

VISUAL 17.1

TIMELINE FOR SLAVE EMANCIPATION (1800 AND BEFORE)

1777 The Constitution of Vermont prohibits slavery.

1780 The Massachusetts Constitution declares all men free and equal by birth; a judicial decision in 1783 interprets this clause as abolishing slavery.

Pennsylvania adopts a policy of gradual emancipation, freeing all slaves on their 28th birthday if born after 1 November 1780.

1784 Rhode Island and Connecticut pass gradual emancipation laws.

1799 New York passes a gradual emancipation law.

1800 U.S. citizens are barred from exporting slaves.

VISUAL 17.2

**TIMELINE FOR SLAVE EMANCIPATION IN THE AMERICAS
(ALL YEARS)**

- 1772 Lord Chief Justice Mansfield rules that slavery is not supported by English law, thus laying the legal basis for the freeing of England's 15,000 slaves.
- 1774 The English Society of Friends votes the expulsion of any member engaged in the slave trade.
- 1775 Slavery abolished in Madeira.
- 1776 The Societies of Friends in England and Pennsylvania require members to free their slaves or face expulsion.
- 1777 The Vermont Constitution prohibits slavery.
- 1780 The Massachusetts Constitution declares that all men are free and equal by birth; a judicial decision in 1783 interprets this clause as having the force of abolishing slavery. Pennsylvania adopts a policy of gradual emancipation, freeing the children of all slaves born after November 1, 1780, at their twenty-eighth birthday.
- 1784 Rhode Island and Connecticut pass gradual emancipation laws.
- 1787 Formation in England of the "Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade."
- 1794 The French National Convention abolishes slavery in all French territories. This law is repealed by Napoleon in 1802.
- 1799 New York passes a gradual emancipation law.
- 1800 U.S. Citizens barred from exporting slaves.
- 1804 Slavery abolished in Haiti. New Jersey adopts a policy of gradual emancipation.
- 1807 England and the United States prohibit engagement in the international slave trade.
- 1813 Gradual emancipation adopted in Argentina.
- 1814 Gradual emancipation begins in Colombia.

VISUAL 17.2, CONTINUED

**TIMELINE FOR SLAVE EMANCIPATION IN THE AMERICAS
(ALL YEARS)**

1820	England begins using naval power to suppress the slave trade.
1823	Slavery abolished in Chile.
1824	Slavery abolished in Central America.
1829	Slavery abolished in Mexico.
1831	Slavery abolished in Bolivia.
1838	Slavery abolished in all British Colonies.
1841	The Quintuple Treaty is signed under which England, France, Russia, Prussia, and Austria agree to mutual search of vessels on the high seas in order to suppress the slave trade.
1842	Slavery abolished in Uruguay.
1848	Slavery abolished in all French and Danish colonies.
1851	Slavery abolished in Ecuador. Slave trade ended in Brazil.
1854	Slavery abolished in Peru and Venezuela.
1862	Slave trade ended in Cuba.
1863	Slavery abolished in all Dutch colonies.
1865	Slavery abolished in the U.S. as a result of the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and the end of the Civil War.
1871	Gradual emancipation initiated in Brazil.
1873	Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico.
1886	Slavery abolished in Cuba.
1888	Slavery abolished in Brazil.

Source: D. Wentworth et al., *United States History: Focus on Economics* (National Council on Economic Education: New York, N.Y., 1998), pp. 16-17.

 VISUAL 17.3**THE GUIDE TO ECONOMIC REASONING**

1. People choose.
2. People's choices involve costs.
3. People respond to incentives in predictable ways.
4. People create economic systems that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they trade voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the future.

VISUAL 17.4

THE NEW YORK STATE SLAVE EMANCIPATION PLAN

In 1799, New York passed a law of gradual emancipation:

- Free-born slaves were identified as those born after the year the law was passed. All such male slaves were freed at age 28. All such females slaves were freed at age 25.
- Any slaves born before 1799 were not eligible for free status. In other words, the entire population of slaves in New York State was not freed.
- The law did not establish an agency to enforce this enactment, nor did it prevent slaveholders from selling slaves in the South before they reached the age of emancipation.
- In 1817, a law was passed freeing all slaves as of July 4, 1827.

VISUAL 17.5

SOUTHERN VIEWS ON SLAVERY PRIOR TO 1861

In 1974, Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman proposed a 10-point thesis about slavery prior to the Civil War. This document along with the Fifth Amendment of the Federal Constitution helps explain why many Southerners viewed the Civil War as a rational approach to protecting the institution of slavery. The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects citizens against the unlawful seizure of private property. Slaves were considered property before 1865. On ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, they were set free. Slave owners did not receive compensation for the loss of the slaves.

Seven of the 10 applicable theses are listed below. They help to explain why the South chose to go to war.

1. Slavery was rational and profitable for Southerners acting in their own self-interest, wanting to maximize profits and accumulate wealth. Agriculture led economic growth prior to the Civil War.
2. Before 1861, the market for slaves was growing and developing. After 1861, the rate of growth started to slow. Some economic historians argue that slavery would eventually have died out for the same reasons indentured servitude ended. Industrialization would have changed the demand for various types of labor, negatively impacting the need for slave labor.
3. Slave owners expected a positive return on their investment in slaves. They expected high productivity in exchange for shelter, food, clothing and guaranteed employment.
4. Overall, slaves were more productive workers than wage and salary employees.
5. Agricultural production using slaves was more efficient than production without slaves. Much of the difference in increased productivity can be attributed to farm size and the ability to take advantage of these economies.
6. Slave owners had an incentive to provide slaves with solid material conditions. The quality and quantity of food, clothing, shelter and medical care impacted slave productivity.
7. Slave owners did not possess any great incentive to exploit slaves. Exploitation decreases labor productivity, negatively impacting profit margins.

Source: Jonathan Hughes and Louis P. Cain, *American Economic History*, 6th ed. (New York: Addison-Wesley, 2003), p. 187.