

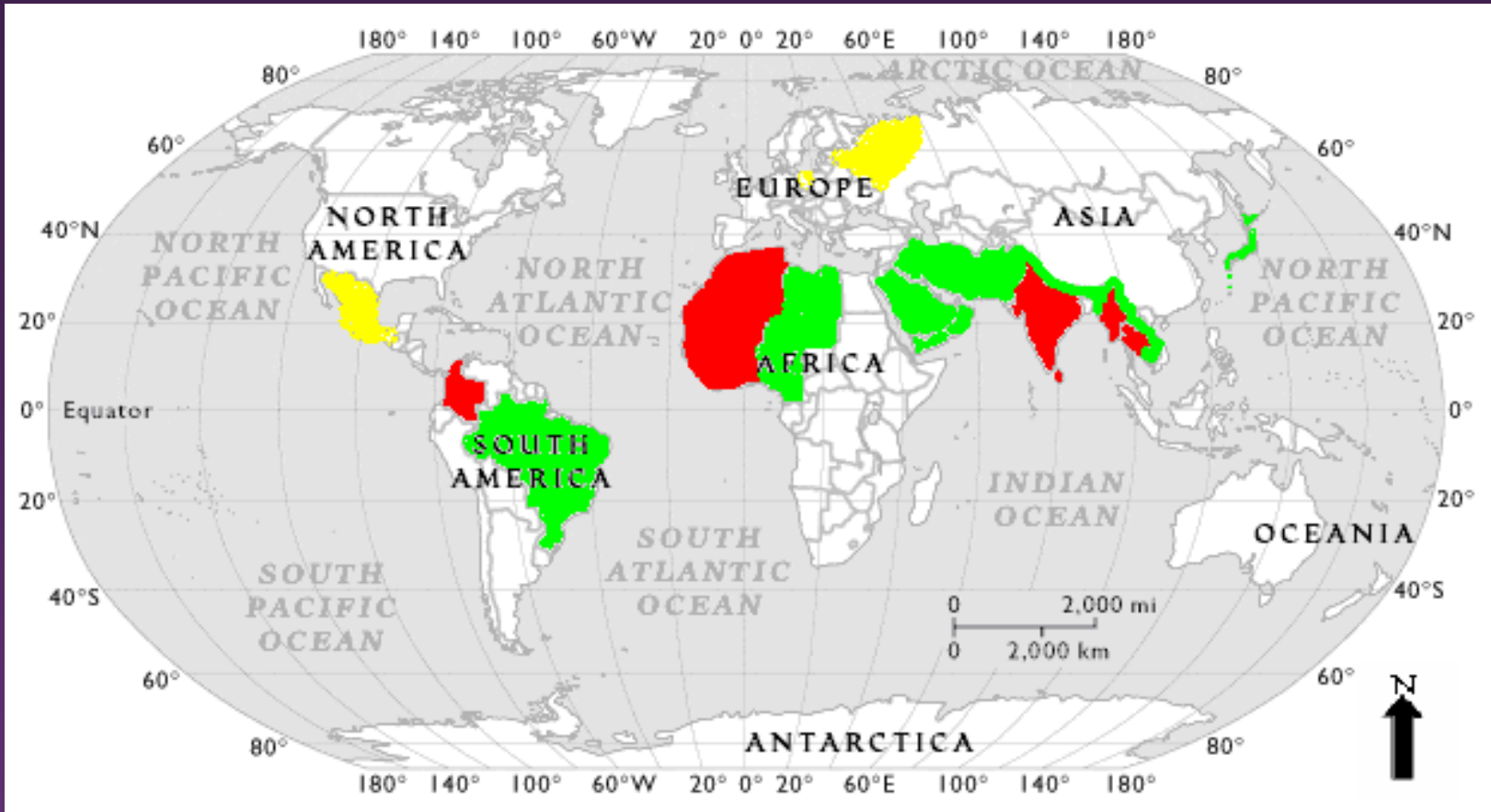
Slavery

A Global Issue



By Henali Patel

Main Places Affected



Red- Most affected

Green- More affected

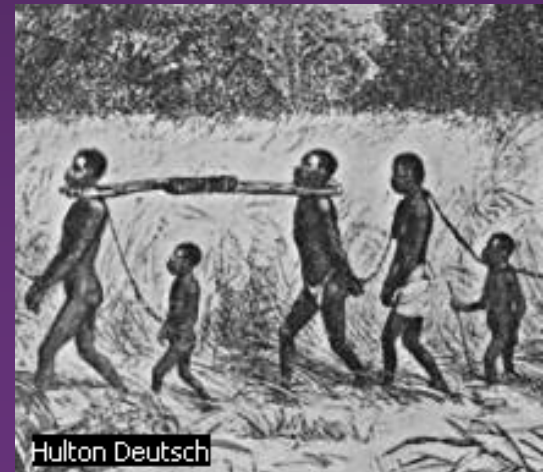
Yellow- Affected

This map only shows the places that are most affected but Slavery happens everywhere.

Introduction

Most of us think that slavery ended a long time ago— or that if it does exist ,it only happens in poor countries far away. Many people think that when the legal ownership of slaves ended, as it did in the United States in 1865, that slavery ended as well. But even with legal abolishment, slavery never stopped, and as it has done for thousands of years control over slaves today means violence. Slavery is about no choices at all, no control over your life, and a constant fear of violence. Slavery is a global issue because it's happening everywhere- but always kept from sight. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 1 states that 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'. So why should some people have to suffer?

Right: Slaves
forced to work in
Africa



History of Slavery

Slavery can be traced back to thousands of years ago. There were slaves in Babylon during the 18th century BC, slaves in Rome from the 2nd century, slaves in Greece from the 7th century, Slaves in India, Egypt, Africa, slaves in the Middle Ages and slaves during the Portuguese Slave Trade from the 15th-17th Century AD, slaves were everywhere. Slavery used to be a life-long imprisonment carried on from one generation to the other. Slaves used to be from a certain race, 'colour' or place in society- those who were 'lower class' were generally slaves.



Above: A Painting of a Slave Auction



Above: Slaves forced to work with crops

Characteristics of Slavery

Since the abolition of legal slavery in the 19th Century, the word slavery has been used to describe many different things. Slavery in its simplest form means:

‘A social and economic relationship in which a person is controlled through violence or its threat, paid nothing and exploited in any way’.

Throughout history, the core characteristic of slavery, whether it was legal or not, is violence. Violence is the key to slavery. Violence brings a person into slavery. Many who become slaves are tricked into it. Many people, following a trail of lies walk into enslavement but what keeps them there is violence. Once enslaved there are all sorts of ways that slaves are held in slavery-sometimes it's the way a slave gives in to their slaveholders, sometimes it's the personal relationships-but the crucial factor is violence.

