

Amistad mutiny, (July 2,), slave rebellion that took place on the slave ship Amistad near the coast of Cuba and had important political and legal repercussions in the American abolition movement.

Visit Website Following two months at sea, the Tecora landed in Havana, Cuba, then a Spanish colony, where potential buyers once again poked and prodded the surviving captives like livestock. On June 28, the Amistad left Havana under the cover of nightfall so as to best avoid British antislavery patrols. Onboard, the captives continued suffering severe mistreatment, including the pouring of salt, rum and gunpowder into freshly inflicted wounds. They developed a particular dislike for the cook, who delighted in insinuating that they would all be killed, chopped up and eaten. News account of the Amistad revolt Despite being from at least nine different ethnic groups, the Africans agreed one night to band together in revolt. Before dawn on July 2, they either broke or picked the locks on their chains. Grabbing a dagger and a club, the captain managed to kill one African and mortally wound another. Two other crewmembers threw a canoe overboard and jumped into the water after it, whereas the cabin boy stayed out of the fighting altogether. Ruiz and Montes, meanwhile, were relieved of their weapons, tied up and ordered to sail back to Sierra Leone. Having all grown up away from the ocean, the Africans depended on Ruiz and Montes for navigation. During the day, the two Spaniards set an eastward course, as they had been told to do. At night, however, they headed north and west in the hope of being rescued. After passing through the Bahamas, where the Amistad stopped on various small islands, it moved up the coast of the United States. News reports began to appear of a mysterious schooner, with an all-black crew and tattered sails, steering erratically. With little to drink onboard, dehydration and dysentery took a toll, and several Africans ended up dying. Finally, on August 26, a U. Navy brig ran into the Amistad off the eastern end of Long Island. Ruiz and Montes were freed at once, while the Africans were imprisoned in Connecticut, which, unlike New York, was still a slave state at the time. As the Africans languished in poorly ventilated jail cells, thousands of curious visitors paid an admission fee to come look at them. Yet they faced a formidable suite of opponents. The naval officers who captured the Amistad claimed salvage rights to both the vessel and its human cargo, as did two hunters who had come across some of the Africans looking for water along the Long Island shoreline. Ruiz and Montes likewise wanted their so-called property back, whereas the Spanish and U. Believing the court would take his side, President Martin Van Buren sent a Navy ship to pick up the Africans and transport them away before the abolitionists could file an appeal. The Van Buren administration immediately appealed to a circuit court and then to the Supreme Court, basing its argument on a treaty between Spain and the United States that contained anti-piracy provisions. By then, the Africans had secured the legal services of former President John Quincy Adams, who defended their right to do battle for their freedom. In March , the Supreme Court agreed with him, upholding the lower court in a decision. After over 18 months of incarceration in the United States, not to mention the time spent as slaves, the Africans were finally free. In its decision, the Supreme Court cleared the U. Salvage rights went to the naval officers; not to the Africans. As a result, abolitionists were forced to raise money from scratch for the journey back to Sierra Leone. When an African subsequently drowned in a possible suicide, the number of survivors fell to At last, on November 26, , they and five Christian missionaries boarded a boat, arriving at their destination about seven weeks later. A few of the Amistad rebels stayed with the missionaries, including the four children, who all took English names, but most apparently made a beeline for their families and vanished from the historical record. Watch the groundbreaking series reimagined. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Chapter 2 : Amistad (film) - Wikipedia

Mutiny on the Amistad: The Saga of a Slave Revolt and Its Impact on American Abolition, Law, and Diplomacy () is a history of a notable slave mutiny of and its aftermath, written by professor Howard Jones.

