

New World Economies:

Sugar and the Atlantic Slave Trade

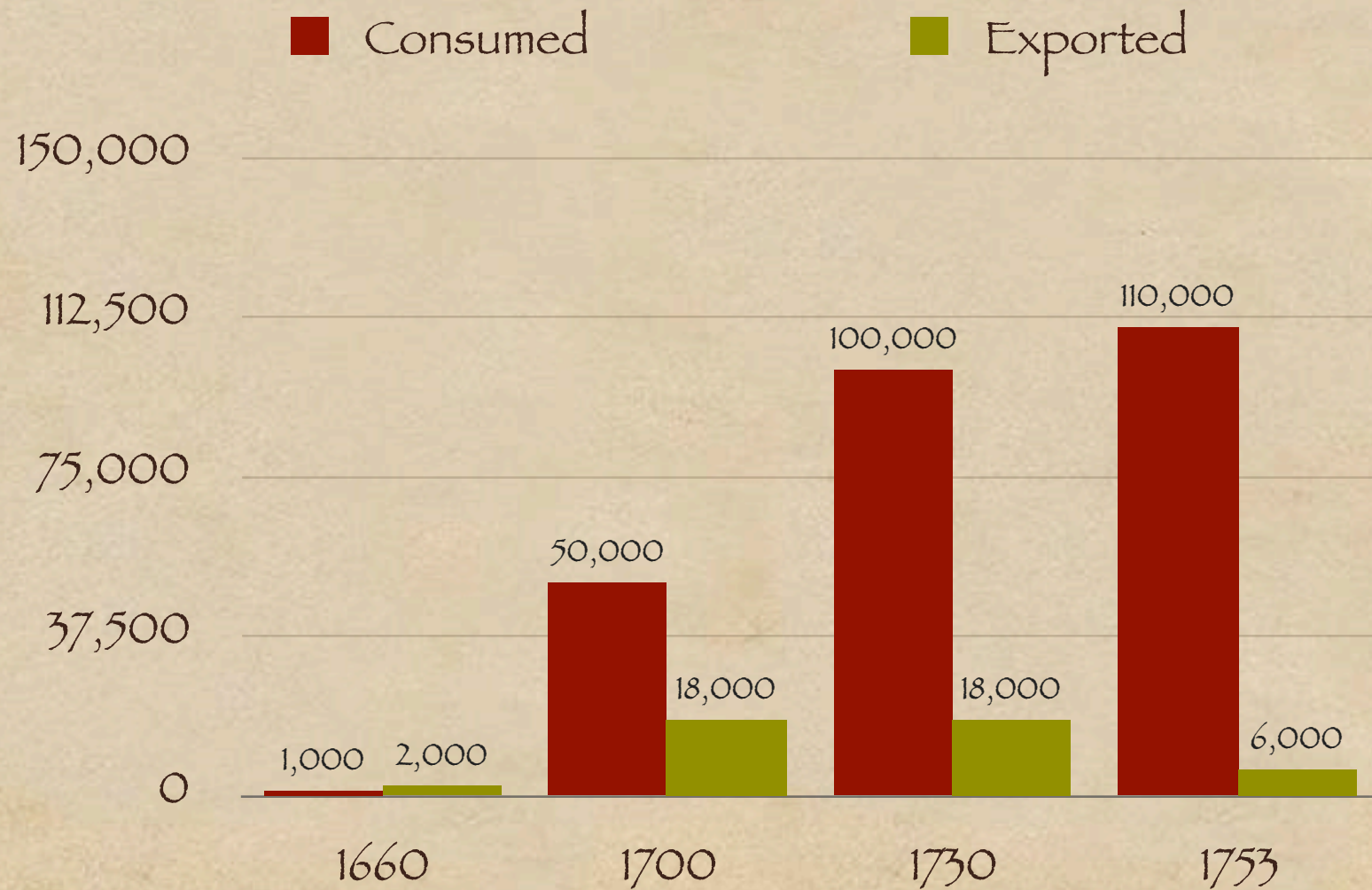
“I do not know if coffee and sugar are essential to the happiness of Europe, but I know well that these two products have accounted for the unhappiness of two great regions of the world: America has been depopulated so as to have land on which to plant them; Africa has been depopulated so as to have the people to cultivate them.”

