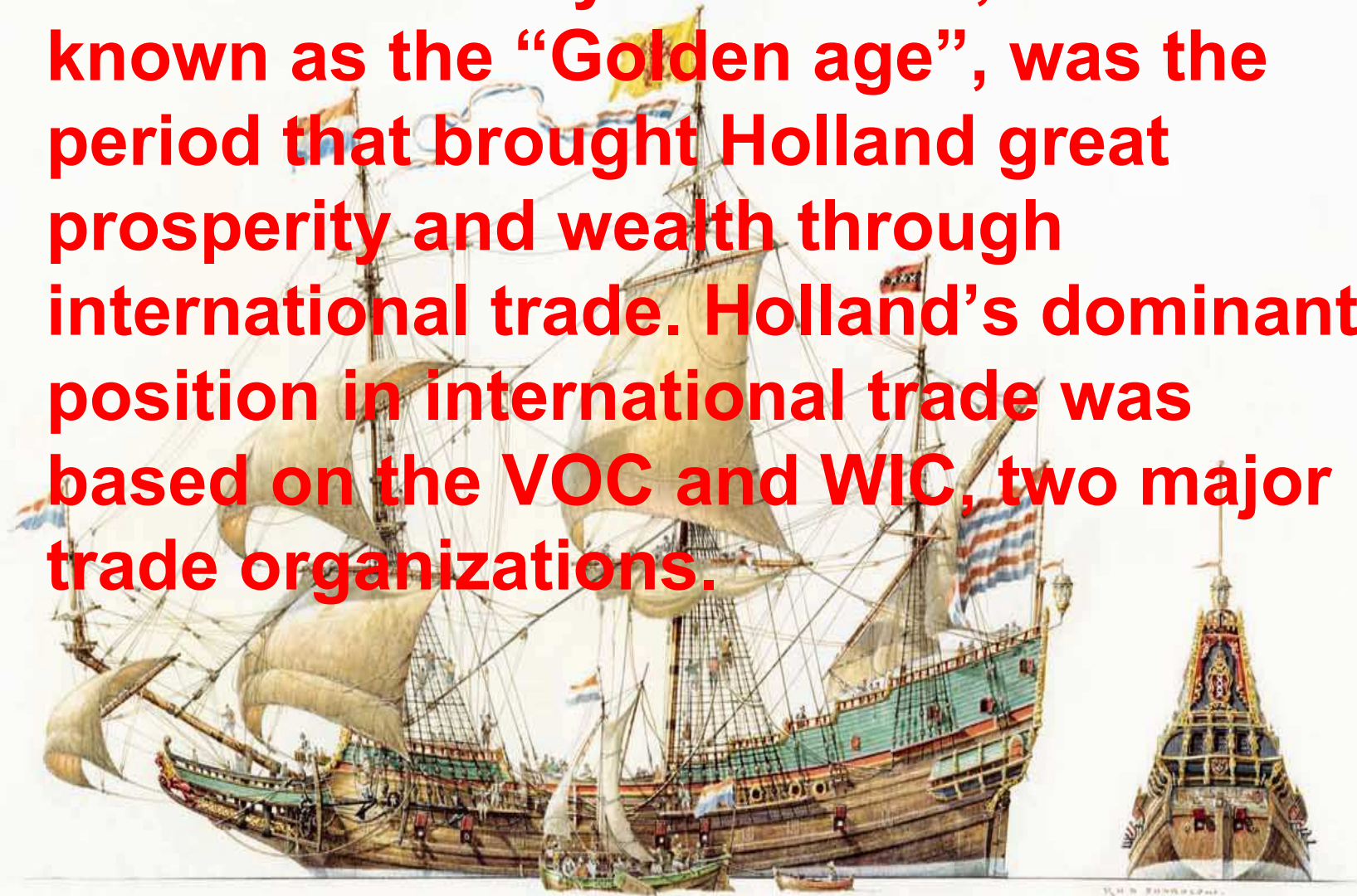


A group of approximately ten young people, mostly in formal attire like suits and dresses, are gathered around a table. They appear to be at a social event or conference. The table is set with various drinks, including coffee and water, and some food items. The background shows an indoor setting with a bar area and some furniture. The overall atmosphere is professional yet social.

**Barlaeus'
delegates present:**

**Dutch
participation in
slave-trade** (in the
17th and 18th century)

- The 17th century in Holland, also known as the “Golden age”, was the period that brought Holland great prosperity and wealth through international trade. Holland’s dominant position in international trade was based on the VOC and WIC, two major trade organizations.