Plot[edit] La Amistad is the name of a slave ship traveling from Cuba to the United States in It is carrying African slaves as its cargo. The mutineers spare the lives of two Spanish navigators to help them sail the ship back to Africa. Instead, the navigators misdirect the Africans and sail north to the east coast of the United States, where the ship is stopped by the American Navy, and the living Africans imprisoned as runaway slaves. In an unfamiliar country and not speaking a single word of English, the Africans find themselves in a legal battle. District Attorney William S. Holabird brings charges of piracy and murder. Two Naval officers, Thomas R. Gedney, and Richard W. Meade, claim them as salvage while the two Spanish navigators, Pedro Montez and Jose Ruiz, produce proof of purchase. A lawyer named Roger Sherman Baldwin , hired by the abolitionist Lewis Tappan and his black associate Theodore Joadson, decides to defend the Africans. Baldwin argues that the Africans had been captured in Africa to be sold in the Americas illegally. Baldwin proves through documents found hidden aboard La Amistad that the African people were initially cargo belonging to a Portuguese slave ship, the Tecora. Therefore, the Africans were free citizens of another country and not slaves at all. In light of this evidence, the staff of President Van Buren has the judge presiding over the case replaced by Judge Coglin, who is younger and believed to be impressionable and easily influenced. Consequently, seeking to make the case more personal, on the advice of former American president and lawyer John Quincy Adams , Baldwin and Joadson find James Covey , a former slave who speaks both Mende and English. Cinque tells his story at trial: Cinque was kidnapped by slave traders outside his village, and held in the slave fortress of Lomboko , where thousands of captives were held under heavy guard. Cinque and many others were then sold to the Tecora, where they were held in the brig of the ship. One day, 50 captives were thrown overboard. Later on, the ship arrived in Havana, Cuba. Those captives that were not sold at auction were handed over to La Amistad. Fitzgerald explains that some slave ships when interdicted do this to get rid of the evidence for their crime. After pressure from Senator John C. Despite refusing to help when the case was initially presented, Adams agrees to assist with the case. At the Supreme Court, he makes an impassioned and eloquent plea for their release, and is successful. The Lomboko slave fortress is liberated by the Royal Marines under the command of Captain Fitzgerald. Because of the release of the Africans, Van Buren loses his re-election campaign, and tension builds between the North and the South, which would eventually culminate in the Civil War.

Chapter 3 : Amistad () - IMDb

The story of the Amistad mutiny garnered widespread attention, and U.S. abolitionists succeeded in winning a trial in a U.S. court. Before a federal district court in Connecticut, Cinque, who was.

Daryl Worthington Posted date: July 01, in: News 1 Comment At around 4: The event became the basis for one of the most significant court cases in US history and a defining moment in the development of the abolition movement in the United States. Sometime in April Cinque, a 26 year old man from Mende in Sierra Leone, was captured alongside hundreds of others from the West African tribes by Spanish slave merchants. The secretive approach was because of Anglo-Spanish treaties which had made the trade of slaves from Africa a capital crime. Slavery was legal in Cuba however, meaning once smuggled ashore it would be possible to trade the slaves on the Cuban market. Cinque and 53 other slaves, including four children, were bought by two Spaniards: Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montes. The slaves were collected aboard the Amistad, a small schooner built in Baltimore especially for the slave trade. It set sail on a mile journey to transport the slaves from Havana to Puerto Principe, on another part of Cuba. The mutiny started three days into the voyage. Cinque used a nail to pick the locks of his chains and free the other captives. The lives of the two Spaniards were spared for their navigational skills, and they were tasked with sailing the ship back to Africa. Montes and Ruiz deceived the captives and had the ship sail back and forth along the coast of the Americas. The difficult voyage had seen around a dozen of the slaves perish. The US Navy ship escorted the Amistad to Connecticut, where Montes and Ruiz were freed and the Africans were imprisoned pending an investigation into the mutiny. Quickly the mutiny escalated into an international issue which engaged directly with the long standing controversies over slavery. A group of evangelists, led by Lewis Tappan, worked to publicise the incident as a means to expose the evils of the slave trade. A key turning point took place when they found two other men from Sierra Leone who could serve as translators for Cinque, allowing his side of the story to be publicised. Increasingly, abolitionists painted and spread a vivid depiction of the horrendous conditions endured by the slaves. They launched a case, arguing that the Africans had been enslaved illegally and had thus broken no laws in trying to escape from bondage. On the other side, Montes and Ruiz sued the slaves, on the basis that they had been deprived of their property. They demanded the return of the slaves, which they fraudulently claimed had been born in Cuba. The Spanish government was eager for the slaves to be returned to Cuba to stand trial for piracy and murder. Tremendous diplomatic pressure was therefore placed on US President Martin Van Buren to find a quick solution to the mutiny which would appease the Spanish demands. This, in turn, would provide the British with justification to intervene in Cuba. An initial trial, in January, ruled that the slaves had been imprisoned illegally. As such, they would not be forced to return to Cuba to stand trial but instead freed and returned to Africa. Shockingly, Van Buren and the Spanish government both intervened in the case, and appealed the verdict to the Supreme Court. In March the Supreme Court confirmed the original verdict, ruling again that the slaves had been imprisoned illegally. With financial assistance from the abolitionists that had backed their campaign, the Africans from the Amistad set sail for West Africa in November. For the United States, the verdict of the trial was pivotal. The event became a public as well as political spectacle, highlighting the divisions between slave owners and abolitionists.

