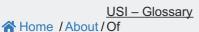
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The Glossary lists key historical and contemporary terms related to the transatlantic slave trade. These words are used across the website and particularly in the Themes and Use of language.

All | # A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

There are currently 319 Terms in this directory

A rapid increase in growth, popularity or prosperity

A campaign where people join together and refuse to deal with a person, organization or country, usually to express disapproval or force an acceptance of terms

Abolition

Literally 'bringing to an end'; in this context the campaign to end the slave trade and slavery

Abolitionist

Person who supported the movement to end the transatlantic slave trade and slavery

Absentee owner

A plantation or estate owner who did not live on and manage the property directly

Affirmative action

A policy to increase representation from people in groups believed to have suffered discrimination

Affluence

State of having much wealth or property

African-American

A citizen from the United States of America who is of African descent

African-Caribbean

A person from the Caribbean of African descent

Afrika

An alternative spelling of Africa, reflecting how it is spelt in many African languages; it is also used to indicate an Afro-centric viewpoint

Afro-centric

A philosophical and theoretical perspective from an African point of view; it challenges Africa's philosophical, economical and cultural marginalization by the West

Agitate

To move with rapid or violent action; to excite

Akan

Akan people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Ghana and the Ivory Coast, in West Africa, who share a common culture and language

Americas

The two continents of north and south America and the surrounding islands

Anti-slavery

Used to describe a person, an action, or an idea that is against slavery

Apprentice

A person who learns a craft or trade by working for a specialist or master for an agreed period, usually at low wages

Apprenticeship

The period during which a person is bound (under contract) as an apprentice

Archive

A place where historical documents or public records are kept and preserved

Aristocracy

An upper class within society which is usually based on birth and is richer and more powerful than all other members

Artefact

A usually simple object showing human work and representing culture or a stage of development in culture

Asante

Asante people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Ghana, in West Africa, who share a common culture and language

Asiento

In the history of slavery this term refers to the permission given by the Spanish government to other countries to sell people as slaves to the Spanish colonies, between the years 1543 and 1834. In British history, it usually refers to the contract between Spain and Great Britain created in 1713 that dealt with the supply of enslaved Africans for the Spanish territories in the Americas.

Asset

A quality or a thing that can be used to an advantage

Assimilation

A process of making or becoming similar to others; to integrate into the majority

Renin

The Kingdom of Benin was a widespread empire across Nigeria and present day Benin that flourished from the 14th to the 19th century before it was captured and plundered by the British in 1897

Berth

A place to sleep on a ship

Bigot

A person who will not listen to anyone whose ideas or beliefs are different from his/her own; one who regards or treats members of a group (as a racial group) with hatred or intolerance

Black

Often used in Britain to describe people of African and Caribbean (and sometimes Asian) origin

Black British

Used during the 1980s to stress the political unity between African, Caribbean, and South Asian people in Britain. Now mainly used to refer to British descendants of first generation Caribbean migrants, or more broadly to all people of African or Caribbean descent living in Britain

Blacking up

The racist gesture of applying Black makeup on the face of a person who is not Black to represent a Black person

Boom

A rapid increase in growth, popularity or prosperity

Brand

A class of goods identified as the product of a single maker; i.e. Coca-Cola

Branded

Marked permanently with a hot iron as identifiable property; traditionally used on cattle and livestock as well as on some enslaved people to denote ownership

British Empire

A system of dependencies, mostly colonies, throughout the world that were under the sovereignty and administration of the British Crown and government over a period of about three hundred years

Brutality

The state or quality of being cruel or inhumane

Caboceers

African traders appointed to deal with European traders

Calypso

A folk song or style of singing of West Indian origin having a lively rhythm and words which are usually made up by the singer

Capacity

The ability to hold or contain

Capoeira

Brazilian fight dance developed by enslaved Africans in Brazil

Cargo

A good transported in a ship, aeroplane or vehicle

Carib

indigenous people who inhabited the Caribbean islands and parts of the neighbouring mainland

