

# THE CASE OF THE AMISTAD

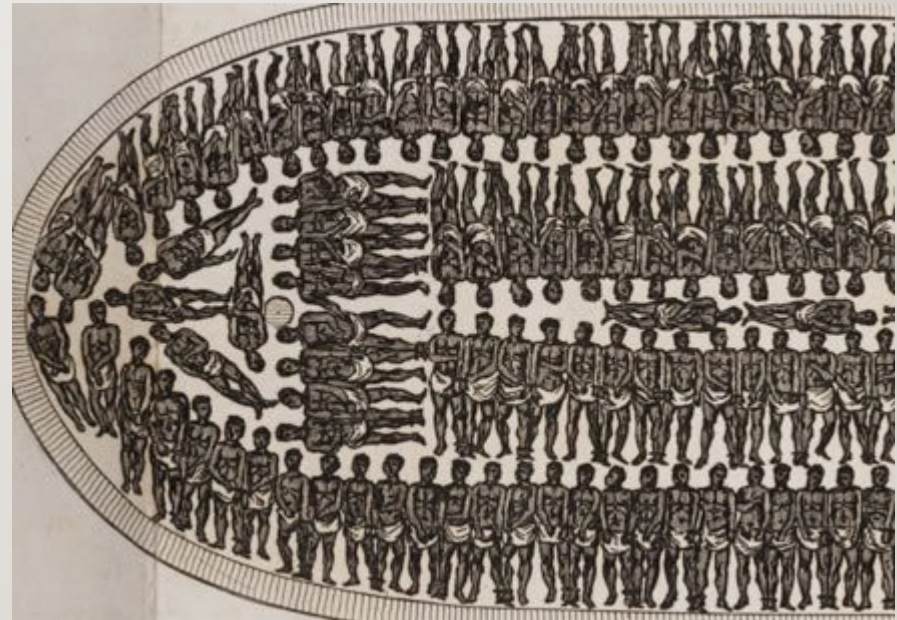
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NICOLLE GOLDBACH

# INTRODUCTION

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- Slave ship
- Impartial Racial Trial
- Economic and cultural shift
- First step to end of slavery



# HISTORICAL CONTENT

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- Mid 1800
- Economic system of slavery
- Triangular trade route
- Slave Trade Act 1807
  - British Empire
- Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves
  - United States
- International Treaties



# LA AMISTAD

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- American-built schooner
- Spanish possession
- Violation of treaties



# THE CASE

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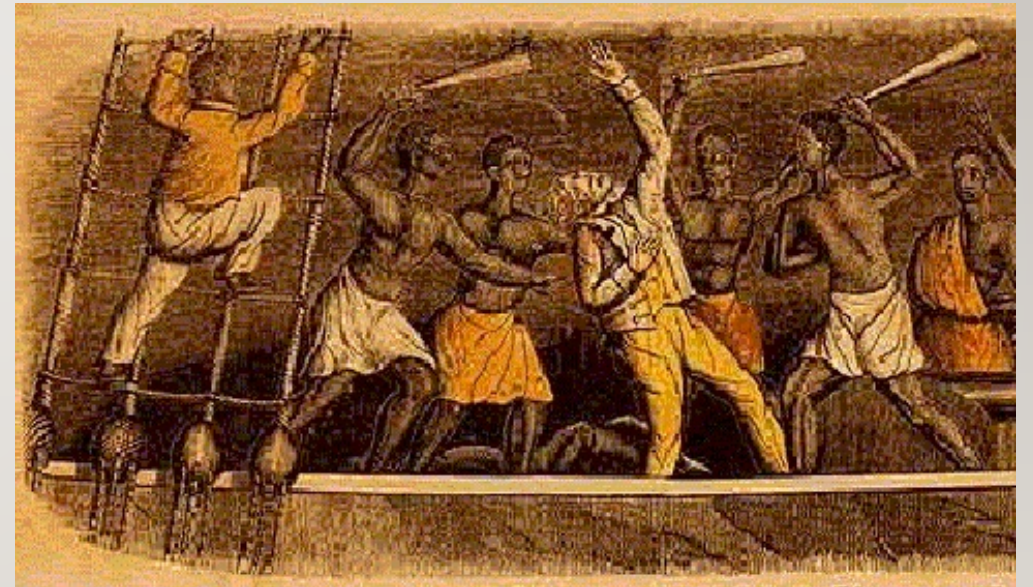
- Fifty-three Africans were kidnapped in Sierra Leone
- Spanish forged documentation
- Havana, Cuba
- June 28, 1839
- Four days after the captives revolted