Chapter 4 : Mutiny on the Amistad by Howard Jones

Amistad Mutiny In Jose Ruiz purchased 49 slaves in Havana, Cuba. With his friend, Pedro Montez, who had acquired four new slaves, Ruiz hired Ramon Ferrer to take them in his schooner Amistad, to Puerto Principe, a settlement further down the coast.

The revolt set off a remarkable series of events and became the basis of a court case that ultimately reached the U. The civil rights issues involved in the affair made it the most famous case to appear in American courts before the landmark Dred Scott decision of 1857. After a nightmarish voyage in which approximately a third of the captives died, the journey ended with the clandestine, nighttime entry of the ship into Cuba in violation of the Anglo-Spanish treaties of 1763 and 1765 that made the African slave trade a capital crime. The ship, named after the Spanish word for friendship, was a small black schooner built in Baltimore for the coastal slave trade. It was to transport its human cargo miles to two plantations on another part of Cuba at Puerto Principe. They found them in boxes: Two sailors who were aboard disappeared in the melee and were probably drowned in a desperate attempt to swim the long distance to shore. Instead of making it home, however, the former captives eventually ended up off the coast of New York. The two Spaniards deceived their captors by sailing back and forth in the Caribbean Sea, toward the sun during the day and, by the stars, back toward Havana at night, hoping for rescue by British anti-slave-trade patrol vessels. When that failed, Ruiz and Montes took the schooner on a long and erratic trek northward up the Atlantic coast. He immediately dispatched an armed party who captured the men ashore and then boarded the vessel. They found a shocking sight: Gedney seized the vessel and cargo and reported the shocking episode to authorities in New London, Connecticut. Only 43 of the Africans were still alive, including the four children. In addition to the one killed during the mutiny, nine had died of disease and exposure or from consuming medicine on board in an effort to quench their thirst. The affair might have come to a quiet end at this point had it not been for a group of abolitionists. Both those who advocated its practice and those who quietly condoned it by inaction deserved condemnation. Unless killed the tree will die. Tappan preached impromptu sermons to the mutineers, who were impressed by his sincerity though unable to understand his language. He wrote detailed newspaper accounts of their daily activities in jail, always careful to emphasize their humanity and civilized backgrounds for a fascinated public, many of whom had never seen a black person. At last the Amistad mutineers could tell their side of the story. Baldwin of Connecticut, who had a reputation as an eloquent defender of the weak and downtrodden. He argued that the ownership papers carried by Ruiz and Montes were fraudulent and that the blacks were not slaves indigenous to Cuba. The case then entered the world of politics. It posed such a serious problem for President Martin Van Buren that he decided to intervene. A public dispute over slavery would divide his Democratic party, which rested on a tenuous North-South alliance, and could cost him reelection to the presidency in 1820. Working through his secretary of state, slaveholder John Forsyth from Georgia, Van Buren sought to quietly solve the problem by complying with Spanish demands. Van Buren also faced serious diplomatic issues. The White House position was transparently weak. Officials refused to question the validity of the certificates of ownership, which had assigned Spanish names to each of the captives even though none of them spoke that language. Presidential spokesmen blandly asserted that the captives had been slaves in Cuba, despite the fact that the international slave trade had been outlawed some 20 years earlier and the children were no more than nine years old and spoke an African dialect. The court proceedings opened on September 19, 1841, amid a carnival atmosphere in the state capitol building in Hartford, Connecticut. Issuance of the writ would recognize the Africans as persons with natural rights and thus undermine the claim by both the Spanish and American governments that the captives were property. If the prosecution brought charges, the Africans would have the right of self-defense against unlawful captivity; if it filed no charges, they would go free. In the meantime, the abolitionists could explore in open court the entire range of human and property rights relating to slavery. Supreme Court denied the writ. Thompson was a strong-willed judge who opposed slavery, but he even more ardently supported the laws of the land. Under those laws, he declared, slaves were property. He could not simply assert that the Africans were human beings and grant freedom on the basis of natural rights. Only the