Caribbean

the islands off the east coast of North, Central and South America that were called the West Indies by Columbus

Caricatures

Exaggeration of the actions, parts or features of someone or something usually for comic or satirical effect

Carnival

initially a festival preceding the Catholic season of Lent (a period of fasting from Ash Wednesday to Easter weekend); now refers to general annual festivities, usually with a procession and extravagant costumes, and often symbolically remembering an event in the past

Charismatic

To do or undertake with great charm or appeal

Chartism

a populist reform movement of the 1830s-40s, which set out a manifesto called 'The People's Charter' aimed at increasing the rights of the working classes

Chattel slavery

a form of slavery, introduced by Europeans, in which the enslaved person is treated as a piece of property belonging to his or her owner and has no rights; this status is for life and their children automatically have the same status; chattel derives from the word for cattle

Child labour

The employment of children under an age determined by law or custom

Civil Rights

The protections or privileges of personal power given to people under the law

Civilizations

communities with advanced systems of social development

Clause

Separate or distinct part of an article or document

Coffle

used to describe a group of animals and prisoners or enslaved people chained together in a line commonly used by slavers in the 18th century

Coincide

To occupy the same place in space or time

Colonial

relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies

Colonization

a process of one country taking over another in order to exploit it

Colony

a territory partially or completely controlled by another country (often called the mother country or motherland) and settled by those people

Coloured

A derogatory term that was used to describe people of or belonging to a racial group having darker skin complexion than others. The term is a Eurocentric one which presupposes a position of 'Whiteness' and is no longer acceptable for use today.

Commemorate

to preserve in memory by a celebration or ceremony

Commission

A fee paid to an agent to perform a service

Commodity

an article of trade, especially a raw material or product

Commons, The

short for the House of Commons, the elected chamber of the UK Parliament

Communism

A social system in which property and goods are owned in common

Compensation

recompense, intended to make amends, often with a payment

Con (as opposed to a pro)

Against; an opposition argument, person or position

Conformity

Agreement in form, manner or character

Connotation

A meaning suggested by a word or expression in addition to its exact meaning

Conquer

to overcome, defeat or subjugate opposition

Consciousness raising

The act of making people aware of facts or feelings

Consumer

A person who buys and uses up goods

Contemporary

Living or occurring at the same time period

Context

The parts of something written or spoken that are near a certain word or group and help explain its meaning

Controversial

open to dispute or argument

Controversy

An often long or heated discussion about something which there is a great difference of opinion

Corporal punishment

punishment by the infliction of physical pain, especially flogging

Counter (argument or narrative)

In another or opposite direction

Creole

a person of mixed European and African descent; a language with different European and African influences; Creole culture formed by Africans in the Americas combining beliefs of different ethnic groups and adding in European and Christian ideas: Creole culture has evolved over time and is still important throughout the African Diaspora

Culture

an identity based on religious or spiritual beliefs, language, and family values; cultures are inherent their applications can be neither

inferior nor superior to each other and are continually evolving for individuals and communities

Degrade

To lower character of

Depict

To represent by a picture or describe in words

Deplete

To reduce in amount by using up

Deport

To force a person (who is not a citizen) to leave the country

Derogatory

Intended to lower the reputation of a person or thing; expressing a low opinion

Diaspora

the spreading out of any group of people, forcibly or voluntarily, away from their homeland across a large area or indeed the world (it was originally used to describe the Jewish dispersal); also refers to the expatriate population as a distinct group

Diminish

To lessen

Discriminate

to treat unfairly favourably or unfavourably, especially on the basis of race or gender

Distinctive

Clearly marking a person or thing as different from others

Diversity

Condition of being different

Domestic slave

an enslaved person who works in a household rather than in the fields

Dominant

Commanding, controlling or having great influence over all others

Downtrodden

Crushed by a superior power

Draught (a beer)

draft

Duress

The use of force or threats

Dynamics

The patterns of change or growth

Dysentery

bacterial infection of the intestine resulting in severe diarrhoea

Eastern slave trade

a trade in enslaved people, mainly from Africa, to the Middle East, North Africa and India; also known as the Oriental slave trade

