

Africa to America

(1) Whence drawn

2) Classes

Ed. De Jonghe
Les formes de l'accroissement
dans les sociétés indigènes
du Congo belge

Mus. royal colonial
Belge : Bull. des sciences
Bousselle

1948

v. 19 no. 2

no. 483-45

Slave traders' accounts

Description of the
Bosman - Coast of Guinea
2nd ed. London 1721

Donnan. Documents

Clarkson II 571-4

Mungo Park II 632-42

Barbot I 282-301

Massey II 567-71

Wadsworth II 599-602

Runcorn

Martin

From what classes
~~sources~~ in Africa

From what classes

1. Native slavery

2. Classes as indicated
in slave trade
sources

Native Slavery

Philippart Bas Kongo 1520
Bakongo Kimpese

on
native slavery (not slave trade)
many slaves here still
survive;

- 52
- (1) Prisoners of war. Hostilities between villages continual. Ambush common method. no cannibalism. Prisoners sold as slaves
 - (2) Kidnapped children. Professional bandits found everywhere. stole children.

N/ Both (1) and (2) types
sold far away or to
slave caravans
Debtor and criminal slaves
most numerous.

- (3) Debtor and judicial slaves
Fines imposed [or debts].
If unable to pay, sold some
member of family to adversary
or in neighboring village.
Otherwise a chef de famille
would sell a wicked subject
whose delinquencies he got
tired of paying for.

(Debts + judgments on
family divide etc on
slaves etc - especially
frequent)

N/ Ordinarily (3) did not
quit Bakongo country

- 53
- (4) Children born of slaves

Philippine Bas. Congo 1520
Bakongo

54 P estimates that about 10%
of population were slaves
earlier - no. now decreasing
Conditions:

Slaves as regards food, shelter,
clothing, occupations on nearly
same level as free. A slave
can even become an important
personage: in one case is the
native chief (owned by a
colonist w. chief rights &
abandoned by colonist). Often
55 a c. age or talents becomes
representative & official
defender of family, & a family
becomes rich, becomes rich.
All that slave status becomes
property of master.

56 marriages betw. master & slaves
frequent - & no distinction for
master. | Children belong to master,
free or slave - $\therefore$ marry her.

57 Master had right to kill rebellious
slave - but use of right unless it -
= destroying own property, &
slave's family would revenge.
In general, condition of slave
much - more domestic than slave.

57-8 Pawn-slaves - occurred but always w.
right to recover freedom by payment.

On slaves ch 5 p. 33-46
 Pawns ch 6 p. 47-55

55
 Odonko = man or woman, non-Ashanti,
 purchased as slave *

Domum = prisoner of war from a
 foreign state, or tribute " "
 subjugated " " .

56 * Whence to slave-dealer? R
 Possibly a/c crime

A free-born Ashanti could reach
 slave condition through 3 methods to Odonko by

a. getting into trouble too often,
 and so his kin pawned
 or sold him & he ceased
 to be one of the family

b. innocent member of family
 might be sold or pawned
 to liquidate debt incurred
 by a senior

c. capture in an Ashanti civil
 war which were frequent

Criminal 5. slaves

38

could be killed at several times,
with permission of chief - or
killed " " " " age
some offence

Rights he had:

a. To marry

1. slave owned by master

2. " " " another "

3. a free person

Children of slave women
belonged to master of
woman -

Children of free woman
married to slave were free
N/ Children followed
condition of mother

Slave children, the descendants
of slaves, always adopted
into the family

"no one must disclose the
origin of another"

b. To hold property - land,
slaves, etc. - ultimately all
went to the master at death

c. To be a witness & sue at court

d. To become heir of master

40

41

Railway Ashanti law slaves

1829

41 Is cruelly treated by master, could:

42 (a) run away & seek sanctuary by
throwing self on way of a
evil, ancestral spirit or wand-
cerer

(b) "swear an oath" that some other
master must take him
slave could be adopted into family &
was, & ~~his~~ descendants merged w. "

Disabilities

1. usually solitary with no
group of relatives behind
him

2. Status of slave ~~was~~ ^{order} ~~was~~ ^{order}
never lost (45- but became free
by stages i.e. as paid

3. Even a kind master would turn
to his slave if he needed

a) money or

b) tribute for human
sacrifice

N) Human sacrifice
common - whole
villages reserved
as pools for
tributes - at
funeral rites

44 4. Did about same work as freemen,
but worked harder & did more
than natural tasks

5. minor disabilities: ³/₄ drinks not
drunk before ¹/₂ slave
no funeral rites held for slave

Rothbarth Ashanti law

1929

Conditions of slaves - Pawns

47

Alwowa = person or thing given
to creditors by debtor as
security for payment (=
mortgage or pledge in English
law)

Isiama pawn midway between
free man & slave

48

Head of a family group had power
to place any of his own group
in pawn for

- a) debt by person pawned
- b) " " any other member
of his blood group
- c) punishment for bad
behavior

(very complicated rules
cf pp. 48-53)