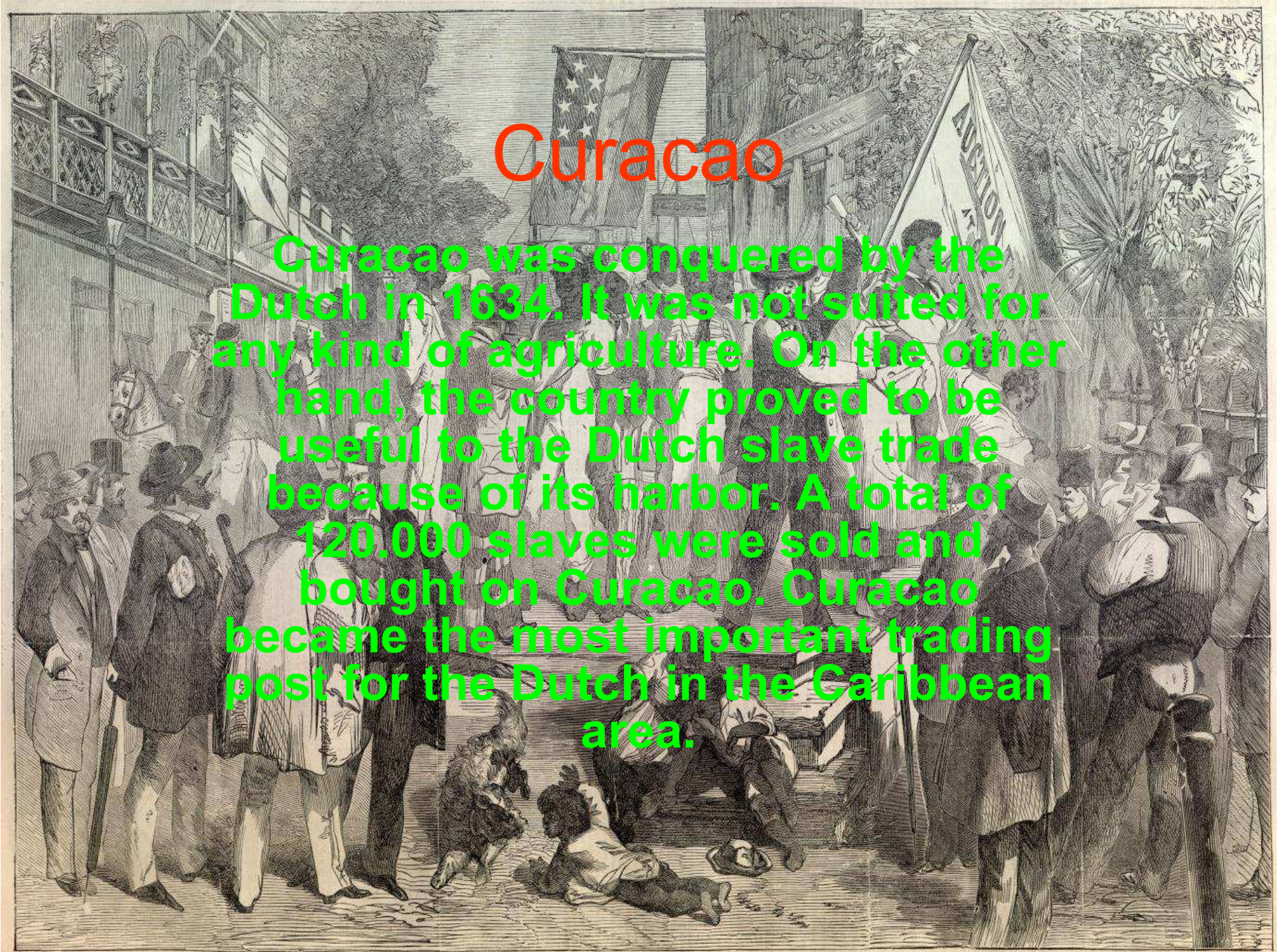


- **The VOC and WIC started as regular good-trading companies. However, in 1634, the WIC began to participate in slave-trading on a large scale.**