— J.H. Bernardin de Saint Pierre
(1773)

Contexts for the Slave Trade

- ◆ immediate precedents for slave trading
- ◆ competition for empire among Europeans
- ◆ technological advances
- ◆ the role of consumption

English Sugar Consumption (by hogsheads)



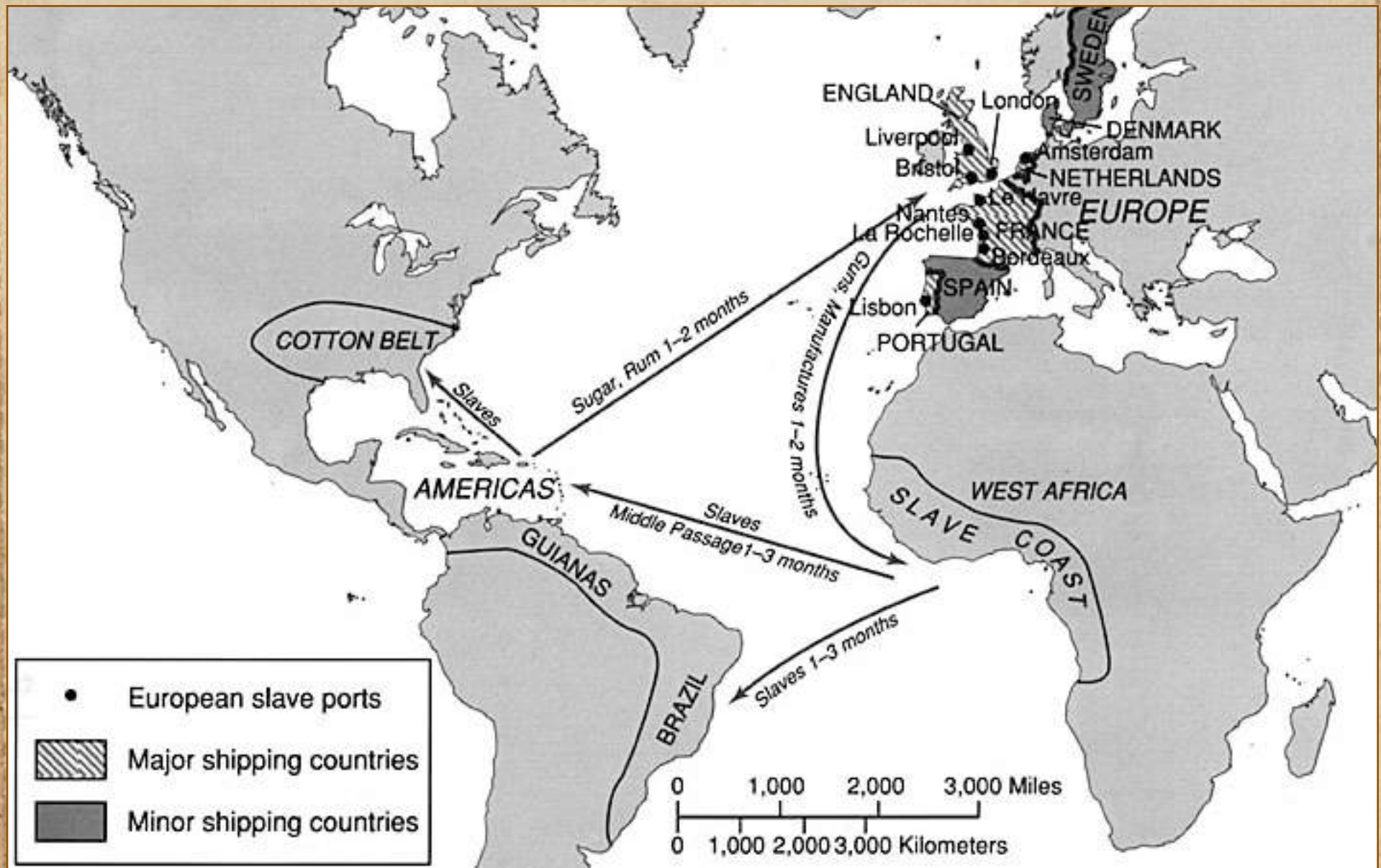
1. The Economic Logic of an Immoral Trade