The second characteristic of slavery is loss of free will. Slaves are completely under the control of someone else. There is nobody a slave can turn to or they will suffer. Slaves must do as they are told to or they will suffer.

The third characteristic is that slavery is normally used to exploit someone in some kind of activity. No one enslaves another person just to be mean, people are enslaved to make a profit. The main characteristic of slavery is violence- but that can take many forms. In those few places where old styles of slavery are still practiced, like Mauritania, there are long-term, often life-long relationships between slave and master. Now slavery is more short-term and dangerous.

Uses of Slaves

Slaves are usually used in simple traditional agricultural work that feeds into local economies. Most of this work is aimed at local sale and consumption but slave-made goods filter throughout the global economy. Other kinds of work also include mining and quarrying, brick-making, textiles, cloth and carpet making and fireworks-making.

Some slaves are used for home use- like a servant except they are often beaten. Their hours are long- even up to 21 hours sometimes. They are not fed properly (sometimes their food is left over scraps) nor paid for their work. This is an atrocious thing to do.

Other slaves are involved in something sexual- by force. This includes prostitution, sex slavery and servile marriages. The people who are most vulnerable to these types of slavery are girls and young women. They are raped, forced to have sex up to 20 times a day and beaten harshly if they refuse to do as their captors wish.

Main Places Affected

It's hard to guess exactly how many slaves there are in this world today. Slavery is illegal in practically every country so it's mostly hidden from public view. The estimate is 27 million slaves- very low according to most experts. The biggest part of that 27 million, about 15-20 million, is in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. Slavery is also concentrated in Southeast Asia, Northern and Western Africa, Russia, Japan, Thailand and parts of South America, but there are slaves in almost every country in the world.



