

Slavery in Latin America: a Chronology

- 1442 Portugal starts slave trade when Antón Gonsalves brings 10 black slaves from Gold Coast (Rio d'Ouro) to Lisbon in exchange for Muslim Moorish prisoners.
- 1446-1498 Portugal establishes trading posts and slaving forts on the coasts of Africa.
- 1502 Spain starts importing black African slaves to Hispaniola (La Española: Haiti and Dominican Republic) when the Catholic Monarchs (los Reyes Católicos) give slaving contract to Nicolás de Ovando.
- 1517 Bartolomé de Las Casas gets permission from Spanish emperor Carlos V to use African slaves to replace the exterminated natives in the island's mines and sugar plantations.
- 1531 Portugal begins colonizing Brazil.
- 1562-1618 England and Netherlands begin slaving activities between Africa and the Antilles.
- 1619 England introduces African slaves in Virginia.
- 1625 France seizes Haiti.
- 1637 France constructs slaving fort of Saint Louis in Sénégal, Africa. France sends slaves to Martinique (Caribbean) in 1642.
- 1645 Sweden begins African slave trade.
- 1655 England seizes Jamaica from Spain; continues Spanish slave activities.
- 1663-1711 Italians, French, and England land Spanish contracts to import African slaves to Spanish colonies in Latin America.
- 1715 Ricardo O'Farril establishes first slave "factory" in La Habana (see: => Hotel O'Farril on Havana pages).
- 1720-1730 Portugal transports huge shipments of African slaves to Minas Gerais, Brazil (see: => Aleijadinho pages).
- 1787 Granville Sharp forms first abolitionist society in England.
- 1789 Spain opens Latin America to slave traders from any and all slaving nations.
- 1792 Denmark outlaws slave trade.

- 1801 Saint Domingue (La Hispaniola: Haiti and Santo Domingo) outlaws all slavery in Haitian war of independence led by Toussaint Louverture et al: making it the first anti-slavery nation in the world.
- 1808 Great Britain and the United States prohibit the introduction of new slaves into their respective nations.
- 1814-1820 The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, and France outlaw slave trade (but not slavery itself).
- 1821 In England, William Wilberforce (1759-1833) leads the Society for the Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery (later the Anti-Slavery Society). The same year, The American Colonization Society returns free blacks to Africa thus creating the nation of Liberia.
- 1824 Guatemala becomes the first Latin American nation after Haiti to outlaw slavery; Argentina, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay and Mexico follow suit in 1825-1829.
- 1826-1830 Portugal outlaws slave trade to Brazil, but Brazil continues slavery in its territory.
- 1840-1845 Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador outlaw slavery.
- 1849 France outlaws slavery.
- 1863 The Netherlands outlaw slavery.
- 1865 Slavery outlawed in the United States.
- 1873 Slavery outlawed in Puerto Rico (a Spanish colony until 1898).
- 1878 Portugal outlaws slavery in its African colonies.
- 1886 Slavery outlaws slavery in Cuba (a Spanish colony until 1898).
- 1888 Brazil outlaws slavery.