- ◆ Why in America and not Africa?
- ◆ Parts of an Answer:
 - ❖ African resistance
 - ❖ Indifference to trade
- ◆ The Heart of the Answer:
 - ❖ Disease

2. Sugar Rush: The Plantation System in World Historical Context

- ◆ Model Mercantilism (see definition)
- ◆ Producing consumption, consuming production
- ◆ The Plantation System as Agro-Industrial Revolution

2. Sugar Rush: The Plantation System



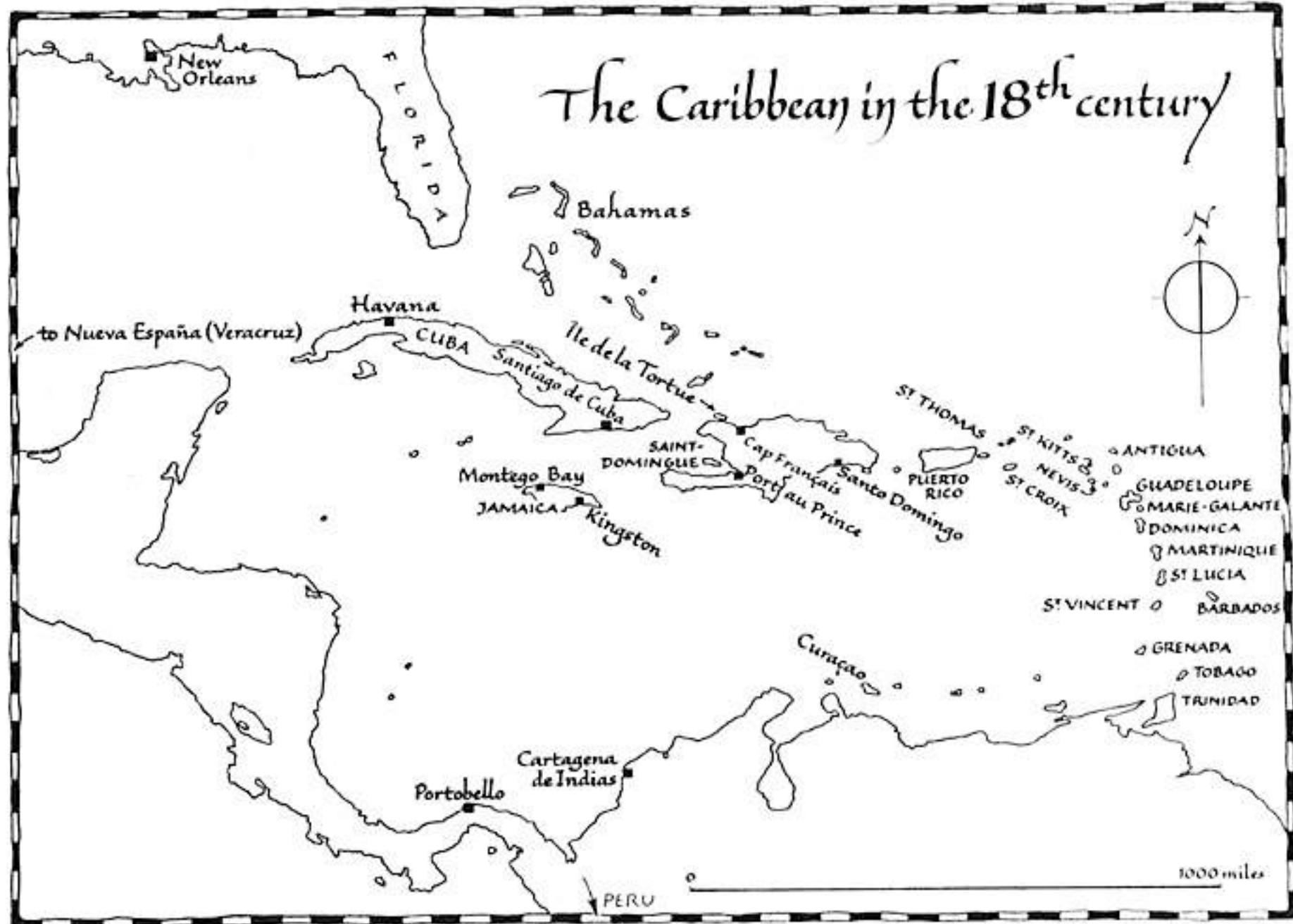
Industrial features of plantation system:

- ◆ disciplined under one authority
- ◆ organization of labor
- ◆ time consciousness
- ◆ separation of production and consumption sites
- ◆ separation of workers from his tools

3. The Anatomy of a Sugar Plantation

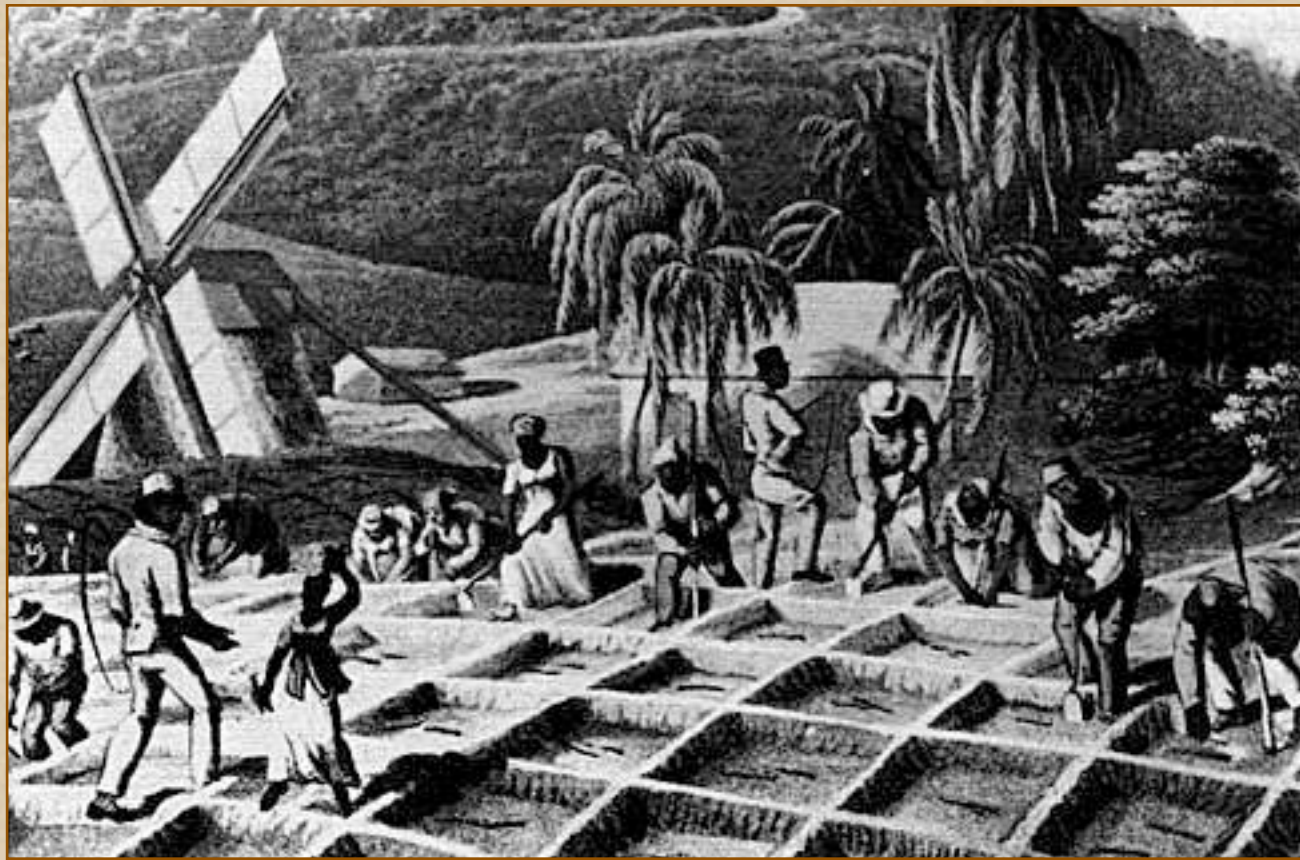
- ◆ The Land
- ◆ The Structures
- ◆ The Labor

