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# Slavery in the New World

Europeans first sent slaves to the Americas in the 1500s. The slaves did not have a fresh start like others that came to the new land. Instead, they began hard lives of **servitude** (SUHR-vuh-tood). By 1860, there were four million slaves in the United States. Most were destined to harsh lives with no rights and no choices.

▼ Slaves in the United States were finally freed in 1863.