Left: Painting of a black slave being whipped by white owner

Facts and Figures

- There are an estimated 27 million slaves (extremely low estimate), in this world today- and it brings in an annual profit of around 31 billion U.S dollars, as the slaves that die are replaced- it's a continuous cycle.
- Estimated number of people trafficked across borders worldwide to be slaves every year: 700,000- 900,000 people
- Estimated number of slaves transported to the United States every year: 20,000 people
- Average profit of the British Slave Trade (1761-1807): 9.5 percent
- Average profit of a Thai brothel using enslaved prostitutes: 856 percent
- Cost of freeing all the slaves in the world at \$32 each :\$864 million
- Amount the U.S Congress approved for spending on nanotechnology research in 2006: \$864 million

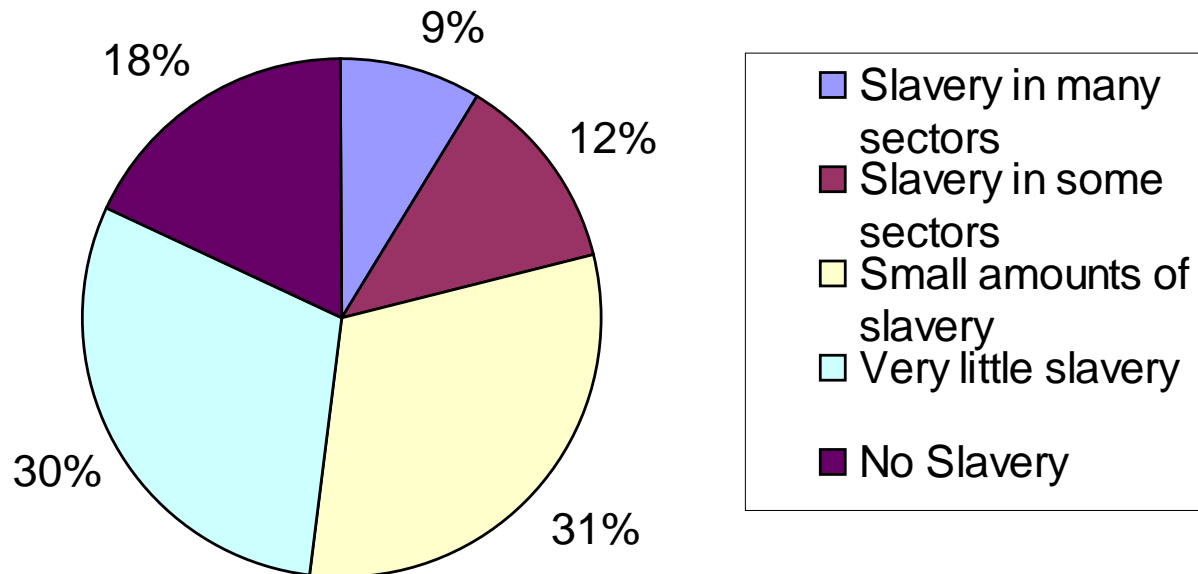
These figures (except for the last one) are estimates. Why would a government spend \$864 million on nanotechnology research, when that money can be used to save lives? This is an issue that is much larger than global-warming. This is an issue we should be focusing more on.

Old and New Forms of Slavery Compared

Old	New
•Legal ownership asserted	•Legal ownership avoided
•High purchase cost	•Very low purchase cost
•Low Profits	•Very high profits
•Shortage of potential slaves	•Surplus of potential slaves
•Long-term relationship	•Short-term relationship
•Slaves maintained	•Slaves disposable
•Ethnicity important	•Ethnicity unimportant

Slavery in the World

Percentage of countries with different levels of Slavery (192 countries in total)



Defined Slavery

Type	Totally Controlled	Paid Nothing, Economically Used	Violence or threat used
Chattel Slavery	Yes	Yes	Yes
“White Slavery”	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forced Labor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Debt Bondage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Child Prostitution	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sexual Slavery	Yes	Yes	Yes
Migrant Workers	Yes /No	Yes /No	Yes /No
Prostitution	Yes /No	Yes /No	Yes /No
Forced Marriage	Yes /No	Yes /No	Yes
Apartheid	Yes /No	No	Yes
Incest	Yes /No	No	Yes
Organ Harvesting	Yes /No	No	Yes /No
Caste	No	No	Yes
Prison Labor	No	Yes /No	Yes
Forced Prostitution	Yes	Yes	Yes