53 A pawn could become a slave
proper, if family needed further
funds & so decided, by the
family selling pawn outright

54-55 Both pawn and ~~free~~
pawn become slave could be
redeemed by debtor or lender
on repayment

Classes as
indicated in
Slave Trade sources

Clarkson Essay

1789

Source & slaves - raids & kidnapping

Cases

- 4 ^A Goree Oct 17, 1787 - one woman, in absence of children, stolen her children left behind
 Oct 15, 1787 - one negro lad. stolen from parents - ~~stole~~ cross people usually came inland, in bodies to kidnap
- 5 Nov. 7, 1787 - King ^{upon} promised to set his military ~~among~~ several villages at once & get slaves
 Nov. 23, 1787 - practice of pillaging islands as far as Gallam
- 6 Jan 16, 1788 - move attacked village without provocation & took slaves
- 7 ^B Goree I. & Dakarid village scarce a night passed but maintained of Dakarid went out to kidnap slaves - 10-15 to a party
- 8 ^C acci a great man to secure slaves accuses man w. large family of witchcraft & so gets whole family to sell
 Robbery another method
- 10-11 ^D Old Calabar two expeditions up river of O.C. - in daytime purchased slaves fairly - in nighttime seized men, women children promiscuously

Mungo Park c. 1795 in *Journal II*
Sources of slaves
1531

633

slaves purchased by Europeans

634 chiefly from inland countries,
a few collected in party wars

Slaves were free generally
became slaves by

Captivity

Famine

Involuntary

Crimes

170
Molua, Ruklaron, 16⁰ cent. - intoman-
nin main slaves interviewed:
Angola chiefly make war only
to acquire slaves - chiefly
young, women & infants

Pere Cavazze ⁱⁿ Tubat 1732
Bembe (Benguela) uses to
capture slaves to sell

173
Crime:

Molua - perhaps - a chicken,
sheep & whole poultry
condemned to death or slavery

141-2

Germain Fromagere,
moral theologian, ca 1705 -
describes common teaching of
the time:

147

As is well known that,
as regards slaves from war,
among the barbarians
commonly war is made to
secure slaves for the
slave trade of Portuguese
traders

170 Molina in 160 cent - data from
slaves interviewed. Chiefs of
Angola made war w. end of
procuring slaves for trade
caravans in boats [early 180 cent]
Bembe & Bembe secure slaves
by ambushes.

173

Molina: men sell children
& wives to buy Europ. goods

Molina: for theft & a chicken,
thief & family condemned to death
or sale into slavery

Source

Barbot's Description 1732
from 1678 ca

284

Slaves sold are mostly
prisoners of war taken in
tribe, pursued or incursions;
others stolen away by their
own countrymen.

many are enslaved for crime

~~many~~
"abundance of little Blacks
or with seeds are also stolen
away by their neighbors..."

In time of dearth & famine,
^{many} ~~abundance~~ will sell themselves
to prevent starving

Some come from remote
inland countries

287 at Accra much warfare
& prisoners sold - great slave
trade center

Cf also p. 298

340

at Fida, most slaves are
prisoners of war sold by
victors as booty
men or not sell wives or
children etc. at necessity
or some great crime

Slave buyers go inland to
get slaves for slave-holders;
"sometimes 200 miles deep
in the country"

Sources:

John Matthews, voyage to the River
Sierra Leone, June 1781. [~~1781~~]
Lieut in Royal Navy, - resided
there 1780, 86, 87

569 (1787)

① Great nos. are prisoners of war.

② natives part w. wives & children
in exchange for sugar &
desired salt

③ Death or slavery are punishments
for almost every offence

④ Prisoners taken in battle put to
death or kept as slaves

570 (1788)

Slaves often war captives -
but wars not undertaken to
capture slaves. M. had never
heard of kidnapping slaves.
Wars by modern people, as Man-
drillers, or interior, i. e. Sierra
 Leone, with neighbors who refuse
to embrace mod'n.

571 murder, poison, witchcraft,
adultery & death are capital
crimes, punished by death or
slavery.

2nd. Clarkson Essay on the
efficiency of regulation or
abolition 1781

571 Goree:
one woman stolen & born free
children

Goal 1787

old Calabar - slave captured
up R. by - in, daughter
purchased, in night kidnapped
(50 negroes on 1st capt.)

at Angola, Mossula Bay:
slaves made only by robbery

(see original)

pp. 4 55

esp. Account the 5th p 10-11
" the 4th 9-10
" witchcraft
" Robbery

Donnan

Joe II

1531

Footnote p. 571

Complied in testimony &
reactions & Clarkson makes
difficult an estimate of
90% of negroes sold in ~~the~~ ^{the} West
would enslaved solely for
purposes of the slave trade.
Many witnesses for defense
in abolition struggle, ~~most~~
had been intimately connected
w. trade yet reported they knew
of few abuses. Contrast
w. Clarkson's acc't -
James Clarkson, Essay on
the Efficiency of Regulation
or abolition 1789 - C
took pains to obtain material
from eyewitnesses

Bonnau Dec. II 1831

C. B. Wadström Observations on the
slave trade 1789 (1)

W = Swedish scientist w.
or Sparrman

599 (a) War

Chief source of slaves is war.
Wars carried on by inhabitants of
interior parts of country, beyond
Senegal, Gambia & Sierra Leone,
chiefly of predatory nature,
one origin to yearly no. of slaves
which Mandingoes or inland
traders know will be wanted by
slaving vessels. If any one year
more Europ. ships than usual,
next year greater no. of captives
brought from interior.

