

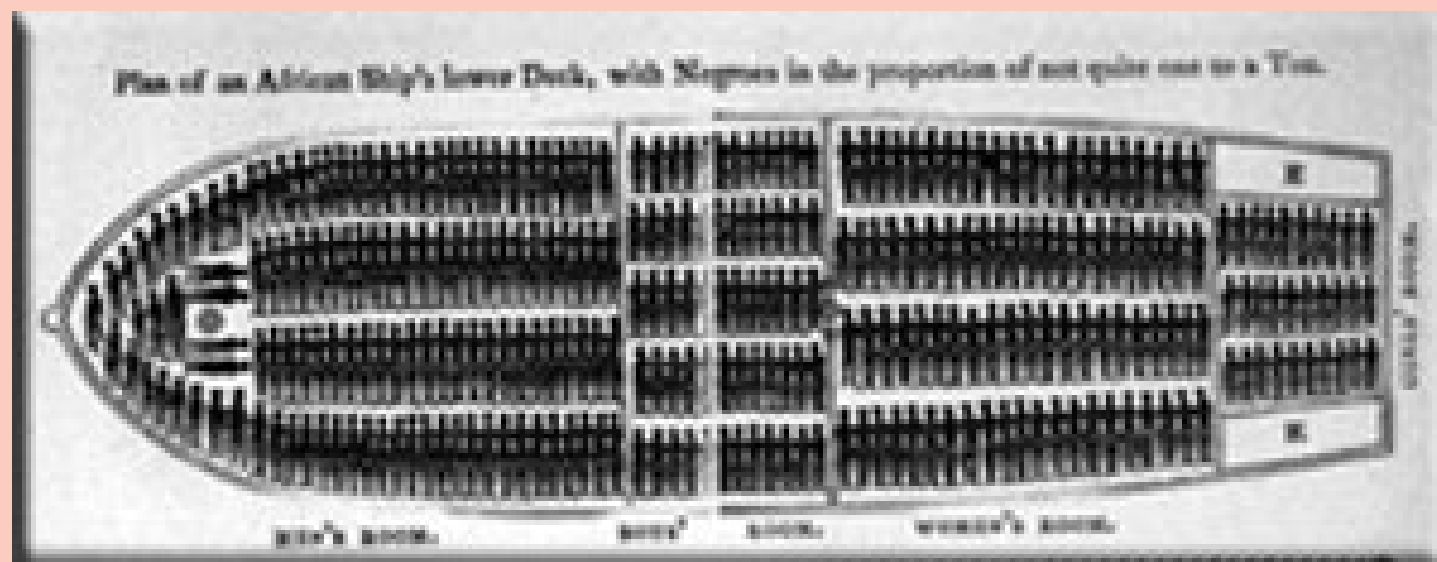
Unraveling The Mysteries of The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Part 1

Science

vs

Fiction



by Esa Abu Esa & B. Water

Copper Colored
Originalz

Unraveling The Mysteries of The Trans- Atlantic Slave Trade (Part I)

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**"Napoléon Bonaparte said
"History is set of
lies agreed upon".**

One of the most written about and agreed upon topics, is The African Trans- Atlantic Slave Trade, but it is also one of the most murky, and unclear historical accounts of ambiguity. How can a narrative; which is considered as fully factual have so many missing pieces and unanswered questions, and yet be considered a historical truth? In addition there is not a lot of substantial evidence, to verify its authenticity as a complete narrative; which means many parts of the narrative would have had to be filled with conjecture and romanticism. This type of history can easily turn into folklore, myths, and fictional fabrications, put forth as truths. In this small presentation we intend to present evidence, which would suggest that certain aspects of the Atlantic Slave Trade would have been very difficult to achieve, and even closer to being impossible; leaving one to consider, that these events did not happen in the way they were written, or, not at all.

Fiction

According to the agreed upon narrative, we are led to believe that hundreds of Africans slaves were chained and forced below large ship vessels where they would be transported to the Americas, requiring several months of travel in this condition. And supposedly 12 million Africans had to endure this torture and survived.

According to the Library of Congress "For the captive Africans aboard a slave ship, the voyage to the New World was a passage of nearly unimaginable horror. For most captives, the separation from their villages and families was still fresh, and now they were thrust into a hostile and alien world, at the mercy of people who were like none they had ever seen before. Upon boarding, they were stripped of their belongings, branded, chained, and sent below decks, where they would be forced to remain for most of the months-long journey. The slave deck itself was a living nightmare.

To the slave traders, these human beings were cargo, and slave ships were especially designed to transport as many captives as possible, with little regard for either their health or their humanity. Slave decks were often only a few feet high, and the African captives were shackled together lying down, side by side, head to foot, or even closer. Deaths from suffocation, malnutrition, and disease were routine on the slave deck, as were arbitrary torture and murder by the crew. The closeness, the filth, and the fear delivered many into madness, and suicide attempts were common. Other ships could smell slavers from far away, and Portuguese sailors called them *tumbeiros*, or floating tombs.”

<https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/african3.html>

Science

Although the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade presents a large mortality rate as it pertains to the African Captives it also presents a survival rate which leaves one asking how? How did so many slaves survive?

Science would suggest that it would be rare, or nearly impossible to survive such conditions especially in such large numbers.

Fact#1:

According to a partial study funded by The National

Institute of Nursing Research, NIH entitled;
“Skin Damage from Incontinence”

Urine or feces can damage skin if not immediately removed and the affected area thoroughly cleaned and dried. Irritating substances in feces cause inflammation of the skin; repeated or prolonged wetness from leaked urine causes skin cells to gain water and swell.

