

BRITAIN'S EMPIRE AND THE ECONOMY

# SLAVERY AND THE BRITISH ECONOMY

MARTIN DAUNTON



Near this place lies the body of John Gordon Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
Son of Robert Gordon Esq<sup>r</sup>, of Pronsey;  
Grandson of Sir John Gordon Baronet of Embo in Sutherland.  
He died at Dorchester Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1774 aged 46.  
On his return to Jamaica,  
Where he had resided many Years In universal Esteem.

He was signally instrumental  
In quelling a dangerous Rebellion in that Island,  
In the Year 1760.

A large Body of NEGROES  
Whom his BRAVERY had repulsed Finally Yeilding  
To their Confidence in his HUMANITY.

This Monument is erected as a Mark of Affection  
To the Memory of The best of Brothers.



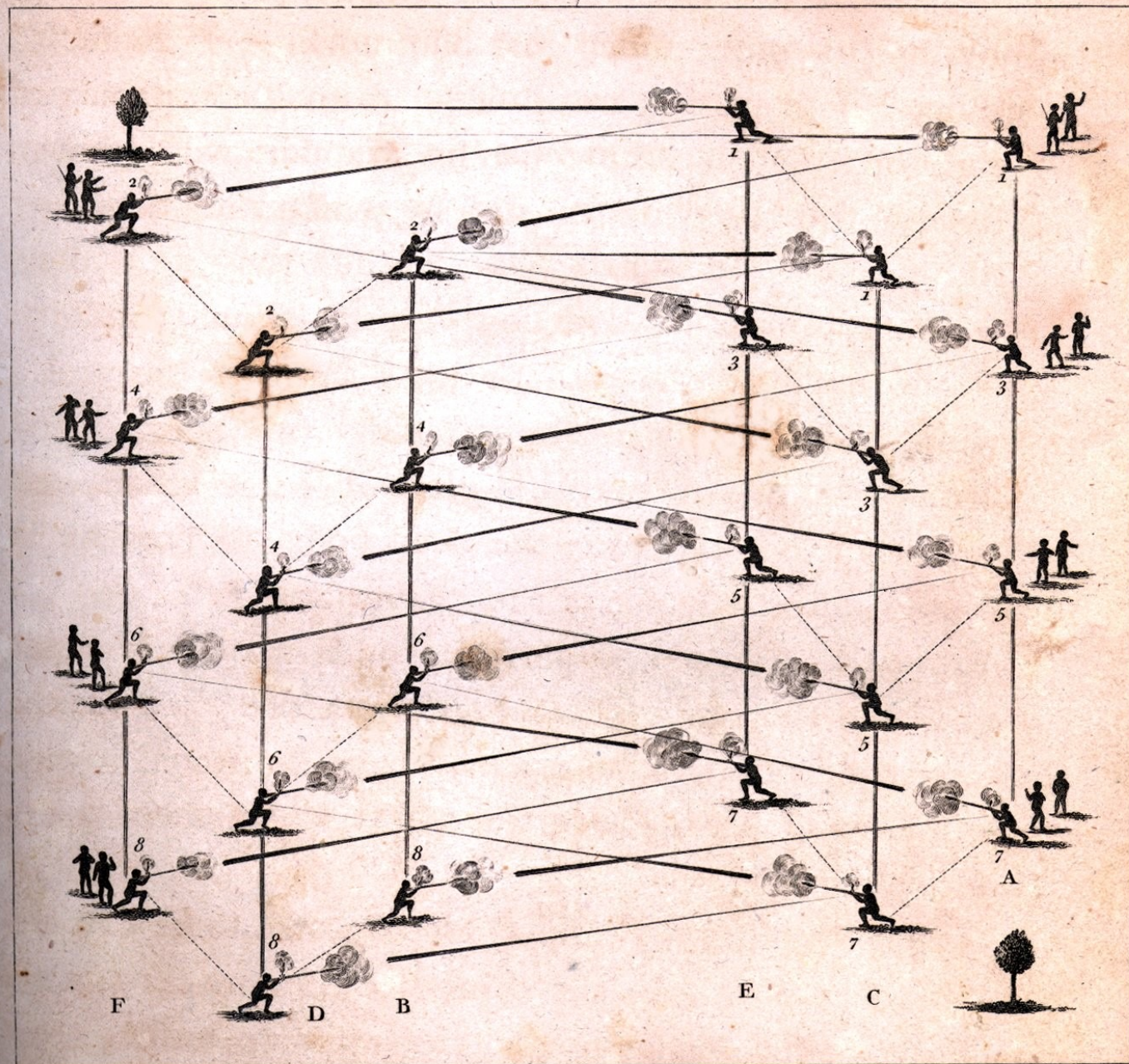
Josiah Wedgwood abolitionist token, 1787 [public domain]



