

Slavery in South Africa

Slavery in South Africa existed until the abolition of slavery in 1834.

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Dutch rule

In 1652, Jan van Riebeeck set up a refreshment station in what is now Cape Town and requested slaves.^[1] The first slave, Abraham van Batavia arrived in 1653 ("van Batavia" meaning "from Batavia", the name of Jakarta during the Dutch colonial period), and shortly afterward, a slaving voyage was undertaken from the Cape to Mauritius and Madagascar^[1]

In April 1657, there were ten slaves in the settlement, from a population of 144. That increased greatly the next year, when the Dutch captured a Portuguese slaver with 500 Angolan slaves, and 250 were taken to the Cape.^[2] Two months later, a further 228 slaves arrived from Guinea.^[2]

British rule



Plaque commemorating 175th Anniversary of emancipation, Saron Mission Church, Saron, Western Cape Province

Britain invaded the Cape and later passed the Slave Trade Act 1807. It was enforced from 1808, ending the external slave trade. Slaves were permitted to be traded only within the colony^[4]

The first large wave of British settlers, the 1820 Settlers, were not permitted to own slaves.^[3]

Abolition

In 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act received Royal Assent; this paved the way for the abolition of slavery within the British Empire and its colonies. On 1 August 1834, all slaves in the British Empire were emancipated, but they were indentured to their former owners in an apprenticeship system which was abolished in two stages; the first set of apprenticeships came to

an end on 1 August 1838, while the final apprenticeships were scheduled to cease on 1 August 1840, six years after the official emancipation.

See also

- African slave trade

References

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 2. Frank Welsh (1998). *A History of South Africa* HarperCollins. pp. 35–36.
 3. "From Slavery to Freedom"(<http://www.rebirth.co.za/slavery%20to%20freedom.htm>). rebirth.co.za Retrieved December 18, 2011.
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This page was last edited on 17 October 2017, at 18:43.

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