law could dispense justice, and the law did not authorize their freedom. It was up to the district court to decide whether the mutineers were slaves and, therefore, property. Prospects before the district court in Connecticut were equally dismal. The presiding judge was Andrew T. Judson, a well-known white supremacist and staunch opponent of abolition. He hoped, if successful, to prove that they were already free upon entering New York and that the Van Buren administration was actually trying to enslave them. Whereas many Americans wanted the captives freed, the White House pressured him to send them back to Cuba. The Spanish government further confused matters by declaring that the Africans were both property and persons. By agreeing to this, the president had authorized executive interference in the judicial process that violated the due-process guarantees contained in the Constitution. Judson finally reached what he thought was a politically safe decision. On January 13, , he ruled that the Africans had been kidnapped, and, offering no sound legal justification, ordered their return to Africa, hoping to appease the president by removing them from the United States. Six long months after the mutiny, it appeared that the captives were going home. But the ordeal was not over. The White House was stunned by the decision: The Van Buren administration immediately filed an appeal with the circuit court. The court upheld the decision, however, meaning that the case would now go before the U. Supreme Court, where five of the justices, including Chief Justice Roger Taney, were southerners who were or had been slaveowners. Meanwhile, the Africans had become a public spectacle. Curious townspeople and visitors watched them exercise daily on the New Haven green, while many others paid the jailer for a peek at the foreigners in their cells. Some of the most poignant newspaper stories came from professors and students from Yale College and the Theological Seminary who instructed the captives in English and Christianity. In his mid-twenties, he was taller than most Mende people, married with three children, and, according to the contemporary portrait by New England abolitionist Nathaniel Jocelyn, majestic, lightly bronzed, and strikingly handsome. Then there were the children, including Kale, who learned enough English to become the spokesperson for the group. The supreme court began hearing arguments on February 22, Van Buren had already lost the election, partly, and somewhat ironically, because his Amistad policy was so blatantly pro-South that it alienated northern Democrats. The abolitionists wanted someone of national stature to join Baldwin in the defense and finally persuaded former President John Quincy Adams to take the case even though he was 73 years old, nearly deaf, and had been absent from the courtroom for three decades. Now a congressman from Massachusetts, Adams was irascible and hard-nosed, politically independent, and self-righteous to the point of martyrdom. He was fervently antislavery, though not an abolitionist, and had been advising Baldwin on the case since its inception. In the small, hot, and humid room beneath the Senate chamber, Adams challenged the Court to grant liberty on the basis of natural rights doctrines found in the Declaration of Independence. Adams and Baldwin were eloquent in their pleas for justice based on higher principles. Although he found slavery repugnant and contrary to Christian morality, he supported the laws protecting its existence and opposed the abolitionists as threats to ordered society. Property rights, he believed, were the basis of civilization. Even so, Story handed down a decision that freed the mutineers on the grounds argued by the defense. Although Story had focused on self-defense, the victorious abolitionists broadened the meaning of his words to condemn the immorality of slavery. They reprinted thousands of copies of the defense argument in pamphlet form, hoping to awaken a larger segment of the public to the sordid and inhumane character of slavery and the slave trade. In the highest public forum in the land, the abolitionists had brought national attention to a great social injustice. For the first and only time in history, African blacks seized by slave dealers and brought to the New World won their freedom in American courts. But President John Tyler, himself a Virginia slaveholder, refused on the grounds that, as Judge Story had ruled, no law authorized such action. To charter a vessel for the long trip to Sierra Leone, the abolitionists raised money from private donations, public exhibitions of the Africans, and contributions from the Union Missionary Society, which black Americans had formed in Hartford to found a Christian mission in Africa. On November 25, , the remaining 35 Amistad captives, accompanied by James Covey and five missionaries, departed from New York for Africa on a small sailing vessel named the Gentleman. The British governor of Sierra Leone welcomed them the following January—almost three years after their initial incarceration by slave traders. The aftermath of the Amistad affair is hazy. One of the girls, Margru, returned to the United