Monument to Charles James Fox, Westminster Abbey, 1822  
[Creative Commons]

Manner of bush  
fighting,  
Surinam [1791]

Open access,  
Library  
Company of  
Philadelphia



*Manner of Bush-fighting by the African Negroes.*

Hoeing a cane-piece, from William Clark, *Ten Views of the Island of Antigua*, 1823.

John Carter Brown Library, Brown University



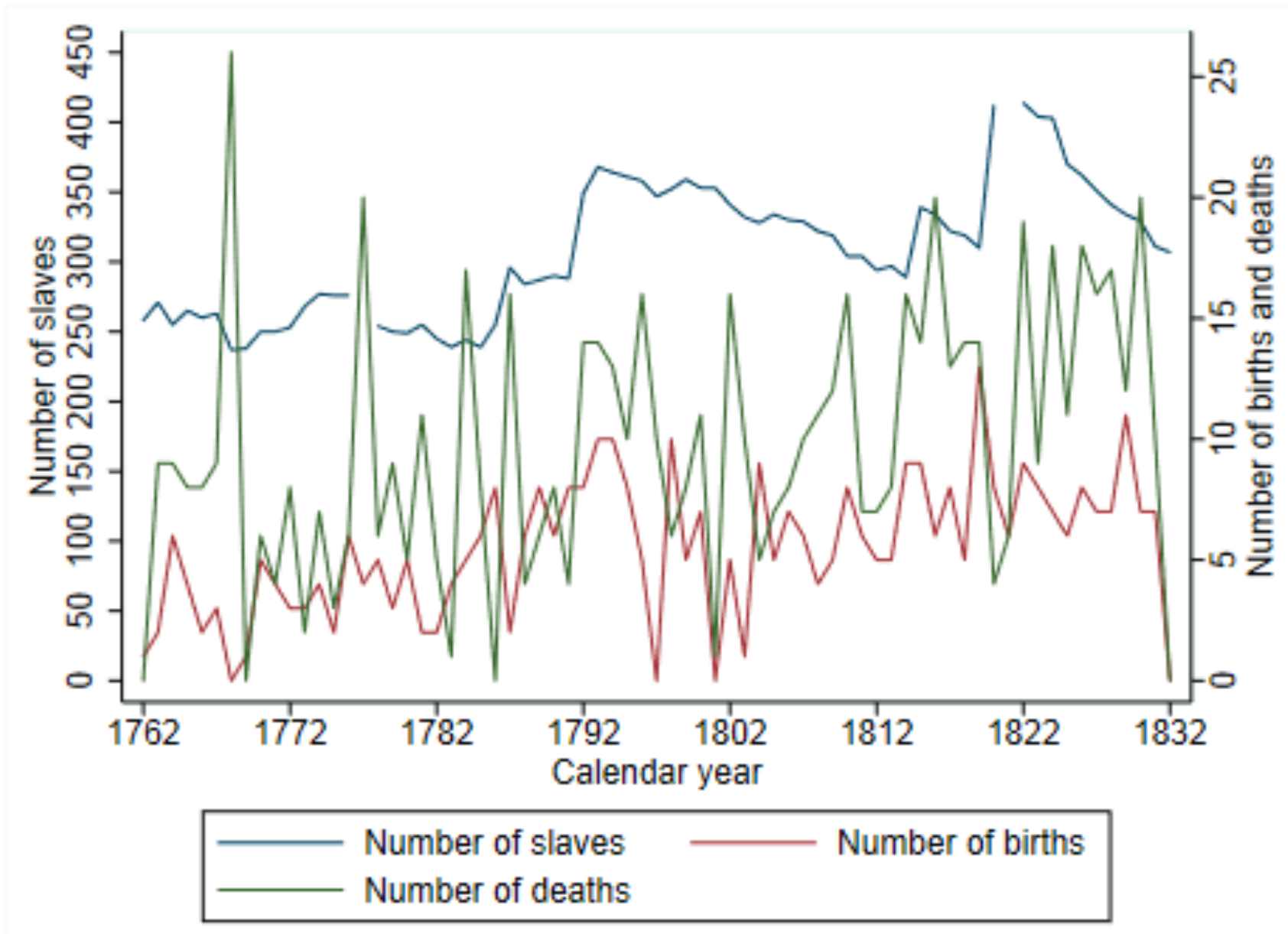
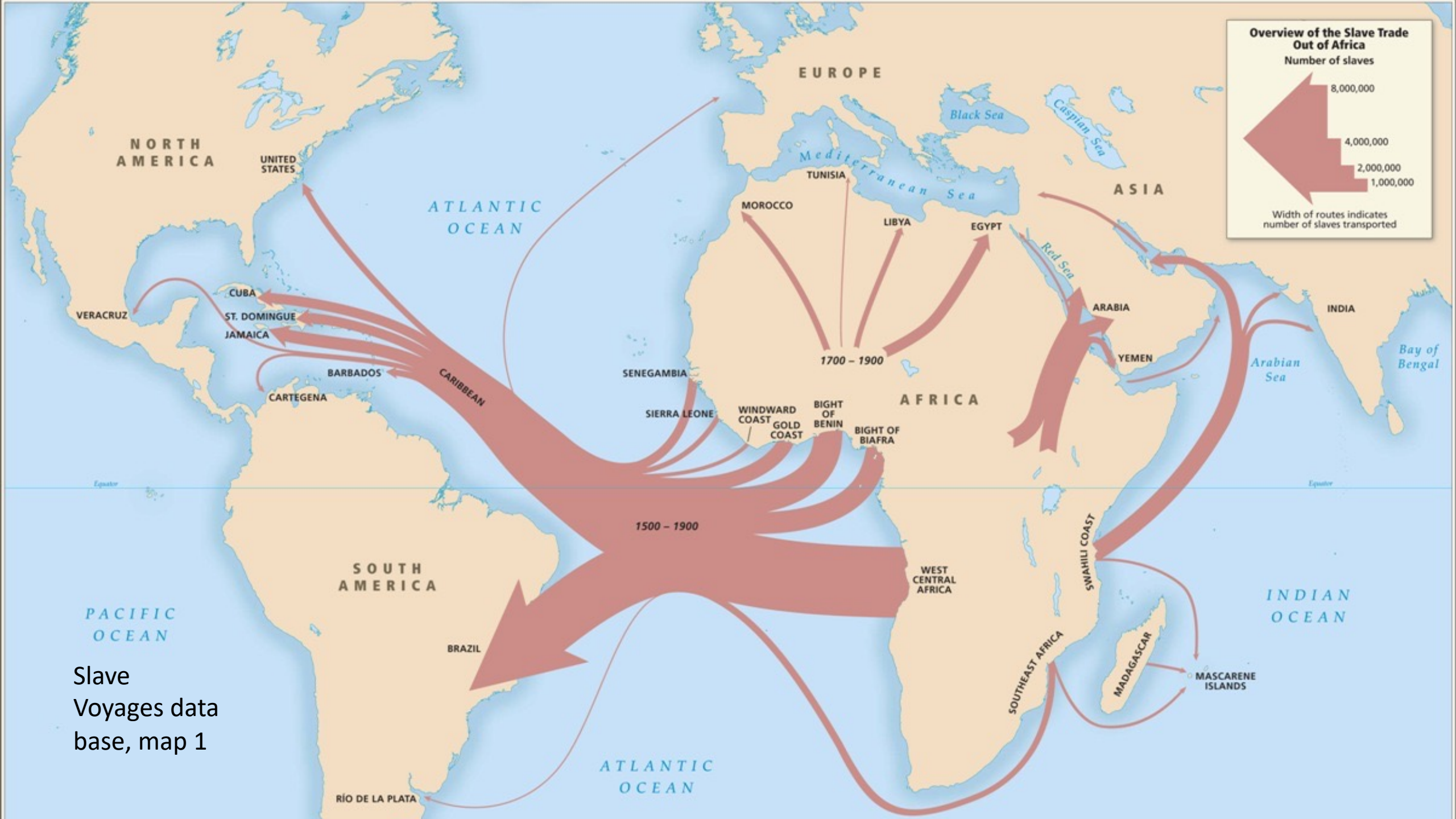