Types of Slavery

These are the four main types of slavery:

- **Forced Labor**- often results when individuals are lured by the promise of a good job but instead find themselves subjected to slaving conditions — working without payment and enduring physical abuse, often in harsh and hazardous conditions. Victims include domestic workers, construction workers, human mine detectors and migrant workers.
- **Sex Slavery**- finds women and children forced into prostitution. Many are lured by false offers of a good job and then beaten and forced to work in brothels. An estimated two million women and children are sold into sex slavery around the world every year.
- **Debt Bondage**- People become bonded laborers by taking or being tricked into taking a loan for as little as the cost of medicine for a sick child. To repay the debt, many are forced to work long hours, seven days a week, up to 365 days a year. They receive basic food and shelter as 'payment' for their work, but may never pay off the loan, which can be passed down for generations.
- **Chattel Slavery**- Chattel slaves are considered their masters' property — exchanged for things like trucks or money and expected to perform labor and sexual favors. Once of age, their children are expected to do the same.

Solutions

- Spread the word- everyone needs to know about slavery. Most people are oblivious to the fact that slavery exists. When people are aware of slavery the slavers will need to be more aware of who and where they enslave- together we can make a difference
- Campaign- once the slavers find out we are onto them they will be more cautious. Everyone deserves a right and you can help others who are less fortunate than you. Boycott from buying goods made in countries that have a high level of slavery.
- Film a video- Go to a country where slavery is high and interview people there (like “Invisible Children”). When you return back home set up a website and project it across the world- awareness is the first step.
- Provide free education/food/shelter/water/medicine to all children until the age of 16 and provide support to all families who need it- Governments will need to help with this one as they have the money to make this happen. The education will help the children as they will be able to find a proper job

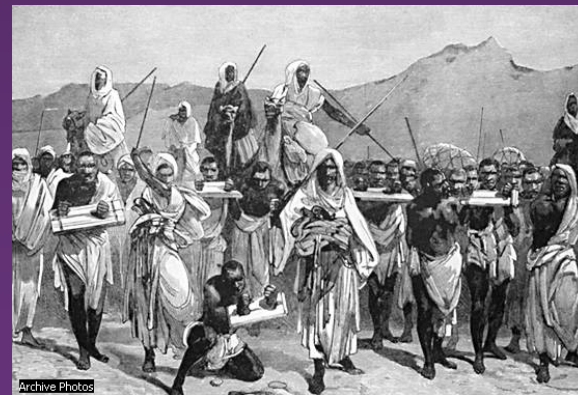
Conclusion

Awareness is the first step. People don't know about Slavery so they can't do anything about it. We need to spread the knowledge that we know with others. A good way for teenagers is using sites like Bebo/MySpace/Facebook to spread their knowledge- it travels really fast.

Think positively- don't give up because you're the only person, more people are bound to join you in no time. And if everyone is going to be scared like that then who is going to make the first move?

We need to work together-millions of lives are at stake. We need to team up to challenge those slave-holders and put them behind bars.....once and for all!

Right: Slaves forced to work



Evaluation

I overall think that my Global Issues Assignment went well. I added some extra things that I thought were interesting, like the table and the pie chart.

I could have written more for my conclusion/solution section and the history of slavery. My map could have been better, but slavery affects the whole world- I could have coloured the whole map in!

The most useful resource was “New Slavery”- by Kevin Bales. It had good in-depth information and some good resources for more information.

I think I did enough research but maybe I could've done some more research for my conclusion/solutions.

Next time I have an assignment I will try not to leave it till the last minute- it means you have to rush and you can't do it to the best of your abilities.

Reference List

Author	Title	Date written	Type of resource	Where it was found
Kevin Bales	New Slavery	2004	Book	Local Library
Zana Muhsen	SOLD	1994	Book	School Library
_____	Anti-Slavery	_____	Website	Internet
Wikipedia	Slavery	_____	Website	Internet
_____	Invisible Children	_____	Video	From A Friend
Spartacus	Slavery	_____	Website	Internet
Phil Troutman	Extant Slave Quarters	2003	Article	Internet
International Labor Organization	What we do: Social Justice/ Child Labor	_____	Pamphlet	From A Friend
Encarta Multimedia Encyclopedia	Slavery	_____	Article	My Computer
John Reynolds - a friends dad	_____	2008 recount	Interview	My Friend's House