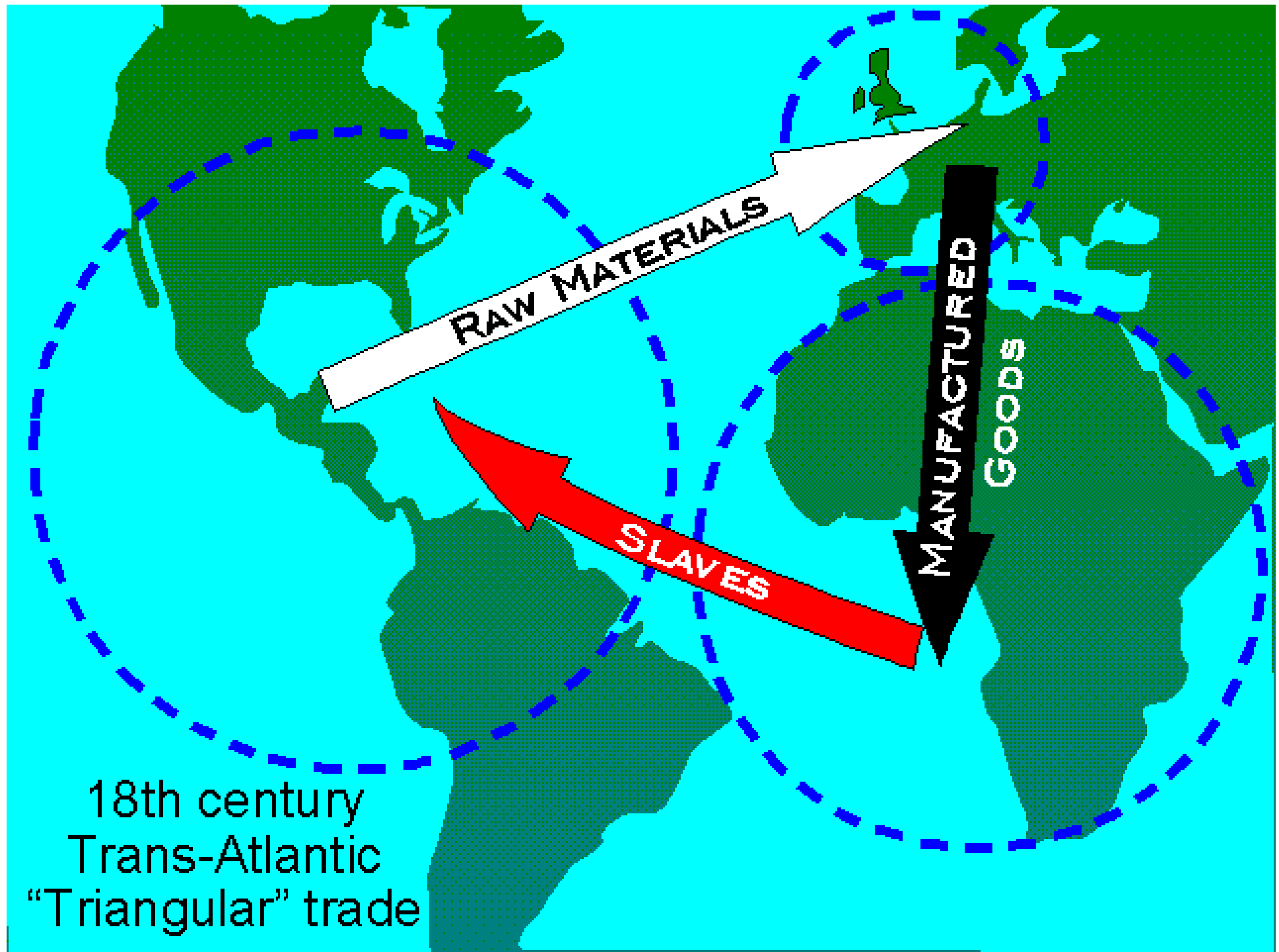
Curacao

Curacao was conquered by the Dutch in 1634. It was not suited for any kind of agriculture. On the other hand, the country proved to be useful to the Dutch slave trade because of its harbor. A total of 120,000 slaves were sold and bought on Curacao. Curacao became the most important trading post for the Dutch in the Caribbean area.



Triangular trade system

The WIC sailed off to the West-African coast carrying goods like clothing, iron and boesjes (local currency). They traded these goods for slaves, who were shipped to Curacao. The slaves were traded there for pepper and other goods. These were the goods the WIC brought home.



18th century
Trans-Atlantic
"Triangular" trade

The slaves were African natives, captured by local kings. After walking for over a thousand kilometres from the African inlands to the coast, they were sold to the WIC.

