History: Literature about Slavery in the New World

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Enslaving human beings to subject them to their owner’s whims and wills is something that has existed throughout the history of the world. However, over the course of time, a slave and what entitled that individual to become a slave has changed. Earlier, slavery was passed through generations. The family may be humbled at some point and decide to set their slaves free, even giving them lands and titles if they felt like it. By the beginning of the 18th century, slavery was brought into the new world by European traders [[1]](#footnote-1). They brought these slaves from an entirely new continent, and that somehow redefined the term slavery and how their trade operated in the new world.

One of the finest examples of what a black slave’s life of like in the new world can be found in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* [[2]](#footnote-2)*.* In the story, the author uses the means of fiction to elaborate what slave’s had to go through and the lengths they went to set themselves free. This book was the reason for the Civil War in the United States of America and laid the basis of freedom for the oppressed back people.

In *Incidents from the Life of a Slave Girl* [[3]](#footnote-3), the author tells how freed herself and her children from slavery. The book, a biography, follows the narrative of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and relays the harrowing details of the life of a slave, especially one with children.

Then is the regaling tale of Frederick Douglass in *The Life of Frederick Douglass* [[4]](#footnote-4)*.* The man was born a slave, to a slave woman and was most probably fathered by a white master who refused to accept him. He regales the tales of his life, the attitude of the society towards slaves and how it changes people that are kind towards them earlier.

The history of the New World began with the toil of slaves brought in from Africa and the efforts to elevate their situation in life. While their life has been improved for the better since they attained freedom, they have been discriminated against and still being discriminated in a number of areas.

1. “Digital History,” accessed July 31, 2019, http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3035. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Harriet Beecher-Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, 1896. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Harriet Ann Jacobs, “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl,” n.d. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Benjamin Quarles, *Frederick Douglass* (Prentice-Hall Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1968). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)