States and entered Oberlin College, in Ohio, to prepare for mission work among her people. She was educated at the expense of the American Missionary Association AMA , established in as an outgrowth of the Amistad Committee and the first of its kind in Africa. Some scholars insist that he remained in Africa, working for some time as an interpreter at the AMA mission in Kaw-Mende before his death around Positive law had come into conflict with natural law, exposing the great need to change the Constitution and American laws in compliance with the moral principles underlying the Declaration of Independence. In that sense the incident contributed to the fight against slavery by helping to lay the basis for its abolition through the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution in This article was written by Howard Jones. Jones is the author of numerous books, including Mutiny on the Amistad: For more great articles be sure to pick up your copy of American History.

The Amistad Mutiny occurred on the Spanish schooner La Amistad on July 2, The incident began In February when Portuguese slave hunters illegally seized 53 Africans in Sierra Leone, a British colony, whom they intended to sell in the Spanish colony of Cuba.

See Article History Alternative Title: Such resistance signified continual deep-rooted discontent with the condition of bondage and, in some places, such as the United States , resulted in ever-more-stringent mechanisms for social control and repression in slaveholding areas. In other places, however, the rebellions sometimes contributed to a growing belief on the part of colonial authorities that the institution of slavery was becoming untenable. Estimates of the total number of slave revolts vary according to the definition of insurrection. For the two centuries preceding the American Civil War 1865 , one historian found documentary evidence of more than uprisings or attempted uprisings involving 10 or more slaves whose aim was personal freedom. Rebellions were also frequent throughout the Caribbean region and Latin America. Few slave rebellions were systematically planned, and most were merely spontaneous and quite short-lived disturbances by small groups of slaves. Such rebellions were usually attempted by male bondsmen and were often betrayed by house servants who identified more closely with their masters. Not all revolts had complete freedom as their aim; some had relatively modest goals, such as better conditions or the time and the freedom to work part-time for themselves and their families. A number of rebellions or attempted rebellions by slaves deserve special notice. Some of the earliest episodes occurred in the European colonies of the Caribbean and Latin America. At a sugar plantation in Veracruz in the Viceroyalty of New Spain present-day Mexico , in 1519, Gaspar Yanga led the escape of his fellow slaves into nearby mountains. There they lived for nearly 40 years, arming and supplying themselves by means of raids on Spanish colonists. They razed the settlement and attacked Yanga and his followers, who took to the rainforest and waged guerrilla warfare against them. In the end, the Spanish agreed to a treaty that granted the former slaves their freedom and the right to create their own free settlement. In late 17th century a massive revolt occurred on the Danish-controlled island of St. John now in the U.S. Plantation slaves there took arms against Danish soldiers and colonists and eventually gained control of the majority of the island. They established their own rule, which lasted until French troops defeated the rebels in May 1702. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Jamaica , a British colony with many sugar plantations, was the frequent scene of revolts. One of the most notable took place in 1673; an uprising of hundreds of slaves, led by an enslaved man named Tacky, inspired others across the island during the same period. In 1773 Samuel Sharpe led a Christmas Day general strike for wages and better working conditions. The Haitian Revolution was a series of conflicts that took place between 1791 and 1804. General unrest arose in the early 18th century from the conflicting interests of the various ethnic, racial, and political groups in Saint-Domingue now Haiti. A major slave revolt began in August 1791 and continued until France abolished slavery in February 1804. Leader and former slave Toussaint Louverture became governor-general in 1800. Napoleon Bonaparte reconquered Haiti in 1804. On August 30, 1800, more than 1,000 armed slaves massed for action near Richmond but were thwarted by a violent rainstorm. The slaves were forced to disband, and 35 were hanged, including Gabriel. The only free person to lead a rebellion was Denmark Vesey , an urban artisan of Charleston , South Carolina. As a result, some blacks were arrested, of whom 35 including Vesey were hanged and 32 exiled before the end of the summer. The third notable slave rebellion was led by Nat Turner , at Southampton county, Virginia, in the summer of 1831. On the evening of August 21, Turner and a small band of slaves started their crusade against bondage, killing some 60 whites and attracting up to 75 fellow slaves to the conspiracy during the next few days. On the 24th, hundreds of militia and volunteers stopped the rebels near Jerusalem, the county seat, killing at least 40 and probably nearer 100. Turner was hanged on November 7. As usual, a new wave of unrest spread through the South, accompanied by corresponding fear among slaveholders and the passage of more repressive legislation directed against both slaves and free blacks. Those measures were aimed particularly at restricting the education of blacks, their freedom of movement and assembly, and the circulation of inflammatory printed material. Wood engraving depicting Nat Turner left , who in 1831 led the only effective slave rebellion in U.S. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Although