The Caribbean in the 18th century





Holing in Antigua



Planting cane in Antigua



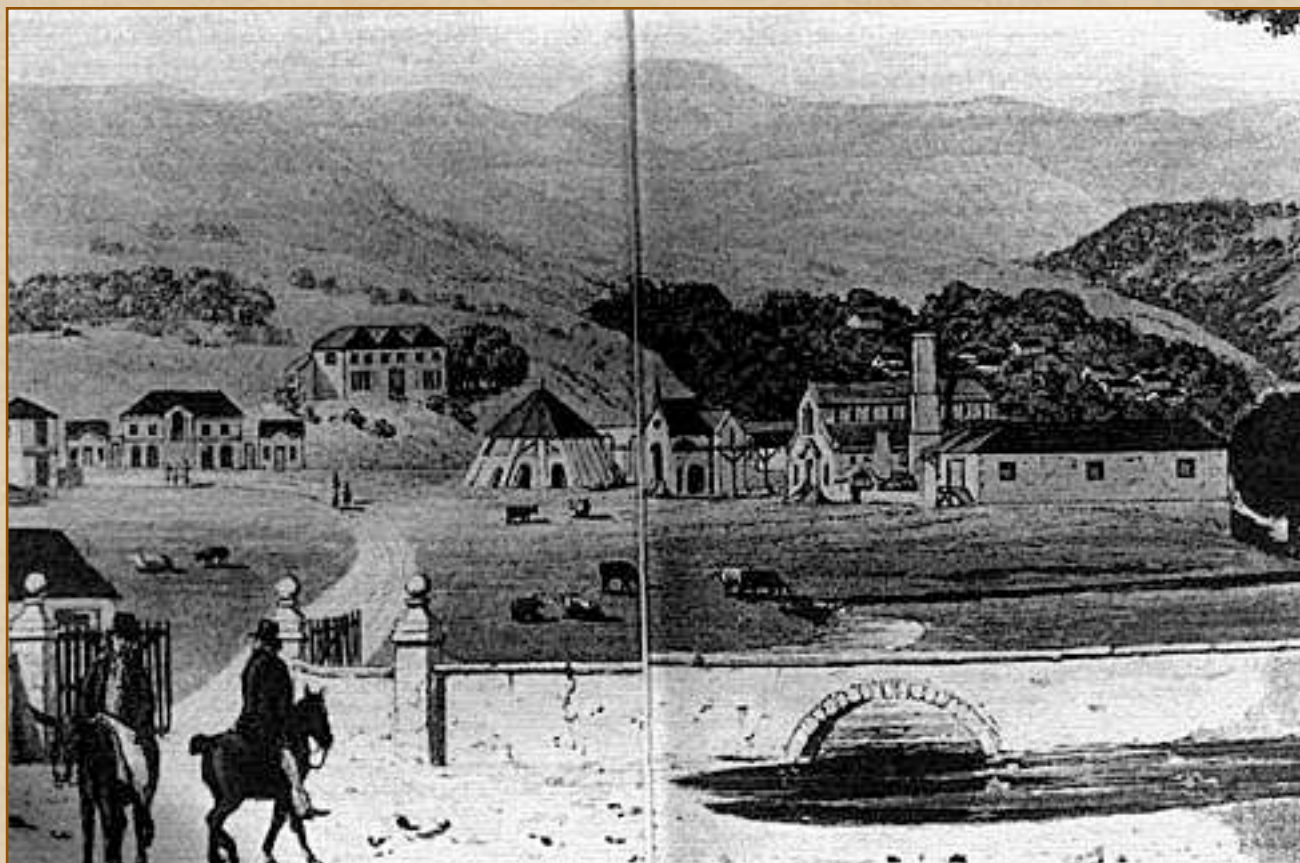
Harvesting cane in Antigua



Milling cane in Antigua



Plantation estate in Jamaica



Workers' quarters in Jamaica, c. 1980



TO BE SOLD on board the
Ship *Bancro Island*, on Tuesday the 6th
of May next, at *Appleby-Ferry*; a choice
cargo of about 250 fine healthy