Figure 1. Total number of slaves on the estate (left-hand scale), and number of births and deaths (right-hand scale) by calendar year Mesopotamia plantation, from Smith and Foster, 'The hazards of slavery', 181.



Slave Voyages data base, map 1

## Estimates of trans-Atlantic slave trade: number of enslaved people carried by ships of different countries

	Britain	Portugal/ Brazil	Spain/Uruguay	France	ALL
1701-25	410,597	474,447	-	120,939	1,080,909
1751-75	832,047	528,693	4,239	325,918	1,925,315
1801-25	283,959	1,160 601	168,087	135,815	1,876,992

Source: Slave Voyages database (estimates)



Warrior from  
the Gold Coast,  
as portrayed in  
a Danish  
publication of  
1761



*Met. 1761. Ser. 1. Dan. Calcogr. J. G. Schlegel. et amicus. 1761. 1761.*

<p><i>Qyou, Eikoes' Son</i> født i byen Ursie, ved accra paa Negeren Guinea. forre- stiller hvorledes en fornem Neger er udrustet naar han gaaer i et felttog.</p>	<p><i>Qyou, Eikoes Sohn</i> geboren in dem Dorffe Ursie in accra, an der Küste Guinea. Zeiget sich in der Ausrüstung eines vornehmen Negers, wenn er in den Krieg geht.</p>	<p><i>Qyou, fils d' Eikoe,</i> né dans la Village Ursie à accra à la Côte de Guinée. ou portrait, et l'équipage d'un Nègre noble, quand il va à la guerre</p>
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*G. W. Baurenfeldt delinavit.*

Colonel John  
Guthrie,  
plantation  
owner, and  
Cudjoe, leader of  
the maroons,  
agree to a peace  
treaty in 1739

[image of 1803]

BL public domain



*Old Cudjoe making peace.*

Published for Longman & Rees April 5. 1803.

Letter 2



Captain Arthur Forrest, 1716-70, and the battle of Cape Francois in 1757 [public domain]

1754: owned 1,591 acres in Jamaica

1770 probate: owned 422 slaves valued at £21,769



*The Glorious Action off Cape Francois Oct: 11. 1757. between three English, and seven French Ships of War wherein the latter were entirely defeated.*  
*Printed for Cuninghams Booksellers, Map & Printers, 1769 in St. Pauls Church Yard, London.*