Local kings selling slaves



Slave caravan to the coast



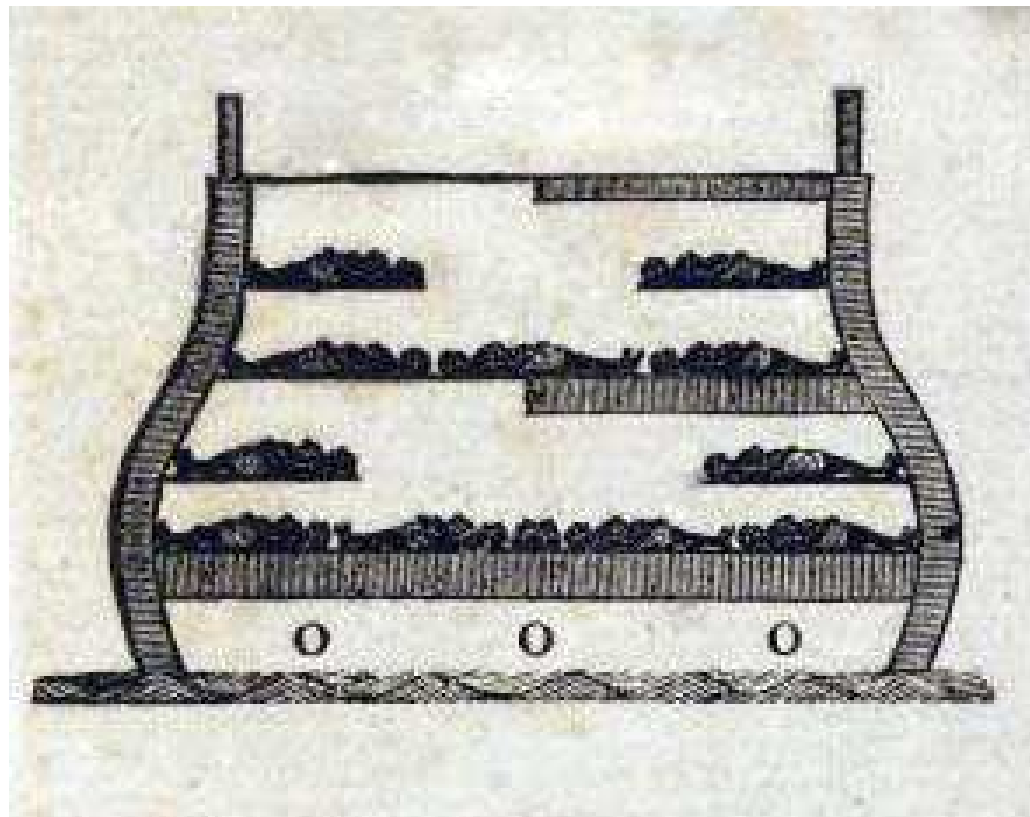
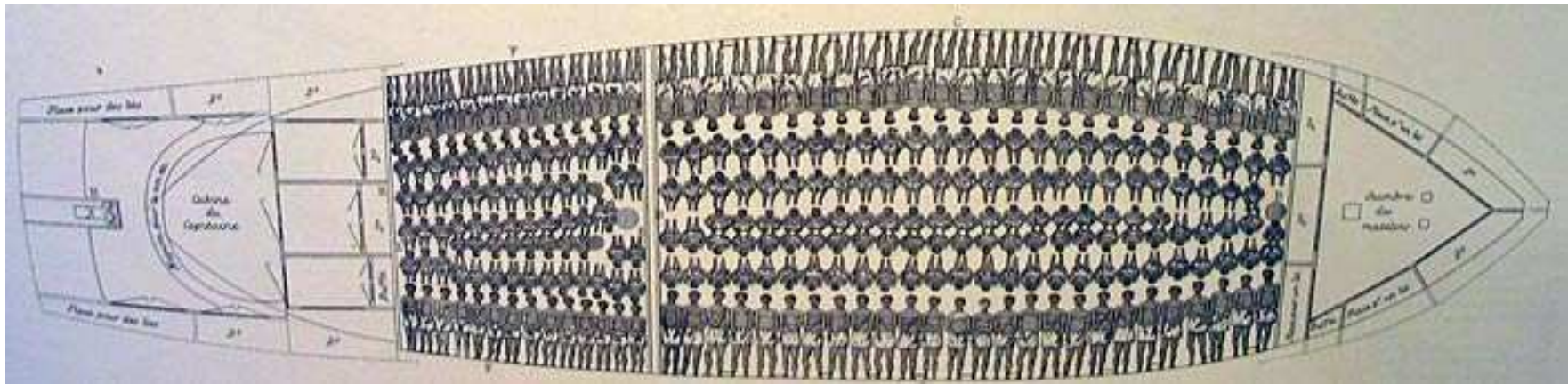
Shipping

A large three-masted sailing ship with white sails and a blue hull is shown on the water. The ship has several flags flying from its masts. In the background, there are green hills under a blue sky with some clouds. A small boat with people is visible in the foreground.

The conditions on the slave trading ships were bad. The WIC put as many slaves as possible on one ship, which resulted in slaves lying against and on top of each other. Male slaves were cuffed and only had a few moments during their time on the ship to stretch their legs. The female slaves were often assaulted by the ship's crew.

How do you think the
slaves were shipped
across the ocean?

