kind of life, being tterly deftitute of the vfe of reafon, of dexteritie of wit, and af all artes.  Yea they fo behaue themfelues, as if they had continually liued in a forreft among wilde beafts.  They haue great fwarmes of harlots among them; whereupon a man may eafily coniecture their manner of liuing; except their conuerfation perhaps be fomewhat more tolerable, who dwell in the principall townes and cities: for it is like that they are fomewhat more addicted to ciuilitie.

Neither am I ignorant, how much mine owne credit is impeached, when I my felfe write fo homely of Africa, vnto which countrie I ftand indebted both for my birth and alfo for the beft part of my education: Howbeit in this regarde I feeke not to excufe my felfe but onely to appeale vunto the dutie of an hiftoriographer, who is to fet downe the plaine truth in all paces, and is blame-woorthie for flattering or fauouring of any pefon.  And this is the caufe that hath mooued me to defcribe all things fo plainly without glofing or diffimulation: wherefore here I am to requeft the gentle Reader friendly to accept fo this my moft true difcourfe, (albeit not adorned with fine words and artificiall eloquence) as of certaine vnknowne ftrange matters.  Wherein how indifferent and fincere I hae fhewed my felfe, it may in few words appeere by that which followesth.  It is reported of a lewd countriman

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The idea that Africans needed slavery in order to be fed and taught Jesus, and that it was all ordained by God, began to seep in and stick to the European cultural psyche . Adn a few hundred years later, this idea would eventually reach America.

1) Climate Theory came form Aristotle who suggested that the heat of Africa made them inferior. Maybe if they lived in cooler temperatures they could become white.

2) Curse Theory In 1577 after noticing that Inuit people in north eastern Canada were arker than the people living in the hotter south George Best decided it couldn’t be climate that made darker people inferior and that they must be cursed.Noah ordered his sons not to have sex on the ark with their wives but Ham did so God willed that Ham’s descendants be dark. From the bible.

The idea that they needed to be enslaved to be civilized and saved led to the idea of the master as a loving person and the relationship as between a parent and child or teacher and pupil and one big happy family.

John Cotton and Richard Mather were puritans who ushered in slavery into America and who saw themselves as do gooders. Cotton and Mather were students of Aristotle. Aristotle believed greeks were superior to non-Greeks. They believed Puritans were better. That they were God’s chosen people.

They made it so Greek and Latin texts could not be disputed. Whcih meant that Aristotle who believed that climate made white people superior could not be disputed.

Farmers who had slaves in America didn’t want to baptize slaves. They said

Africans were too barbaric to be converted

Africans were savage at the soul

Africans couldn’t be loved even by God.

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The philosopher John Locke believed that the purest minds belonged to whites.

Lucilio Vanini believed blacks were born of a different Adam.

There were people who stood up against these racist ideas. The Mennonites in Germantown PA. They were a Christian denomination from German and Dutch speaking areas of central Europe. They circulated an antislavery petition on April 18 denouncing oppression due to skin color equating it with religious oppression. This was the first piece of anti-racist writing in colonial America.

Puritans were fighting native Americans and cut up the body of their leader metacomet

Hunted by a group of rangers led by [Captain Benjamin Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Church_%28ranger%29), King Philip was fatally shot by a [praying Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praying_Indian) named [John Alderman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Alderman), on August 12, 1676, in the Misery Swamp near [Mount Hope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Hope_%28Rhode_Island%29) in [Bristol, Rhode Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol%2C_Rhode_Island). After his death, his wife and nine-year-old son were captured and sold as slaves in [Bermuda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda). Philip's head was mounted on a pike at the entrance to [Plymouth, Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth%2C_Massachusetts), where it remained for more than two decades. His body was cut into quarters and hung in trees.[5] Alderman was given Philip's right hand as a trophy.

Governor Berkeley pardoned white rebels and legislators prescribed 30 lashes against any slave who lifted a hand against a Christian. This was the creation of white privilege

Samuel Parris was a minister in Massachusetts. In 1692 when Parris’s daughter suffered convulsions he believed she had been cursed by a witch. He says the Salem witchhunt made the Black face the face of criminality. He argues this because one puritan accuser described the devil as a little black bearded man.

Most of the witches accused were white. Of the 200 people accused during the salem witch trials only 3 were black slaves Mary, Tituba and Candy and they were all released.

Set of codes

No interracial relationships

Tax imported captives

classify blacks as livestock

blacks can’t hold office

all property owned by a black is sold?

White indentured servants got 50 acres of property.

Cotton Mather all high and mighty was still trying to convince people that the only thing necessary the only mission of slavery had to be to save the souls of the slaves because through that salvation the enslaved would in turn be whitened. Purified.

https://www.history.com/news/smallpox-vaccine-onesimus-slave-cotton-mather

Mather, who had been a powerful figure in the[Salem Witch Trials](https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/salem-witch-trials),[believed](https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/48057585.pdf) that slave owners had a duty to convert slaves to Christianity and educate them. But like other white men of his era, he also looked down on what he called the “Devilish rites” of Africans and worried that enslaved people might openly rebel.

Mather believing in converting slaves to Christianity and educating them is not such a bad thing. Not necessarily have to do with whiteness.

The first great awakening swept through the colonies in the 1730s spearheaded by Jonathan Edwards.