

# Andrew Kahn & Jamelle Bouie ~ The Atlantic Slave Trade In Two Minutes

Usually, when we say “American slavery” or the “American slave trade,” we mean the American colonies or, later, the United States. But as we discussed in [Episode 2 of \*Slate’s History of American Slavery Academy\*](#), relative to the entire slave trade, North America was a bit player. From the trade’s beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to its conclusion in the 19<sup>th</sup>, slave merchants brought the vast majority of enslaved Africans to two places: the Caribbean and Brazil. Of the more than 10 million enslaved Africans to eventually reach the Western Hemisphere, just 388,747—less than 4 percent of the total—came to North America. This was dwarfed by the 1.3 million brought to Spanish Central America, the 4 million brought to British, French, Dutch, and Danish holdings in the Caribbean, and the 4.8 million brought to Brazil.

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