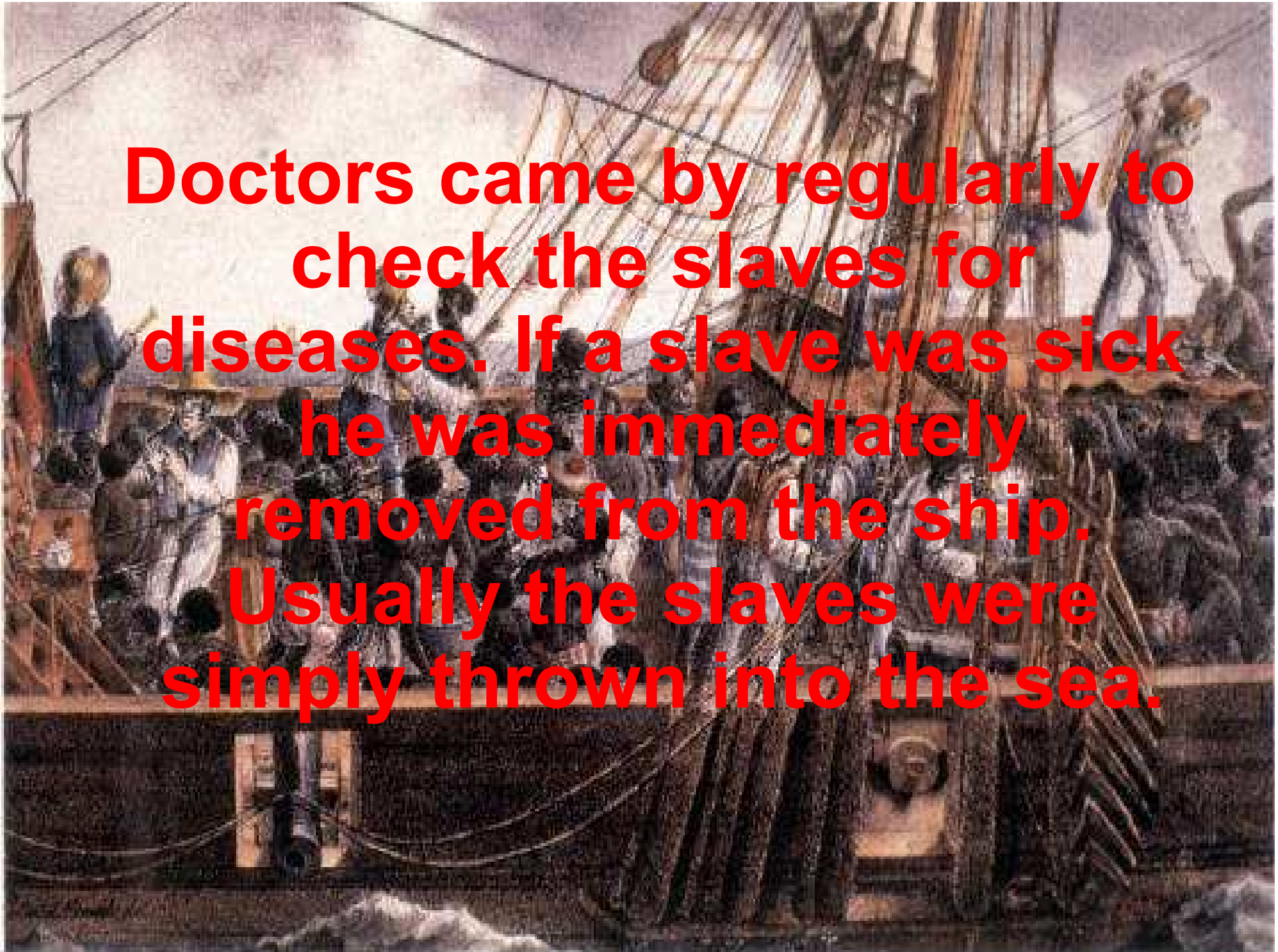
See for yourself ->



A large wooden sailing ship with multiple masts and sails, sailing on the ocean. The ship is the central focus of the image, with its complex rigging and multiple masts clearly visible. The sails are a light brown color, and the ship's hull is dark wood. The background shows a vast, calm sea under a clear sky.

**You can imagine that the slaves could hardly move!
Per ship there was space for 100/500 slaves.
However, usually, the ship was cramped with as many as 900 slaves!**

Doctors came by regularly to check the slaves for diseases. If a slave was sick he was immediately removed from the ship. Usually the slaves were simply thrown into the sea.



According to you, how many slaves died during the slave trade on the sea?

- a) approximately 100?
- b) approximately 500?
- c) approximately 1000?

Almost 10.000 (!) slaves
died on Dutch ships
between 1550 and 1850.