the slave rebellion known as the Amistad mutiny occurred on a slave ship off the coast of Cuba in the summer of 1839, the 53 African captives who revolted were captured and tried in the United States after their ship entered U.S. waters. Their legal victory in a federal court in Connecticut, a state in which slavery was legal, was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in the following year. With help from abolitionist and missionary groups, the Africans returned home to Sierra Leone in 1842. Amistad mutiny Woodcut, Death of Capt. Yale University Art Gallery

Similar to the Amistad incident was an rebellion aboard a ship out of Virginia, the Creole, that was transporting slaves to New Orleans. According to the legend that has grown up around him "if not strict historical fact" the leader of the uprising, Madison Washington, was a formerly enslaved man who had escaped successfully and fled to Canada. He had returned to Virginia for his wife but was recaptured there and put on a slave ship in Richmond. Aboard the Creole, Washington and nearly 20 others led a revolt, gained control of the ship, and forced its crew to sail to the Bahamas. There, most of the slaves were freed; the conspirators, including Washington, were taken into custody and tried for mutiny. They were found not guilty, and Washington was reunited with his wife, who, again according to legend, had been on the Creole all the time, unbeknownst to him. In the decades preceding the American Civil War, increasing numbers of discontented slaves escaped to the North or to Canada via the Underground Railroad network of antislavery advocates. Publicity in the North concerning black rebellions and the influx of fugitive slaves helped to arouse wider sympathy for the plight of the slave and support for the abolition movement. In the European colonies of the Caribbean, slave resistance, rebellions, and revolution similarly contributed to the eventual abolition of slavery. Underground Railroad Fugitive slaves and conductors meeting along the route of the Underground Railroad.

Chapter 6 : Amistad Mutiny

*Jones is the author of numerous books, including *Mutiny on the Amistad: The Saga of a Slave Revolt and Its Impact on American Abolition, Law, and Diplomacy*, published by Oxford University Press. This article was originally published in the January/February issue of *American History Magazine*.*

Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Led by Madison Washington, they sailed the vessel to Nassau, Bahamas, where the British declared most of them free. In the diplomatic controversy that followed, Ohio Congressman Joshua Giddings argued that once the ship was outside of U. Censured by the House of Representatives, he resigned, but his constituents quickly reelected him and sent him back to Congress. Image not available in online exhibit] Billy G. Smith and Richard Wijtowitz. Blacks Who Stole Themselves: Advertisements for Runaways in the Pennsylvania Gazette, University of Pennsylvania, Thousands of newspaper advertisements attest that African Americans availed themselves of many avenues of escape. What the slaves took--themselves--belonged to them already but was denied because of slavery. The volume includes a profusion of examples of runaway slave advertisements that appeared in just one newspaper during the eighteenth century. Such notices contradict the argument that enslaved people were content with their condition. Advertisements On Runaways The African American resistance to slavery is demonstrated time and time again in the successful and unsuccessful attempts to escape from bondage. Advertisements like this one on flyers or in newspapers aided bounty hunters and kidnappers, as well as bona fide law enforcement officers, who worked together to return escapees to their owners. Ranaway from the subscriber. Transported to the Caribbean, the captives found themselves in the hands of Cuban slave dealers on board the Spanish schooner Amistad. By day the crew complied, but at night they sailed west and finally landed near Long Island, New York, where the vessel was seized by U. Joseph Cinquez, the brave Congolese Chief. By James or Isaac Sheffield. Prints and Photographs Division. Barber, was published in New Haven, Connecticut, in , and reports the trials in the lower courts, but not the Supreme Court decision that freed the captives. The book contains biographical statements for each of the surviving Africans, with illustrations, including profile portraits of each captive. A History of the Amistad Captives: Compiled by John W.

Chapter 7 : Mutiny on the Amistad | History | Smithsonian

The slave mutiny on board the Amistad off the coast of Cuba. (Photo by MPI/Getty Images) Topics in this Podcast: 19th century, slave uprisings, slavery, maritime history, Africa, mutiny, African history, black history, what the Civil War was about.

The incident began In February when Portuguese slave hunters illegally seized 53 Africans in Sierra Leone , a British colony, whom they intended to sell in the Spanish colony of Cuba. Several weeks into the slave-raiding trip, the 53, along with other captured Africans were loaded on to the Tecora, a Portuguese slave ship. After a two month voyage the Tecora landed in Havana, Cuba. There Jose Ruiz purchased 49 adult slaves and Pedro Montes bought four children. Ruiz and Montes wanted to bring the slaves to the sugar plantations in Puerto Principe now Camaguey , Cuba where they would resell them. Two Amistad crew members escaped from the ship by boat. Ruiz and Montes were spared during the revolt on the promise that they would sail the Amistad back to Sierra Leone as captives demanded. Instead they sailed the ship toward the United States. Along the way several Africans died from dysentery and dehydration. Navy ship took it into custody. Ruiz and Montes were freed while the surviving Africans were arrested and imprisoned at New London, Connecticut. When the Spanish embassy claimed the African captives were slaves and demanded their return to Cuba, a trial ensued on January in a federal court in Hartford, Connecticut. The judge ruled that the Africans were illegally brought to Cuba since Great Britain, Spain, and the United States signed agreements outlawing the international slave trade. Under pressure from Southern slaveholders, however, U. President Martin Van Buren appealed the case to the U. Supreme Court, arguing that anti-piracy agreements with Spain compelled the U. The Amistad with a decision declaring that the captives were illegally kidnapped and thus were free. Soon afterwards Northern abolitionists raised funds to pay for African men and boys, and three girls, to return to Sierra Leone. They were accompanied by James Covey, a British sailor and former slave who spoke their language, and five white missionaries, all sailing on the Gentleman. The British governor of Sierra Leone, William Fergusson, led the colony in welcoming the captives when they arrived in Freetown , in January

Chapter 8 : African American Odyssey: Slavery--The Peculiar Institution (Part 2)

Amistad Mutiny. In a group of Africans were kidnapped from their homeland and transported to Cuba as slaves. While being transported from one port in Cuba to another, the Africans revolted, killed the captain and cook, and steered for the coast of Africa.

Chapter 9 : Mutiny on the Amistad - Wikipedia

By the time of the Amistad rebellion, the United States and all other major slave destinations in North and South America had abolished the importation of slaves.