# THE REVOLT

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- During night
- Joseph Cinque/ Sengbe Pieh
- Killed the captain and the cook
- Two slaves died
- Spared the crew's lives
  - Pedro Montes and Jose Ruiz
- Demanded the crew to sail back to Africa



# THE REVOLT

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- The crew sailed east during the day
- Tricked the Africans by night
- Long Island, New York
- August 26, 1839
- U.S. Navy's Washington took the Africans into custody



# THE CASE

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- New London, Connecticut
- First hearing, August 29, 1839
  - Ruiz and Montes presented false documents
- Africans indicted on charges of murder and piracy
- New Haven county jail



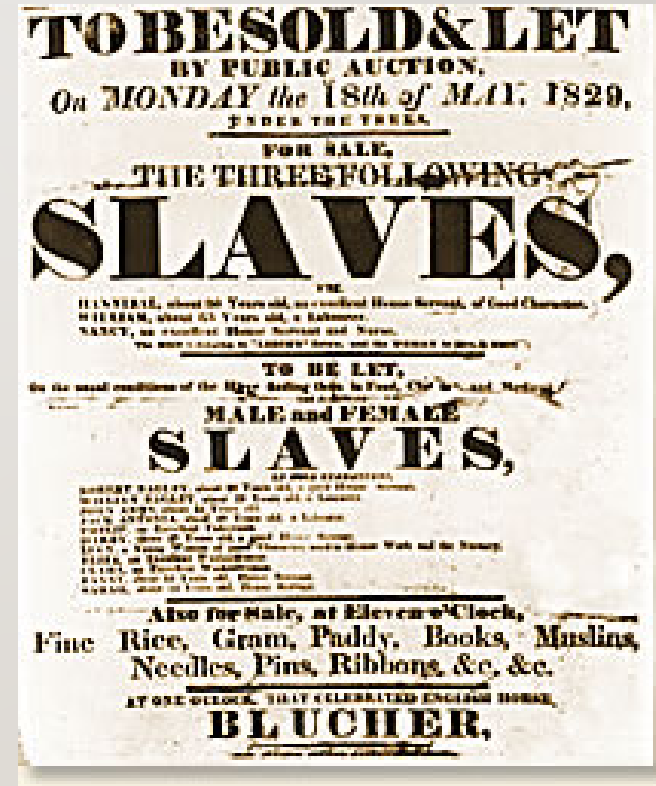
(Osagie, 2000)