Edo

Edo people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Nigeria, in West Africa who share a common culture and language

Efik

Efik people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Nigeria, in West Africa who share a common culture and language

Emancipation

being set free, or granted rights equal to others who already enjoy them (including allowing non-Anglicans to sit in Parliament and have other civic rights); the freeing of enslaved people from slavery

Emblem

A symbol, design or figure used as an identifying mark

Embody

To cause to become part of a system

Emigrate

To leave a country or region to live elsewhere

Enforce

To bring about force

Enfranchisement

granting the right to vote

Engrave

To cut or carve on a surface

Enlightenment, The

name given to European 18th century period/movement characterized by literal rationalism in scientific and philosophical thought

Enslaved African/Enslaved Person

a person devoid of freedom and personal rights, who is the held in servitude and considered the property of another whether by capture, purchase or birth

Enslavement

to make a slave of a person; being held in captivity, servitude

Equity

Fairness or justness in dealing between people

Estate

traditionally a large area of land, used for agriculture, centred on a large house, owned by one person or family

Etching

A product where by a design has been eaten into a hard surface

Ethical

Following accepted rules of conduct

Ethnic

A member of a minority group who keeps the customs, language or social ideas of the group

Eurocentric

Centered or focused on Europe or European peoples, especially in relation to historical or cultural influence

Evangelical

of, or according to, the Christian gospel; often conservative Protestant Christianity

Evident

Clear to the sight or mind

Exaggerate

To enlarge a fact or a statement beyond what is true

Exclude

To shut or keep out

Expatriate

A person living in a foreign country, especially one who has renounced his/her own country

Exploitative labour

Labour in which workers are used unfairly for the owner's own advantage

Fair-trade

Is a system where by communities join together to produce goods for sale that make the community richer and stronger as a whole, ensuring workers' human rights and the environment are protected over time

Fante

Fante people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Ghana, in West Africa who share a common culture and language

Flux

now obsolete term for dysentery; inflammation and looseness of the bowels

Free man/woman

someone who is not an enslaved person

Freedom

the state of being at liberty, unrestricted, not restrained

Gang labour

Workers who toiled in the fields collectively all doing the same task at the same time

Genocide

the planned or ordered killing of a racial or cultural group

Global citizens

Citizens of Earth who share in a collective responsibility for taking care of each other and our common environment

Goal

Jail

Gold Coast

the name given to an area of the West African coast by early European traders who traded for gold

Guerrilla warfare

fighting by independently acting groups for a broadly political cause

Guinea

an area at the West African coast, sometimes referred to as the Guinea Coast; a gold coin issued in 1663 taking its name from there; worth 21 old shillings (£1.05 in decimal currency)

Guvana

Country on the northern coast of South America

Haiti

An island country in the Caribbean, formerly St Dominigue

Hausa

Hausa people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Nigeria and Niger, in West Africa, who share a common culture and language

Hierarchy

system of grades or status ranked above the other

Hispaniola

a major island in the Caribbean, containing the two sovereign states of the Dominican Republic and Haiti

Holocaust

from the Greek word meaning 'burnt offering' it is primarily used to refer to the Nazi German extermination of Jewish (and other) people in central Europe during World War II

Homeward Passage

the third stage in the transatlantic slave trade with ships carrying items grown or made in the Caribbean or the Americas, such as sugar or tobacco, to Europe to sell

Homogenous

uniform, all of the same kind

Human rights

standards or expectations held to be common to all

Humanitarian

A person who works towards achieving human rights

Igbo

Igbo (or Ibo) people are members of an ethnic group from areas of Nigeria, in West Africa, who share a common culture and language **Immigrant**

a person who comes into a country to settle

Implication

The act of including or involving as a natural or necessary part even though it is not put clearly into words