# Statue of William Beckford in the Guildhall, and Fonthill House, Wiltshire.

Creative Commons and Public Domain



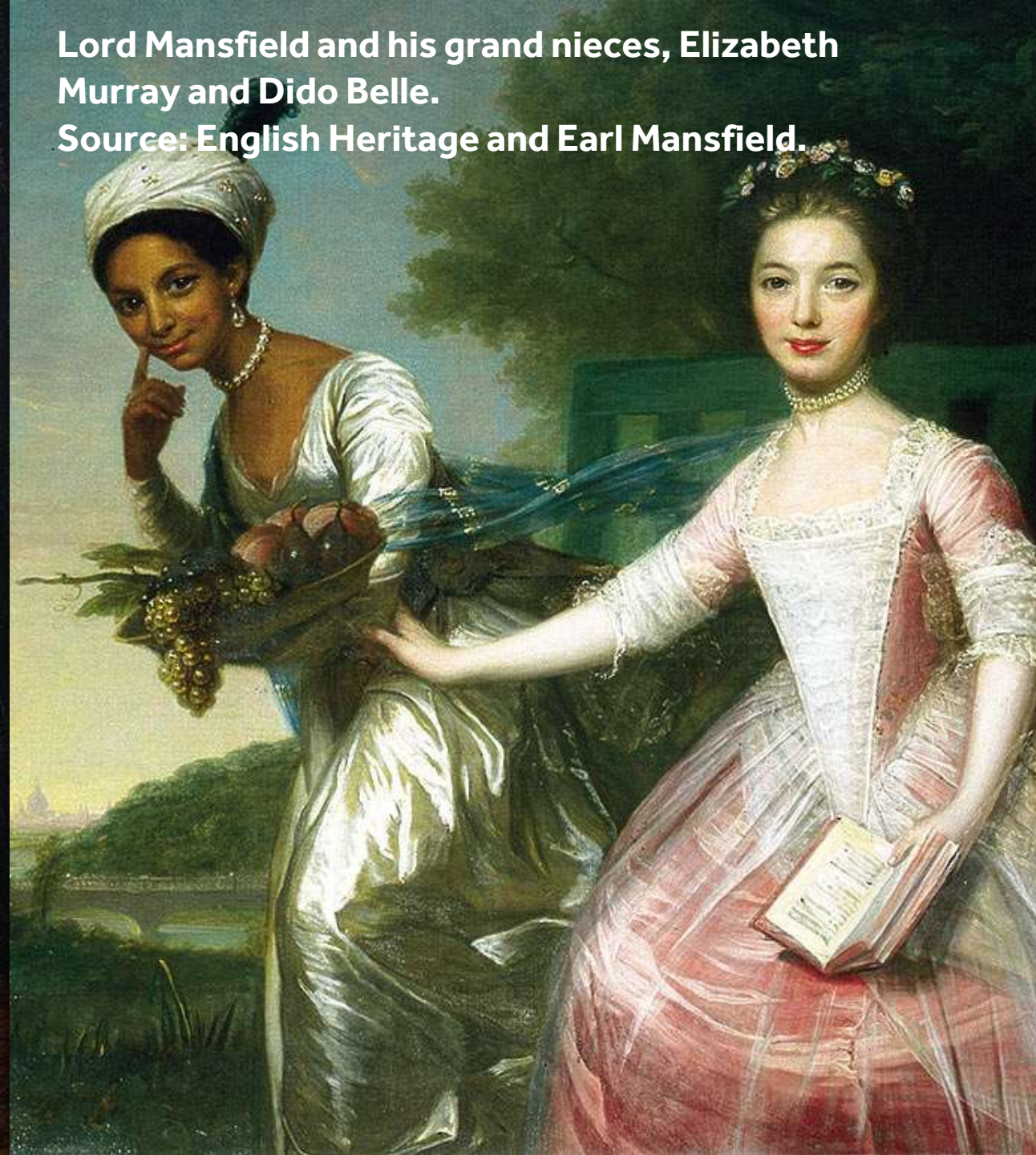
FAL Dumoulin, The battle of the Saintes, April 1782. Public domain: Musee historique de Vevey





LORD MANSFIELD,  
Chief Justice of England, 1777

Lord Mansfield and his grand nieces, Elizabeth Murray and Dido Belle.  
Source: English Heritage and Earl Mansfield.



