

# BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

## ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE ACT

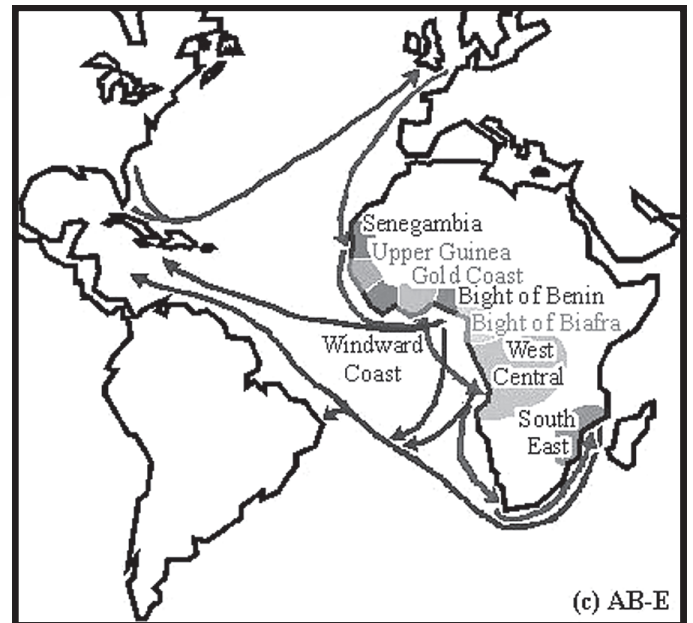
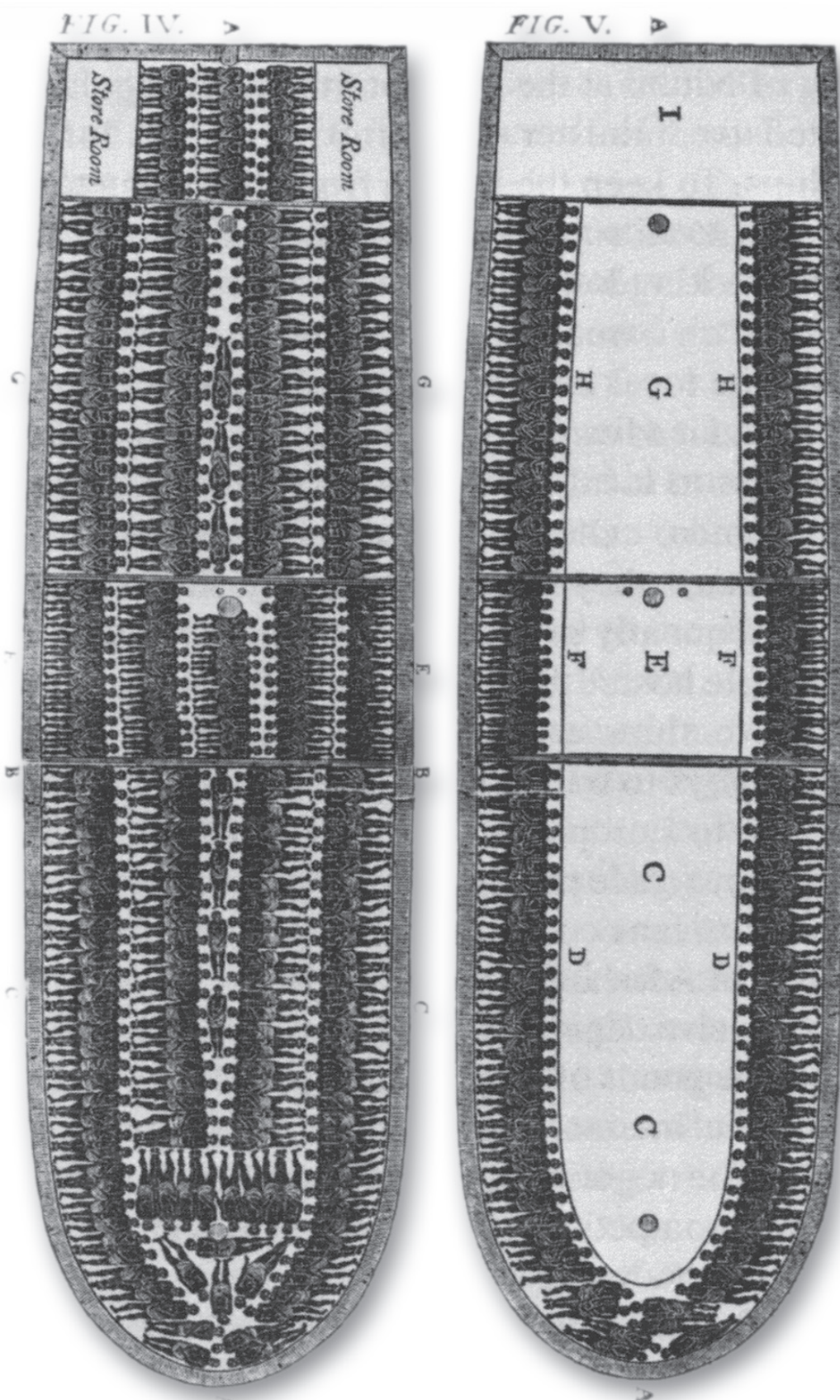
25 March 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans. For the Africans captured and forced through places like “The Door of No Return” – the gateway leading to the ships at slave houses on Gorée Island, Senegal – their transatlantic journey signified the beginning of a crushing bondage that would last for generations.

The trade was a forced journey for these millions of Africans, many of whom did not survive the crossing of the Middle Passage. Many things happened during the course of this journey to cripple the body and assault the mind. But the limbo dance, said to have originated in the cramped conditions of the slave ship, offers a metaphor of African strength – of how to bend without breaking.

William Wilberforce, a British abolitionist, is to be remembered for his significant role in leading the charge to abolish the trade of enslaved Africans in the British Parliament with support from Thomas Clarkson and Sir Charles Middleton.

But we must especially acknowledge the role of the Africans and people of African descent who fought and died to end this inhumane practise. This included the people of Haiti, the Maroons of Jamaica, and fighters in Brazil’s Palmares: Toussaint L’Ouverture, Nanny, Cudjoe, Zumbi, and countless others.

On this significant anniversary, the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs encourages you to read and learn about this very important part of our collective history.



To learn more about the trade of enslaved Africans, please explore the following resources:

Virtual Visit of Gorée Island, House of Slaves, Dakar, Senegal  
<http://webworld.unesco.org/goree/en/visit.shtml>

The Dark: An Interactive Site Exploring the Stories of 18th Century Virtual Ghosts of the Slave Trade  
<http://www.thedark.net/>

Slave Trade Bibliography: National Library of Jamaica  
<http://www.nlj.org.jm/abolition.htm>

Anti-Slavery International: Today’s Fight for Tomorrow’s Freedom  
<http://www.antislavery.org/>

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