Causes of death:

- **Diseases**
- **Punishments**
- **Seasickness**
- **Starvation**

Selling

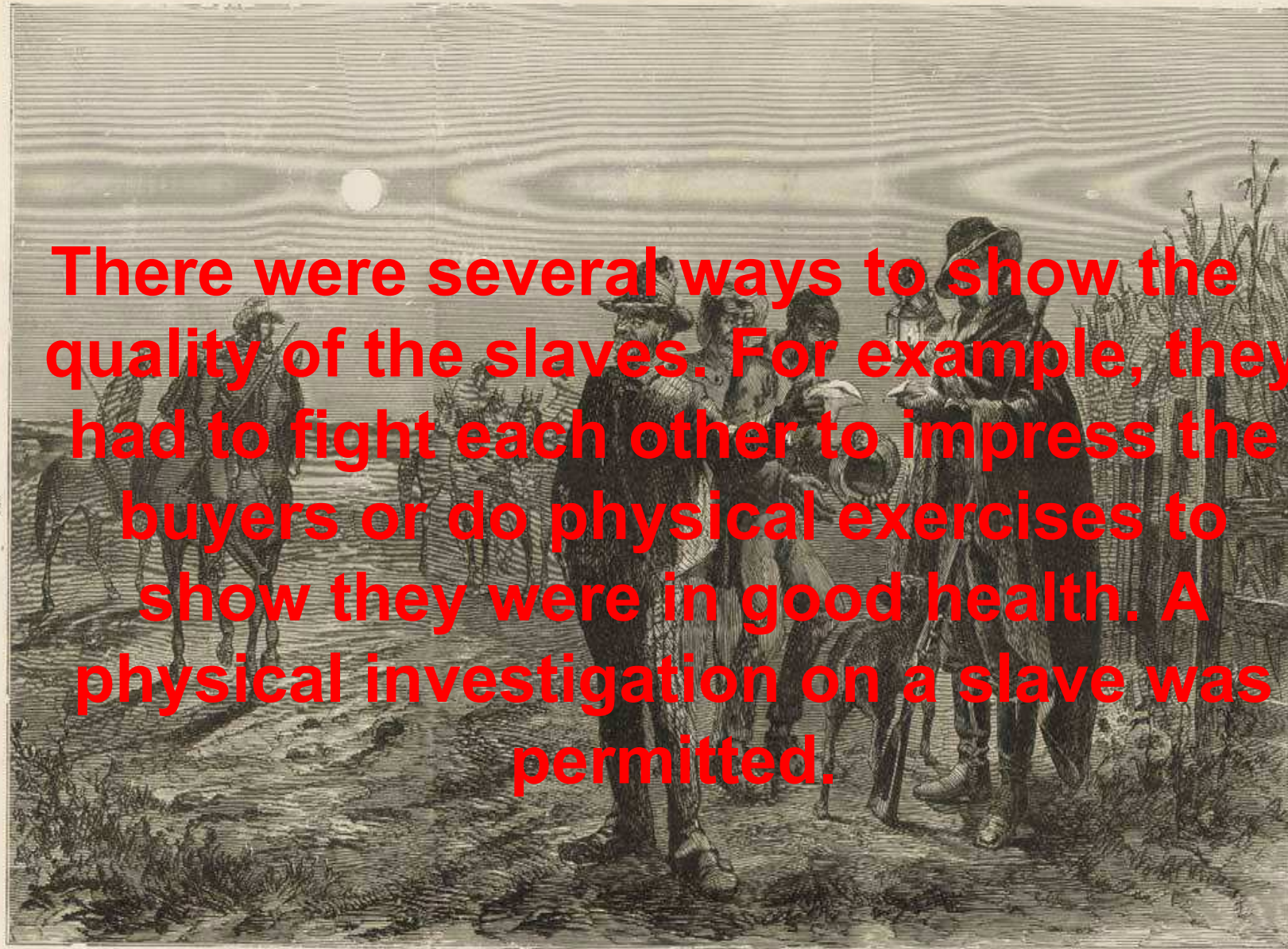
If the slaves survived the voyage, they were brought to the slave market. To receive more money for the slaves, the traders dyed their slaves' grey hair black and rubbed them with oil to make them look younger.



NEGROES, TO BE SOLD



A Parcel of young able bodied Negro Men, one of whom is a Cooper by Trade, two Negroes Wenches, and likewise two Girls, one of 12 Years old, and the other 16, the latter a good Seemstress, and can be well recommended.



There were several ways to show the quality of the slaves. For example, they had to fight each other to impress the buyers or do physical exercises to show they were in good health. A physical investigation on a slave was permitted.

THE PLANTATION POLICE, OR HOME GUARD, EXAMINING NEGRO PASSES ON THE LEVEE ROAD, BELOW NEW ORLEANS, LA.

The Plantation Police, or Patrol, was an institution peculiar to the Slave States. It was a semi-military organization, raised and supported by the planters, but recognized by the old State authorities. Their principal duty was to visit the various plantations and patrol the roads at night, arresting all negroes and others not having proper passes. The war, the President's proclamation, and the actual possession of most of the State of Louisiana by the Federal authorities, rendered these patrols doubly rigorous. Some of the negroes submitted reluctantly. The colored man in the foreground is a specimen of this class. He seems to yield to the superior force of a towering power, satisfied that his day is at hand; others show the obsequious, submissive stamp—the negro satisfied with his lot if he is clothed and fed.

Slaves who
misbehaved
were often
horribly tortured
and mutilated.