Indenture

a form of contracted servitude or apprenticeship for a fixed period of time, often seven years in return for free passage to a colony, with the promise of land or money at the end

Indentured servant /labourer

a person who has sold their labour for a set period of time

Independence

the state of self government

Indigenous

original inhabitants

Industrial Revolution

rapid development of initially, British industry using machines in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It caused mass migrations from the countryside into the cities

Inequality

The quality of being unequal

Inhumanity

the state of being brutal, cruel, barbarous, without feeling, indifferent to the suffering of others

Insensitive

Lacking in feeling

Institutional Racism

The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic people.

Insurance

A means of guaranteeing protection

Insurrection

rebellion, uprising, open resistance to authority

Ivory

hard white substance of elephant and other animals' tusks

Ivory Coast

a country on the coast of West Africa, officially called Cote d'Ivoire; European traders gave the area the name after the large amounts of ivory found there

Jazz

A musical tradition which blends African-American musical styles with Western techniques and theories and is American in origin

Jim Crow laws

legislation in many American states from 1880s-1960s which enforced segregation between Black and White people and outlawed mixed race marriages; the term 'Jim Crow' may also refer to a Black character played by a White actor in a minstrel show

Karl Marx

German-born philosopher, political economist and revolutionary activist, Marx is considered the founder of Communism

Ku Klux Klan

White racist organization founded by former confederate soldiers in Tennessee in 1866, initially to prevent freed enslaved people voting and exercising other civil rights; members wore white robes to hide their identity and used terror and intimidation against Black people

Landmark

An event that marks a turning point

Legacy

something handed down by a predecessor

Legitimate

Lawful

Lobby

To try to influence public officials and especially members of a legislative body

Log books

written record book of the navigation and other occurrences on board a ship, kept on a daily basis

Logo

An identifying symbol or motto

Lords, The

short for the House of Lords, the second chamber of the UK Parliament, originally made up of hereditary members or peers, some Anglican bishops, and senior judges (as the Lords is the court of final appeal in the UK). Today, the peer element is appointed, including some hereditary peers and other 'life peers'

Maafa

derived from a Kiswahili word meaning 'disaster', or 'terrible occurrence'. It is used to refer to the enslavement of African people by Europeans. The definition also refers to the subsequent loss of indigenous African cultures, languages and religions

Mammies

A term coming from slavery used for enslaved or emancipated Black women who looked after the children of their usually White master/employer in America

Manifest

A list of cargo or passengers, especially on a ship or plane

Manillas

brass bracelet-shaped objects mainly made in Europe and used as money on the West Coast of Africa to trade for enslaved people

Manumission

legal process (and related documents) by which enslaved Africans could buy their freedom or be freed by their owner

Maroons

enslaved Africans who escaped into the Jamaican wilderness to form their own separate communities, from the Spanish word cimarrón meaning wild or untamed

Martial law

military government, which suspends ordinary law

Mascot

A person, object or animal which is supposed to bring good luck

Mason-Dixon line

named after two surveyors, it was originally the boundary between the English North American colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania; it came to mark the division between the Southern slave states and the Northern free states in the early 19th century

Mass movement

A large scale movement of people coming together for a shared purpose

Memorial

Something that keeps alive the memory of a person or event

Merchant

trader of goods, buying for one price and selling them on for an increased price

Methodists

Christian group, founded by John Wesley and his brother when they broke away from the Church of England and built the first Methodist chapel in Bristol in 1739

Middle Passage

the second stage in the transatlantic slave trade, on which ships carried enslaved Africans from Africa to either the Caribbean islands or the Americas (see also Triangular trade)

Migrate

to move from one place and settle in another, especially abroad

Missionary

person sent to educate others about a religious faith

Mobilise

To assemble and make ready for action

Monopoly

exclusive ownership or control in the trade in particular goods or service

Monument

A place of scenic, historic or scientific merit set aside for preservation; a structure that honours a person or event