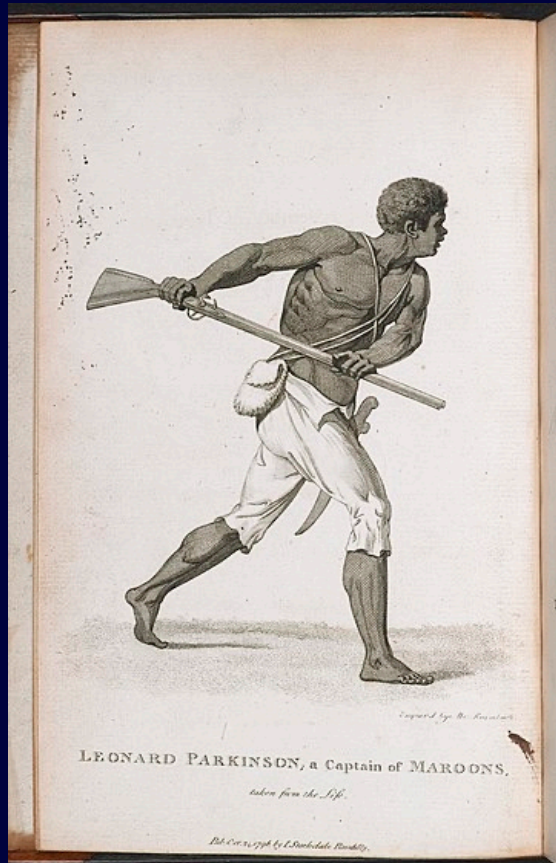
Slavers throwing overboard the dead and  
dying – typhoon coming on.  
JWM Turner, 1840.  
Public domain: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Right: Maroons ambush  
British troops on the Dromilly  
estate, Trelawney, Jamaica  
[1801]

Below: Captain of the  
maroons [1796]

BL public domain





'**one** of the main streams of that accumulation of capital in England which financed the Industrial Revolution'.

'The investment of profits from the triangular trade in British industry ... supplied **part** of the huge outlay for the construction of the vast plants to meet the needs of the new constructive process'.

'It must not be inferred that the triangular trade was solely and entirely responsible for the economic development. The growth of the internal market in England, the ploughing-in of the profits from industry to generate still further capital and achieve still greater expansion, played a large part'.

:BUT

'It was **only** the capital accumulation of Liverpool which called the population of Lancashire into existence and stimulated the manufactures of Manchester'.



West India  
Docks,  
London, 1810  
Thomas  
Rowlandson  
  
Metropolitan  
Museum:  
public domain



*Thomas Rowlandson del. & sculp.*

*Black aquat.*

WEST INDIA DOCKS.

*London. Pub. Jan 21. 1810. at R. Ackermann's Repository of Arts 101 Strand.*



Fonthill Abbey,  
designed by  
James Wyatt for  
William Thomas  
Beckford, heir of  
William Beckford.

RIBA Collection

Harewood House  
Creative Commons [Gunnar Larsson]



# Value added of sectors of the UK-British Caribbean economy, 1805

(£millions)

West Indian sugar	5.4
Iron	14.7
Woollen textiles	12.8
Cotton textiles	10.5
Sheep farming	7.6
Linen textiles	4.3