# THE CASE

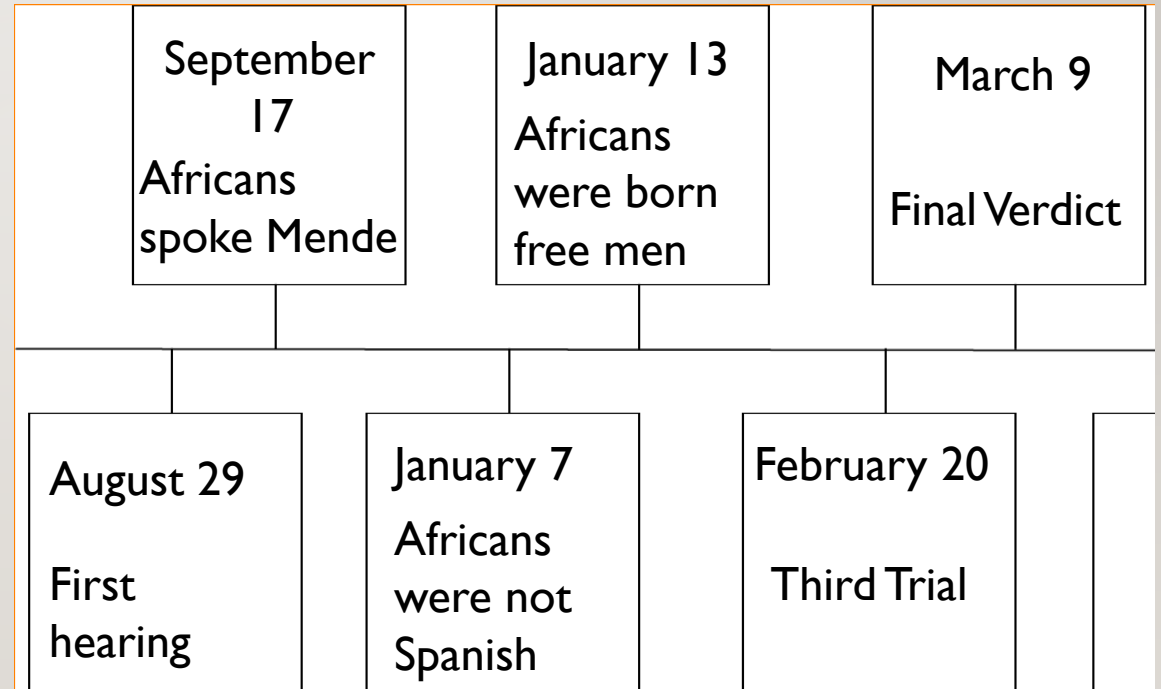
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- Dwight Janes
- Amistad committee
  - Meet legal defense
  - Spread awareness
- Dr. Josiah Willard Gibbs
  - September 17
- Released under bail
  - Slave price



# THE CASE

- Second trial on January 7, 1840
  - Africans were not from Cuba
  - International trade violated
- January 13, 1840
  - Judge A. Judson
  - Africans were born free
  - President Martin Van Buren
- Third trial (appeal)
  - February 20, 1841
- John Quincy Adams

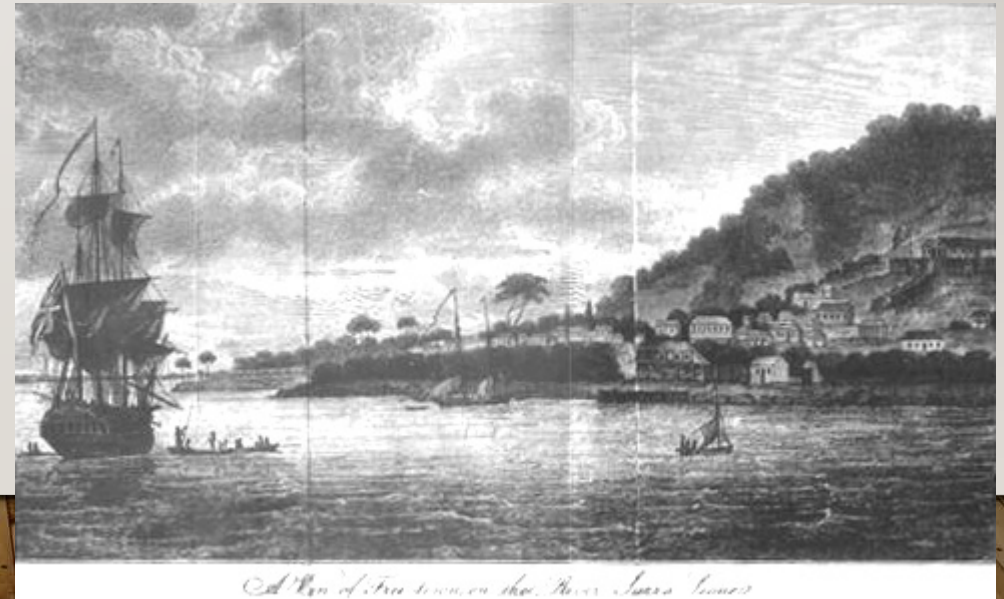


(Osagie, 2000)