This was to
punish, but also
to scare the
other slaves.





Because of all
the
mistreatment,
the slaves
often
revolted.



**During these revolts a lot of
slaves died**

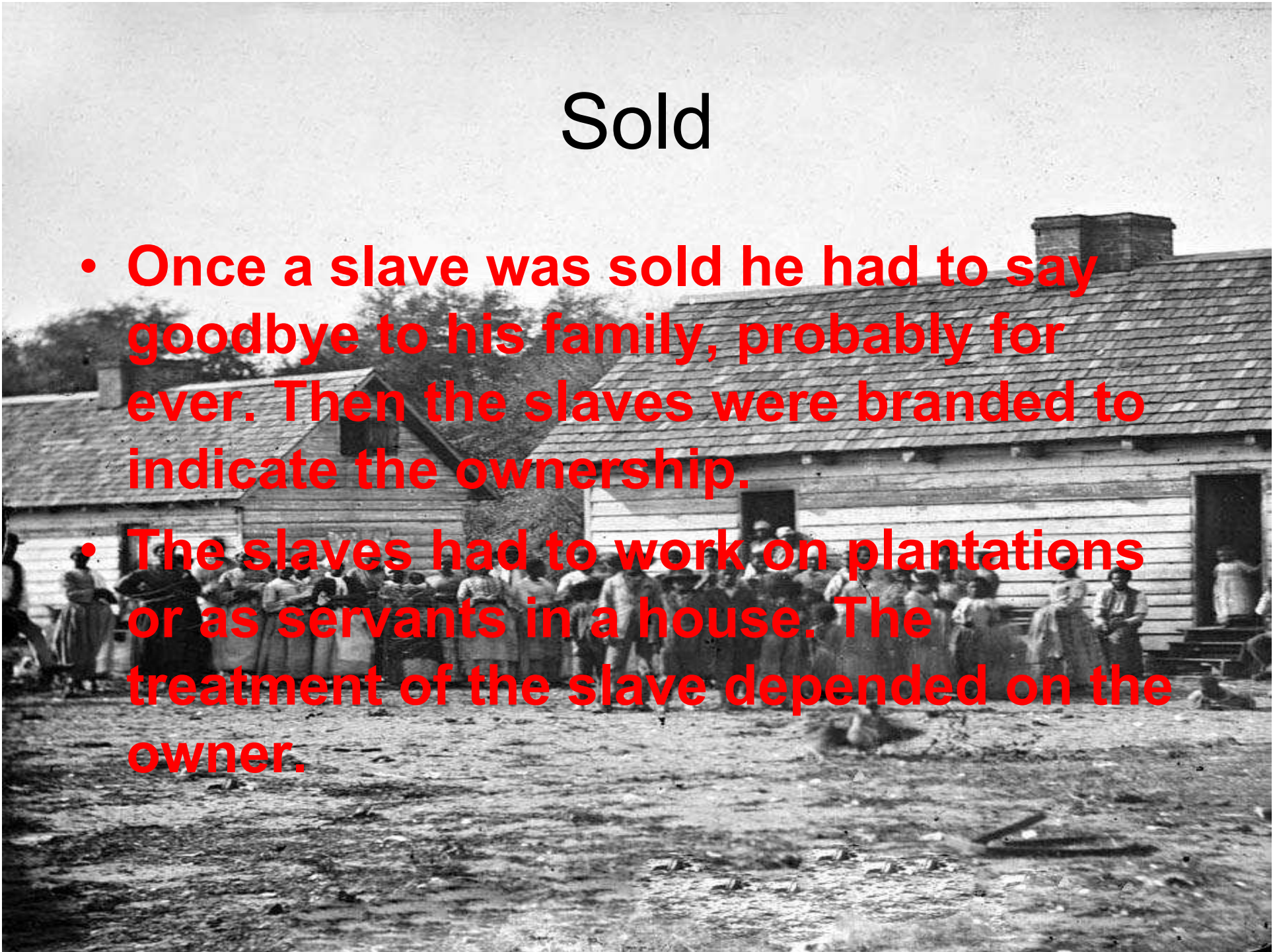


All the slaves were marked with an iron rod in a terribly painful way before being sold.