Leaking urine and feces together causes more damaging than either one alone.

Wearing an absorbent brief or pad for prolonged periods makes the skin prone to damage. Think about how the skin looks after an adhesive bandage (e.g., Band-Aid[®]) is removed: pale, wrinkled, moist and thin. Incontinence briefs and pads have a similar effect on the skin because they keep air from circulating to the covered areas and drying them.

This also creates an ideal environment for certain types of bacteria or fungi to grow, causing a rash or infection.

The skin damage of inflammation appears as redness that can vary in shade from light pink to brown-red. In darker-toned skin, inflammation may appear as redness or as patches of darker or lighter coloring. Damaged skin may also look shiny and wet, with local swelling or fluid buildup. In cases of more severe damage, the top layer of skin can wear away, exposing the skin underneath to the effects of the urine or feces. With the top layer of skin gone, bacteria or fungi can more easily invade the underlying tissues, causing a rash. If damage to skin goes untreated, it can worsen to become an open wound. Damaged skin may cause soreness, pain, burning or itching. Although some people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia may not complain about these symptoms, they may show other signs of discomfort (e.g., tugging at their clothes, scratching, squirming, wincing or grimacing when they sit down). Even people who show no obvious signs of discomfort may be very uncomfortable. Prevention and treatment Skin damage from prolonged exposure to urine or feces can occur fast – within just a few days”

If skin damage to urine and feces occurs within a few days, imagine a person's skin if left untreated while traveling with little ventilation in the most unsanitary conditions for months at a time. What would be the likelihood of such an individual being ready and able to stand on a slave block to be sold upon debarkation, or even being alive? It seems unfathomable.

Fact#2:

According to the Sanitation Health in Transition Website. "There are over 100 different varieties of viruses, bacteria, and helminthes in feces. Urine is sterile or almost sterile at time of elimination so urine will not be discussed in this section. Most bacteria have no negative effect, but others will cause severe pain or dysentery, and a few can lead to death if left untreated. Included in the dangerous pathogen category are Typhoid fever, Cholera, Hepatitis A, and a variety of worms (helminthes).

In

addition there are Rotavirus, Norwalk Agent virus, and numerous others that can cause respiratory distress. Other pathogens cause severe diarrhea. All come from feces that are untreated or have not been properly treated.

Squatting on the ground to go to the bathroom outdoors is one of the main ways to spread disease-causing pathogens and helminthes

Viruses cannot multiply outside of a host, but they can survive for several weeks, depending on temperature, while waiting for a new host. The lower the temperature, the longer the survival time for viruses while waiting for the host. There are five virus groups that are of particular interest because they originate in untreated feces. They are adenoviruses, enteroviruses, hepatitis A, reoviruses, and rotaviruses. Of these we will only address the two feces-related viruses which are major health concerns: hepatitis A and rotavirus.

Humans have large numbers and types of bacteria in their intestines, including certain strains such as *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) or *Salmonella*. Some such as E. coli have beneficial uses in the colon while *Salmonella* has no benefits in the proper digestion of food but causes no ill effects as long as it stays in the colon. The concern is what happens when the bacteria leave the body in feces and are then ingested. The bacteria that we are most concerned with are E. coli, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, and *Vibrio*. These are the bacteria that cause the main ill health effects in humans.”

<https://www.sanitationhealthintransition.com/new-page-2>

If one considers the supposed amount of slaves, anywhere from 200 to 700 captives aboard a single vessel; which contained menstruating women, feces, urine , vomit and other bacterial related pathogens; it is easy to imagine with all certainty that with within a few days let alone a few months the entire ship population would have died of disease.

And

even if by some miracle, there were survivors, they would have been so severely

ill that as a commodity the slaves would have been deemed useless and unfit. In addition there numbers would have been so small, that the economic advantage of such a trip would have been nonsensical to any businessman, and illogical and unwise to repeat.

Fact#3:

According to World Health Organization (WHO) and their Water Quality: Guidelines, Standards and Health, a paper written by Richard Carr, entitled, "Excreta-related infections and the role of sanitation in the control of transmission" in section 5.3.1, it states "The health dimension of poor sanitation In the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study (outlined in detail in Chapter 3) disability adjusted life years (DALYs) were ascribed to 10 selected risk factors. Water, sanitation (i.e. excreta disposal) and hygiene accounted for the second biggest percentage of DALYs behind malnutrition. Worldwide, it is estimated Excreta-related infections and the role of sanitation 95 that there are approximately 4 billion cases of diarrhea per year (resulting in 2.2 million deaths), 200 million people with schistosomiasis and as many as 400 million people infected with intestinal worms (Murray and Lopez 1996; UN 1998; WHO 2000a,b).

Conclusion

If this is the case in underdeveloped countries which are suffering from an ill equipped sanitation system, and millions are dying worldwide per year, how much more so, a few hundred captives, who were prevented access to basic human sanitation, trapped aboard a filthy wooden ship, and chained under deck for several months.

In

conclusion, as we analyze the Trans-Atlantic Slave narrative; the demand for answers becomes more pressing. We should not allow the progeny of the European colonizers to create unbelievable false narratives, and present them as truths. We must demand proof for their tales, or dismiss them as false.

The truth of the matter is that the Indigenous population were enslaved and forced into a caste system which separated the dark skin slaves from the lighter ones and the darker skinned slaves were reclassified as African and removed socially, politically, and historically from their tribes, lineages, heritages, culture, and their true indigenous history.

