INTRODUCTION

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HISTORICAL CONTENT

- 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

• American-built schooner
• Spanish possession
• Violation of treaties
THE CASE

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

• 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

• 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

- 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

- 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:

- 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

(Osagie, 2000)
CONSEQUENCES

• 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

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