Eltis and Engerman, table 1, p.134

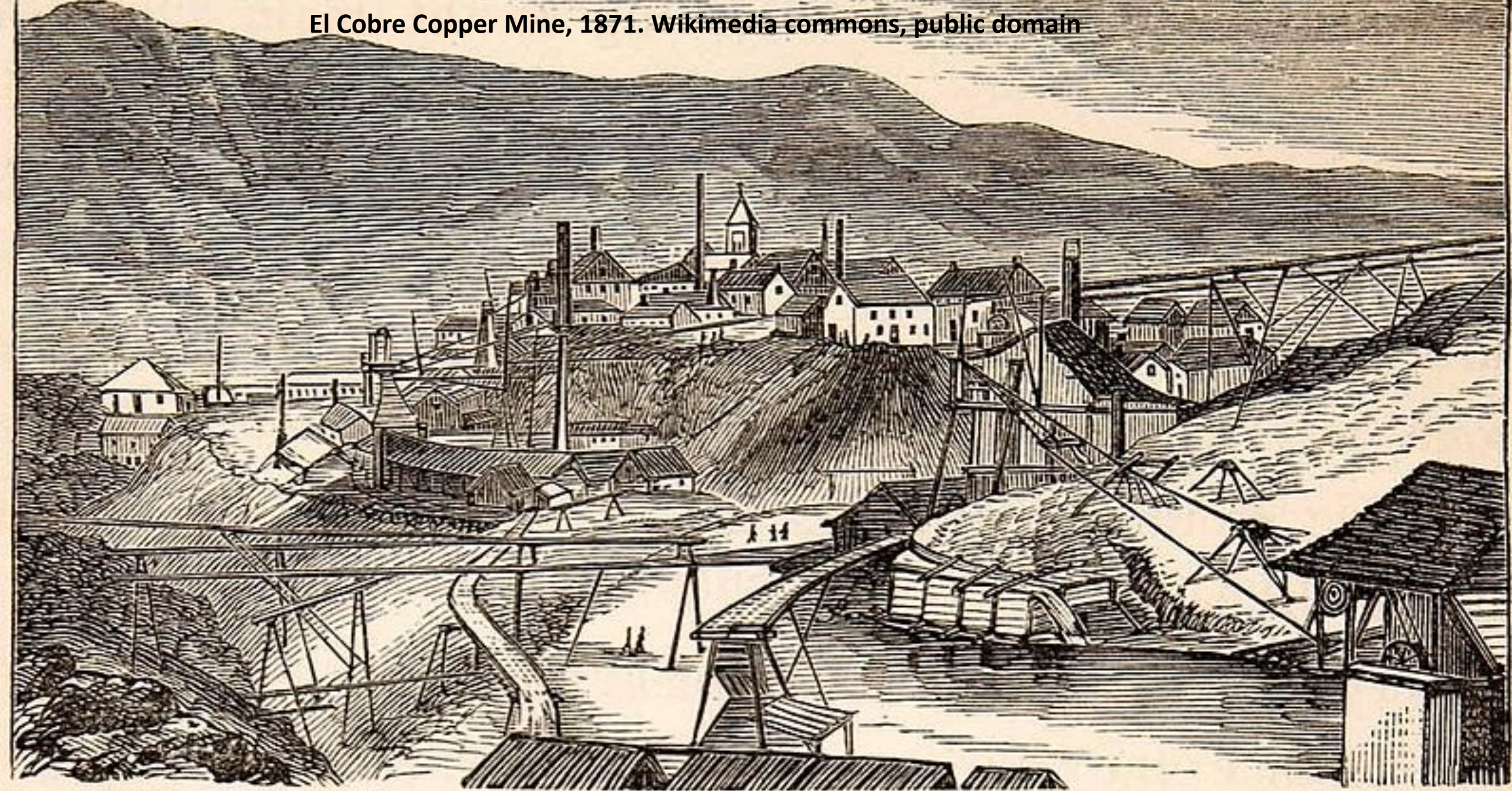
# Copper and slavery: manillas and a sugar boiling house in Antigua, 1823



British Museum



British Library



COBRE COPPER MINES.

# John Gladstone 1764-1851

	1828	1833	1843	1848
Real property UK	111,350	215,000	272,000	282,100
West Indies	200,000	336,000*	52,850	32,000
Partnership	206,200	60,000	30,200	-
Shares	3,500	1,200	213,150#	78,854
Gifts to children			74,000	324,000
Total fortune	502,550	636,200	690,300	745,679

\*£296,000 in Demarara #£169,700 in railways

source: Checkland, *The Gladstones*, appendix II, 414-5.