NEGROES,

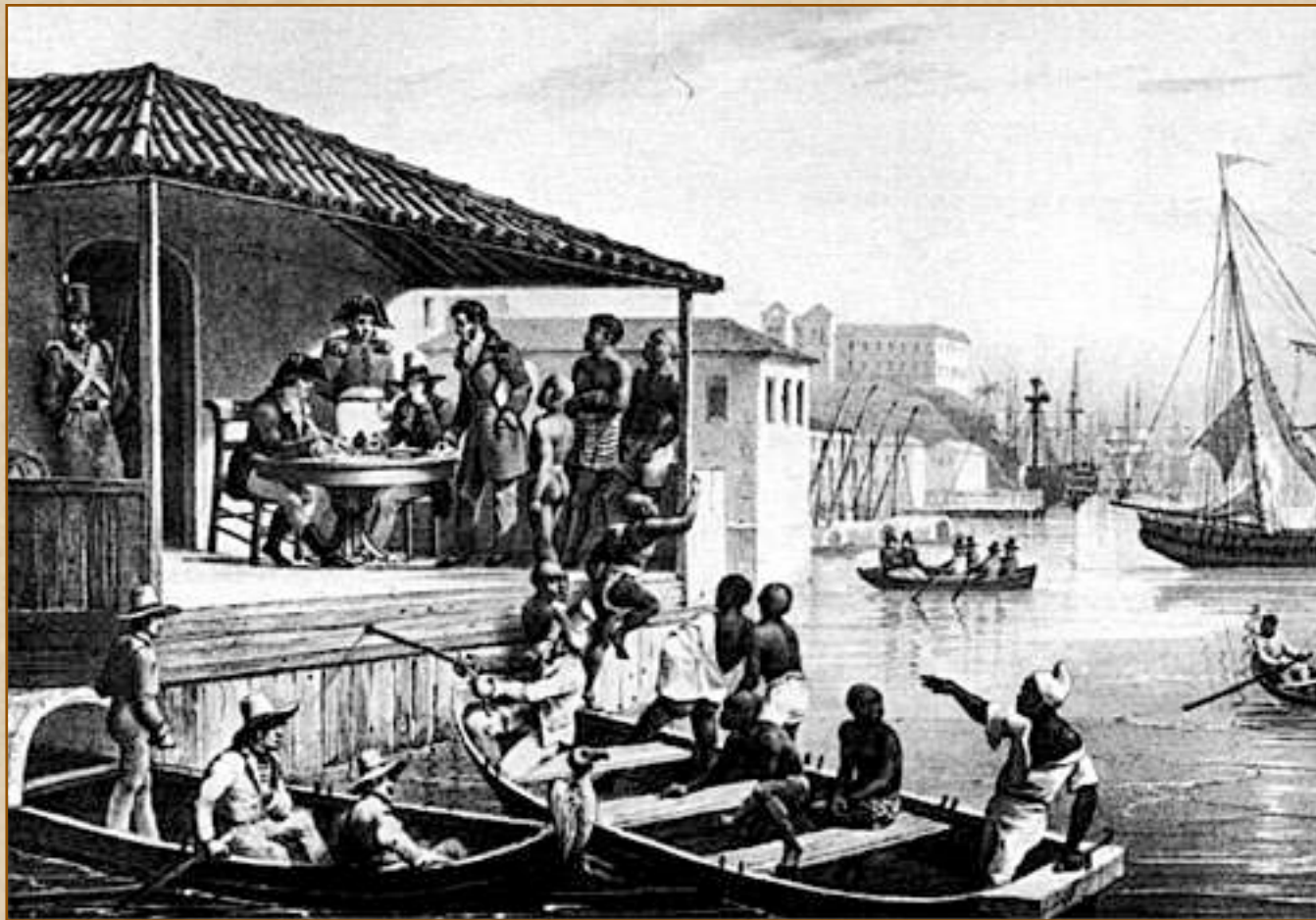


just arrived from the
Windward & Rice Coast.
—The utmost care has
already been taken, and
shall be continued, to keep them free from
the least danger of being infected with the
SMALL-POX, no boat having been on
board, and all other communication with
people from *Charles-Town* prevented.

Austin, Laurens, & Appleby.

N. B. Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the
SMALL-POX in their own Country.

Slave trading in Rio



Slave trading in Rio