Many of captives are
people of distinction, such as
princes, priests & persons high
in office - conducted by
Mandingoes [as middlemen]

N, above based on what
W was told by black &
white traders ~~who he~~
during his residence on
coast

Wadström (con) (2)

600 men of region N. of Senegal
 R. famous for their predatory
 wars - cross river, attack &
 carry off negroes. Not a few
 make a living so. French
 encourage them in this.
 N/ this from personal
 knowledge

(6) Pillage (by blacks)

- 601 | 1) Public - most plentiful
 source of slaves for slave
 trade. Kings, incited by
 merchandise, esp. liquor,
 have their soldiers attack
 own villages
 2) Private - same incitement.
 waylay and kidnap.

(7) Robbery (by whites)

Kidnapping by whites

Wadsworths Essay 1795

Quaker Report - Director
Sierra Leone Co., 1795:

619

offences, real or imputed, ~~chiefly~~
punished w. slavery are
chiefly adultery & witchcraft

Kidnapping at Sierra Leone
not uncommon - inhabitants
up country, even women, all so
armed; people up river towns
leave wood growing close to houses
for refuge.

Three distant relations of -
King Naimbanna carried away
620 to W. Indies; also a canoe

180-81 Traditions: and other gods
Earth gods, or conquered people
hard to overcome: they punish
by sending epidemics.

a. Dahomey King ca 1650-80
sold to Portuguese 4
chief priests & earth
cult, sea & silk-cotton
tree cult, with families,
retainers & disciples.

b. Dahomey King ca 1680-1708
sold 6 chief priests &
river cult w. all their
followers

c. Real Dahomey King sold 4
priests & earth cult &
families w. followers
into slavery

d. Real D King, 1728-75, sold
5 priestesses & earth
cult w. disciples.
also many princes
and accomplices in
court

e. Adangbe, member D King,
sold 3 priests & earth
cult & disciples.

all charged w. plots & insurrection
against more conquering kings -
w. each priest or prince sold hundreds
of followers, low & high, to root out all
malevolent.

- 17 Kano data 1831 - Hausa
merchant. Slaves.

Slaves obtained from:

war

raids *

failure to pay debts

result of gambling

* raids carried out by
Mohammedan Hausa
against pagan people

Shedman Narr 1772-77 1806
classes

2:282

or people
Some had been princes -
first rank become slaves
of war - refused to work -
other slaves fell down on knees
^{before masters}
~~before them~~ & asked to be free -
respect shown

Intertribal wars 1541
Classes in Africa

105

Cuba:

Mr. Brewer
Many of slaves in Cuba
have been princes &
chiefs of their tribes in
Africa, & are shown
respect & obedience
by those who
accompanied them to
America

106

Haiti

Morcan de St. Mary:

India negroes have
ever been seen to
recognize princes &
their own country -
purchase slaves as
their tal & render
homage

Piercen Negroes in Brazil 1842

75

(slaves)

At Bahia occasional negroes,
who in Africa had been chiefs
or other dignitaries, considerable
power & influence, received
great reverence & allegiance from
other negroes. By men on shore,
were saluted respectfully, their
hands kissed, & blessings asked
of them.

67-8 Rec:
Checo ~~Boy~~ in Minas Geraes
was a petty King in Africa,
taken prisoner w. his tribe &
sold into slavery / w. wife &
children [and more people?] &
Purchased freedom & son in
Brazil - & finally his whole
tribe's liberty.

37 Fusa Mahin, mother of negro
prince Fusa Sama, said would
have been an African prince

Iverskov's Social Hist 1930-
Sources (a)

239

- ① Wars = principal source
Dahomey - annual "wai" = rule
Purpose: to provide
a) slaves for human sacrifices
in ancestral cult
b) workers on plantations
of King & nobles
c) slaves for European
slave trade

240

N, c) as important as
a) & b) = sale of
slaves chief
source of funds to
buy Europ. goods,
arms & gunpowder

2.

Wrote for Kingdom of Benin &
in Gold Coast

N, Two types of slavery
in W. Africa

- a) household slavery
- b) plantation "

② Kidnapping of individuals

Herakleitos Some but says 1534-
Summers (6)
240

241 (3) Political
descent in reigning houses
from father to son, or from ruler to
son's son. Much rivalry for office.
many uprisings in connection
w. succession. Defeated
contender either killed or
sold into slavery with all
his family & sympathizers. -
this would include many
priests, chiefs, women & children
or both, slaves, diviners (= "educated")

Further, after a conquest,
priests most intransigent -
called on individual gods &
aroused people

(4) Crime -
e.g. intrigue w. wife of ruler
murder
theft
revenge & debt