# VERDICT:

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- March 9, 1841
- Africans were free
  - Self-defense
- Trip back to Africa as responsibility of the U.S. government
  - Declined
- Raised funds to the trip
- January 1842



*At View of Free Town, on the River Sierra Leone*

(Osagie, 2000)

# CONSEQUENCES

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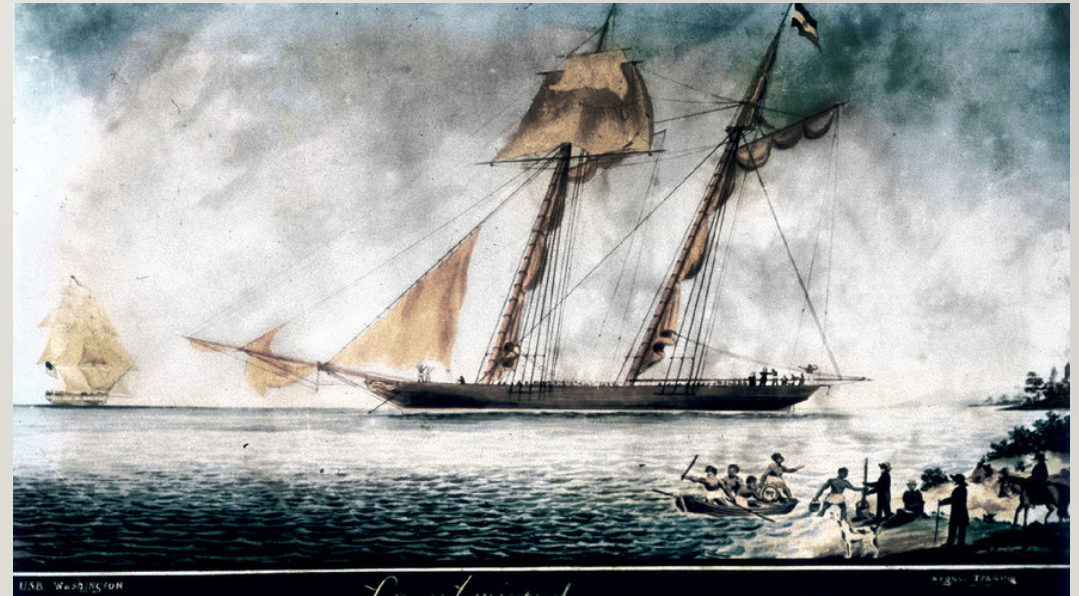
- Dialogues about race, culture, and law
- Solidification of the Abolition Movement
- Slavery banished
- No more free labor
- New commercial products
- First impartial racial trial
- Negatively affected the South
- New areas of investments



# RECAP

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- Slave ship that violated treaties
- First Impartial Racial Trial
- Solidification of the Abolitionist Movement
- International Treaties
- New economic system



# REFERENCES

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- Osagie, I. F. (2000). *The Amistad revolt: Memory, slavery, and the politics of identity in the United States and Sierra Leone*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.
- Kille, J. (2008). Amistad case, the. In R. M. Juang, & N. A. Morrissette (Eds.), *Africa and the Americas: culture, politics, and history*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. Retrieved from [http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/abcafatrle/amistad\\_case\\_the/0?institutionId=1065](http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=http://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/abcafatrle/amistad_case_the/0?institutionId=1065)