Sold

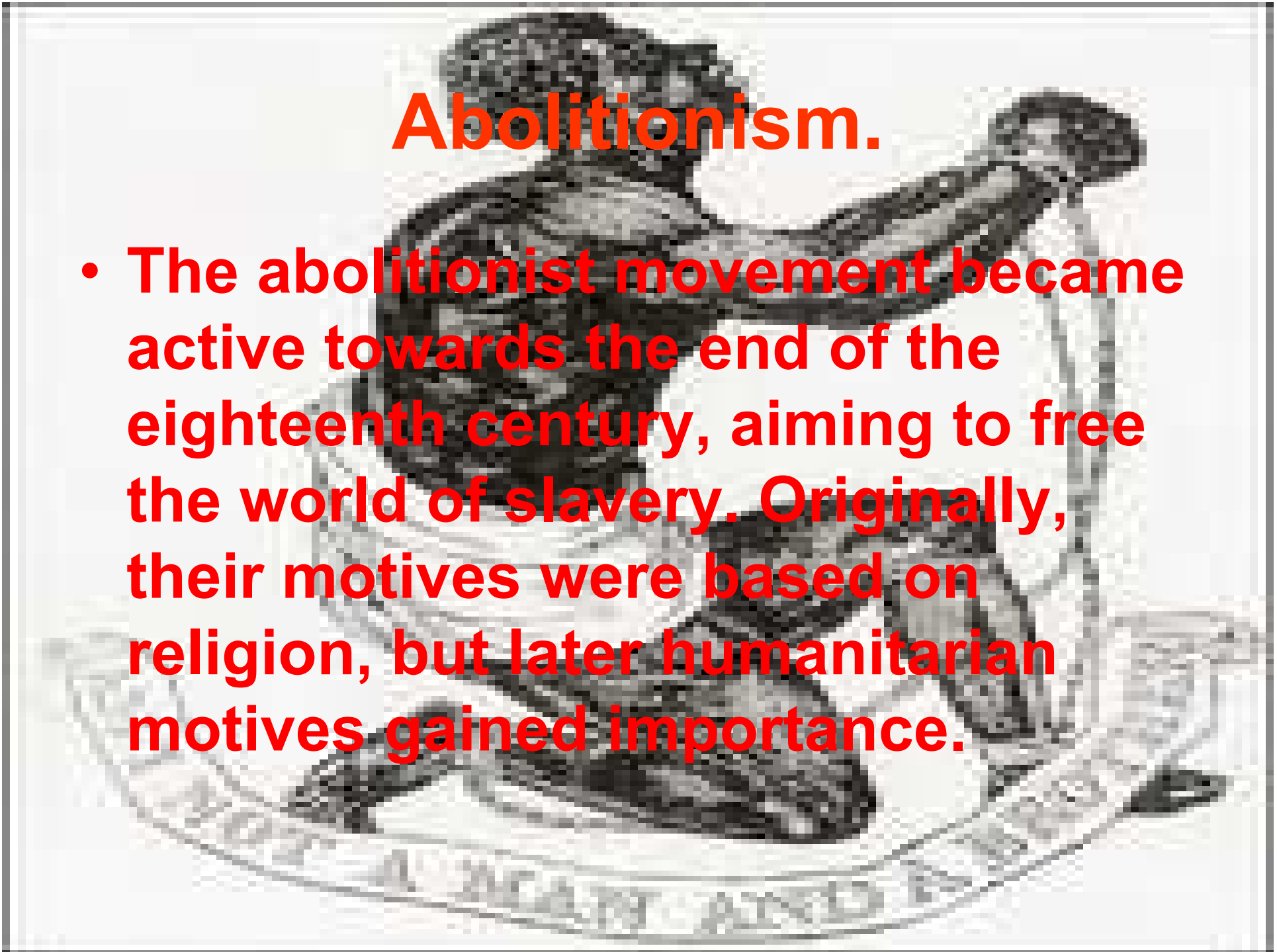
- Once a slave was sold he had to say goodbye to his family, probably for ever. Then the slaves were branded to indicate the ownership.
- The slaves had to work on plantations or as servants in a house. The treatment of the slave depended on the owner.





Abolitionism.

- **The abolitionist movement became active towards the end of the eighteenth century, aiming to free the world of slavery. Originally, their motives were based on religion, but later humanitarian motives gained importance.**



The abolitionist movement.

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The abolitionist movement in Holland.

- At first the abolitionist movement did not gain a lot of support in Holland, even though in England slave-trade had been abolished as early as 1807. The Dutch didn't want to stop their lucrative trade, but under English pressure Dutch king Willem I signed the treaty in 1814 through which Dutch participation in slave-trade was abolished.

The end of slavery.

After abolishing slave-trade it still took some time to abolish slavery. Up until 1863 slaves were kept in the Dutch colonies. On the first of July 1863, the abolition was confirmed by 21 canon shots in Paramaribo, Suriname, and 45,000 slaves were freed. The Dutch were one of the last European countries to abolish slavery.

Official apology for slavery.

- Even today there has not been a formal apology for the Dutch participation in the slave-trade and slavery. In 2002 the Dutch queen, Beatrix, opened a monument in remembrance of the slaves that were kept and traded.



Compensation.

- Many people think building a monument isn't enough, but think that we should compensate the countries that suffered through slavery. For instance, the Dutch government could donate money to Suriname. No such thing, however, has happened yet or is likely to happen any time soon.

