

# Chronology of Slavery and Abolition

- 1441 *10 Africans from Guinea Coast shipped to Portugal.*
- 1517 *First Africa slaves shipped to Spanish colonies in the New World.*
- 1562 *Sir John Hawkins completes first English slaving expedition.*
- 17th Century *Dutch compete with Portuguese and Spanish traders and establish forts on W. African coast. England begins to acquire colonies in the Caribbean.*
- 1672 *Royal Africa Company formed to carry slaves and control trading.*
- 18th Century *English became leaders in slaving, based on West Coast ports of Bristol and Liverpool.*
- 1759 *William Wilberforce born in Hull.*
- 1775-83 *American War of Independence.*
- 1776-79 *Wilberforce at St John's College, Cambridge - meets Pitt.*
- 1780 *Wilberforce elected MP for Hull.*
- 1781 *Case of the slave ship "Zong" - over 100 Negroes thrown overboard.*
- 1784 *Wilberforce elected MP for Yorkshire.*
- 1784-86 *Wilberforce visits France with Milner (formerly at Hull Grammar School) - spiritual crisis.*
- 1787 *Committee for Abolition of Slave Trade formed - invite Wilberforce to press for Abolition in Parliament. First freed slave shipped to Sierra Leone.*
- 1789 (May) *Wilberforce speaks condemning the Trade.*
- 1789 (July) *French Revolution - storming of the Bastille.*
- 1791 *Major slave revolt in San Domingo - Wilberforce accused of starting revolution and riot at home and abroad.*
- 1792 *New resolution to "gradually" abolish the Trade. This is defeated in the Lords.*
- 1797-1804 *Demoralised Abolition Committee does not meet.*
- 1797 *Wilberforce writes "A Practical View" - best selling religious work.*
- 1806 *William Pitt dies.*
- 1807 *Bill to abolish the Trade is passed.*
- 1819 *Peterloo rising - Wilberforce supports repressive measures against Radicals.*
- 1825 *Wilberforce retires as MP - leadership of Parliamentary campaign passes to Buxton.*
- 1833 *Slavery abolished in British possessions. Apprenticeship system introduced - slaves become wage-earners.*
- 1838 *Apprenticeship abolished as unworkable.*
- 1852 *"Uncle Tom's Cabins" published. Antislavery feeling grows against American slavery.*
- 1861-5 *American Civil War - Slavery abolished constitutionally in 1865.*