Moral

Of or relating to the judgement of right or wrong in human behaviours

Mother country

Native country; or the colonising country

Motherland

native country; or the colonizing country

Motto

A saying that suggests an object or society's nature or use

Mucus

slimy substance secreted from parts of the body

Mulatto

Comes from the Spanish or Portuguese term for 'young mule'. A mule is a hybrid mix of a horse and a donkey. This term is derogatory in its use to depict people of mixed race or people of dual descent, most often of an enslaved Black female and a White man; mixed race women were often more privileged than the enslaved from Africa but still treated as second-class citizens; the term 'mulatto' was commonly used in the 18th century but is now considered derogatory and unacceptable today

Multicultural

a mixture of several cultural groups

Negress

term used to describe a woman of African descent throughout the 18th to 20th centuries; the word is considered derogatory and unacceptable today

Negro

term used to describe a man of African descent throughout the 18th to 20th centuries; the word is considered derogatory and unacceptable today

New World

term given by Europeans to North and South America and the Caribbean Islands, in contrast to the 'Old World' of Europe, Asia and Africa; when they landed in the Americas Europeans considered them to be new lands, downplaying the status of the indigenous inhabitants

Nomads

people who do not live in a single place but move, often seasonally, over a wide range for pasture to graze animals

Nonconformist

an English term for dissenting Christians other than the Anglicans or Roman Catholics including Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Quakers, Unitarians and members of the United Reformed Church

Oppression

domination by others in a harsh or unwanted way

Orthodox (orthodoxy)

Usual or conventional belief or practice

Outward Passage

the first stage in the transatlantic slave trade with ships carrying goods from Europe to trade in Africa for captured Africans

Overseer

person on a plantation paid a wage to organize the work of the enslaved people; manager

Parliamentarian

A person who is elected or appointed to parliament

Parody

A written or music work in which the style of an author or work is imitated for comic effect

Passive

Not active but acted upon

People's Charter

The statement set out by followers of Chartism

Perpetuate

To cause to last indefinitely

Persistence

The act or quality where one continues to do something in spite of oppositions, warnings or pleas

Philanthropy

love of mankind; philanthropists habitually display goodwill and make charitable gestures

Physician

a medical doctor who is not a surgeon

Pidoin

a simplified language developed as a result of colonialism. As the Caribbean islands were colonized their populations grew to include Europeans, Africans and Indians. The fact that they spoke different languages necessitated a common means of communication

Plantation

a large area of farmland, or estate, planted with particular crops

Plantocracy

the successful settlers who developed plantations in the Caribbean; the name combines their local rank and the status to which they aspired

Platform

A declaration of beliefs and goals (usually of a political party)

Potent

Strong

Prejudice

a preconceived opinion, usually springing from feeling rather than evidence and balanced judgement

Prevalent

Accepted, practised or happening often or over a wide areas

Privateer

a privately owned war-ship, or its captain, licensed by one government to raid the shipping of an enemy country

Pro (as opposed to con)

In favour of, a favourable person, action, or position

Pro-slavery

describes a person, an action, or an idea that is in favour of slavery

Profound

Having or showing great knowledge

Progressive

Making use of or interested in new ideas

Proliferation

A rapid increase or growth

Prominent

Easily noticeable or distinguished

Promotional

An offer that leads to helping something build or develop

Prosperity

State of being successful or having financial good fortune

Protest

To object strongly

Publicity

An act or device designed to attract public attention

Quaker

member of the Religious Society of Friends or Quakers, a radical nonconformist Christian religious group established by George Fox

(1624 - 91) with a strong sense of morality and social justice

Race relations

The way in which people of different racial groups get along in society

Racism

a belief that one group of people is inferior, or superior to another because to their race

Radical

Extreme; departing sharply from the usual

Rebellion

organized armed resistance against established government or authority

Reclaim

To restore to a previous natural state

Recruit

To increase the number by enlisting new members

Reform

electoral reform, or Reform as it became known, was a movement in the 1800s for increasing the democratization of Parliament and voting rights; social reform was concerned with changing conditions for the better, especially for the poor

Refugee

A person who seeks shelter or protection from danger or distress in country other than their own

Reinforce

To strengthen by additional assistance, material or support

Renounce

To give up refuse for resign by public declaration

Reparation

making amends, compensation; claim to payments to the descendants of the enslaved and to Africa by those who benefited economically from slavery

Repatriation

to return, or be returned, home, to one's native land

Repression

to put down and keep down by force any active general opposition or rebellion

Resistance

to strive against, or refuse to comply (sometimes secretly) with a decision or an established way of doing things

Return Passage

the third stage in the transatlantic slave trade with ships carrying items grown or made in the Caribbean or the Americas, such as sugar or tobacco, to Europe to sell (see also Triangular trade)

Revolt

uprising against a ruler; or government, sometimes including going over to a rival power

Revolution

a major change or fundamental reconstruction, usually of a nation by replacing a ruler or system of government or in ways of thinking

Right

Something to which one has claim

Riot

Public violence, disturbance or disorder

Ritualize

To make as an established form of ceremony

Romantic Movement

An artistic, literary and intellectual movement influenced by the French Revolution. Followers stressed ideas around individual heroism and explored nature in new ways that saw its horror and awe expressed in words and imagery.

Royal African Company

London-based trading company with a monopoly on the early trade with Africa

Scramble

clambering and struggling with competitors for a share, e.g. 'The Scramble for Africa'

Seasoning

a period during which enslaved people newly arrived from Africa were initiated into the labour regime; new enslaved people were given marginally lesser tasks in the seasoning period as their ability to survive disease was tested

Segregation

separation of people, especially in the use of public facilities, employment, education, and housing; usually with a denial of political rights for the excluded group

Serfdom

a system in which the serf, or labourer, was not allowed to leave the land that he or she worked on

Shackles

metal hoops and chains put round the necks, wrists and ankles of (usually male) enslaved people to restrain them

Shillings

pre-decimalization in 1969, one pound sterling was made up of 20 shillings, each made up of 12 (old) pence; a shilling is the equivalent of 5p today

Slave

Someone who is made to serve another; devoid of freedom and personal rights; one who is the property of another whether by capture, purchase or birth.

Slave colony

a settlement on plantations, based on the labour of enslaved Africans

Slave labour

work carried out by the enslaved for the profit of others

Slavers

people who earn a living from capturing, trading and transporting enslaved people; ships engaged in transporting the enslaved

Slavery

the institution that kept people as property, and submissive to work under the domination of others.

Smallpox

acute contagious disease caused by a virus, with fever and pustules, and with a high death rate; now eradicated world-wide

Snow

small two mast, square-rigged sailing ship, similar to a brig

Snuff

Powdered tobacco especially for inhaling through the nostrils

Socialist (socialism)

A person who believes in socialism, a system based on shared or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of good

Solidarity

Unity (as a group) that is based on shared interests and goals

Sonnet

A poem of 14 lines usually rhyming by a fixed scheme

St Kitts

A Caribbean Island

Stature

Quality or status gained through growth, development or achievement

Status

Position or rank in relation to others

Status symbol

An object or sign used to display a person's wealth or position in society

Stereotype / stereotyping

a fixed notion of a group of people, often based on prejudices

Steward

A manager of a larger home or estate

Strategy

A careful plan or method

Sub-Sahara

area south of the Sahara Desert in Africa

Subordinate

of inferior importance or rank, secondary, subservient

Suffrage

the right to vote in political elections

Suffragette

a woman who agitated for the female right to vote

Supplication

pleading or appealing for something from a point of weakness

Surgeon

doctor who specializes in using tools to operate on the body; also a general term for a naval doctor (since most were surgeons)

Sweatshop

a factory or workshop employing workers employed for long hours and under poor conditions

Synagogue

A place where Jewish people come together to worship

Tabloid

A newspaper carrying short and sensational news stories and many photographs

Task labour

A system where people are given goals to achieve and therefore benefit if they can complete the work quickly

Temperance

A movement started in the 19th century to encourage people to stop drinking alcohol

Tenant

People who farm land rented from a landlord

Thirteenth Amendment

The 1865 alteration to the United States Constitution which abolished slavery

Thrive

To grow vigorously; to gain wealth and possessions

Tithe

A form of taxation where a tenth of a person's income or the produce from their land, whether derived from crops or animals, was paid to the church to support the clergy

Tolerance

Sympathy for or acceptance of feelings, habits or beliefs that are different from one's own

Tract

A short printed pamphlet, on religious or political subjects, to distribute to the public

Trading forts

Europeans built forts as trading bases along the West African coast; they temporarily housed enslaved Africans until they were loaded onto ships

Trafficking

The transport and trade in humans for economic gain using force or deception

Transatlantic

Across the Atlantic Ocean

Transatlantic slave trade

A Eurocentric term used to describe the selling of Africans as chattel across the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the Americas

Transatlantic slavery

The institution that kept people as property, and submissive to work under the domination of others; the system of slavery that incorporates the 'trade' of enslaved Africans, the culture of enslavement, resistance of the enslaved and abolition

Treaty

Formally ratified agreement between political groups or states

Triangular Trade

The name often given to the transatlantic slave trade; describes the three sides to the route the slave ships took from Europe to West Africa, then to the Caribbean and the Americas and finally back to Europe; the routes are known as the Outward Passage, the 'Middle Passage', and the Return or Homeward Passage. The term is slightly inaccurate as there were many trade routes used during this period that did not start and end in Europe.

Tuberculosis

A disease caused by bacterium and usually marked by wasting fever and the formation of cheesy tubercles in the lungs

Unassimilated

Failed to make or become similar to others; retaining distinctive differences

Underground Railroad

A means of escape for thousands of enslaved people from the southern United States to the north and Canada operating from the late 1700s to 1862; it was called the Underground Railroad in 1831, and free Blacks and White abolitionists ('conductors') offered the enslaved travelling at night food, clothing and safe locations ('stations')

Uprising

Act or instance of rising up; rebellion

Valid

Founded on truth or fact

Venture

A commercial undertaking, dealing with goods or assets in the hope that it will bring profit to those involved

Victorian era

The period of time between 1837 – 1901 when Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire

Visa

A mark on a passport that is a sign of approval and permission for a traveller to enter and / or remain in a foreign country

Visibility

The degree of clearness

Voodoo

Beliefs and practices with a strong emphasis on magic and the spirit world, associated particularly with the island of Haiti, in the Caribbean, and thought to have been brought by enslaved people from Africa

Voyage

A long sea journey

Welfare

A state of doing well, especially in regards to happiness, as well being or success

West Indies

Islands of the Caribbean (so called as Columbus thought he had reached India)

Whitney's cotton gin

Eli Whitney's invention in 1793 of an engine that separated the seeds from the cotton plant, and greatly increased cotton cultivation and the demand for enslaved people (especially female) in the US

Women's Suffrage

The right of women to vote in Parliamentary elections; finally extended to all women in Britain in 1928 after a long and bitter campaign

Xenophobia

Xenophobia denotes a phobic attitude toward strangers or of the unknown. The term is typically used to describe fear or dislike of foreigners or in general of people different from one's self. For example, racism is sometimes described as a form of xenophobia.

Yellow Fever

An infectious and often fatal disease, spread by mosquitoes in tropical zones

Yoke

Wooden bar used to link two things, people or animals together, or to carry a burden

Yoruba

An ethnic group from Nigeria who share a common culture and language

Zong

The name of the slave ship which became infamous when, in 1781, had 131 enslaved people were thrown overboard to their death, so that the slave traders could claim the loss against the insurance

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