

# UW-Madison: Diversity Forum 2020

Christy Clark-Pujara, PhD

Department of Afro-American Studies

Department of History Affiliate

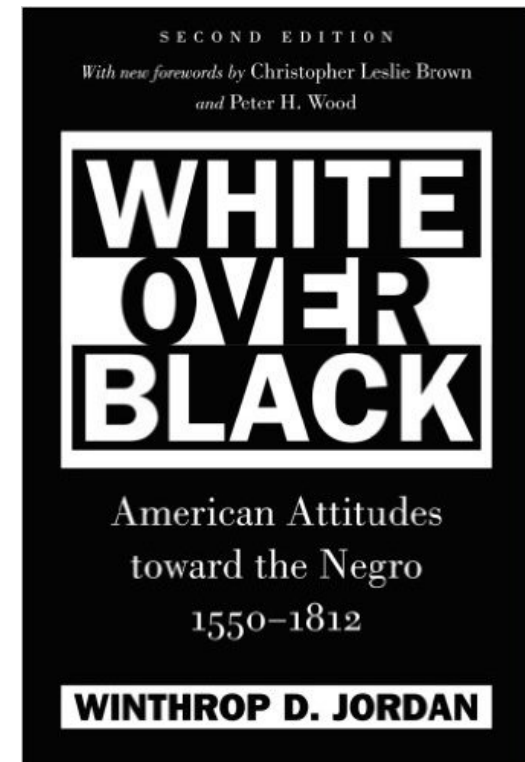
# A Unique Slave System in the Americas

- Unprecedented scale of enslavement and death
  - An estimated 12.4 million people forcibly removed from Africa
  - Total mortality rate of 5 to 6 million
- Inheritable, Perpetual Bondage
  - Race-Based Slavery
  - Chattel slavery normalized
  - No pre-scribed exit process



# Race: White Over Black

- Servants or Slaves
  - Increase in Mortality and Decrease in Indentured Servants
- Societies Free of American Indians
  - Successful Flight
  - Massive Death
  - Characterized by English as Savage and Uncivil
- Race replaces Class—race and the law
  - 1662 children inherit status of their mother
  - 1670 People of African and Native descent prohibited from holding slaves
  - 1680 30 lashes to any Black person striking any white person
  - 1691 any white person who married a Black person was banished and white women who had children with Black men were indentured or fined or had their servitude extended
  - 1705 white servant could only be whipped naked by order of the justice of the peace



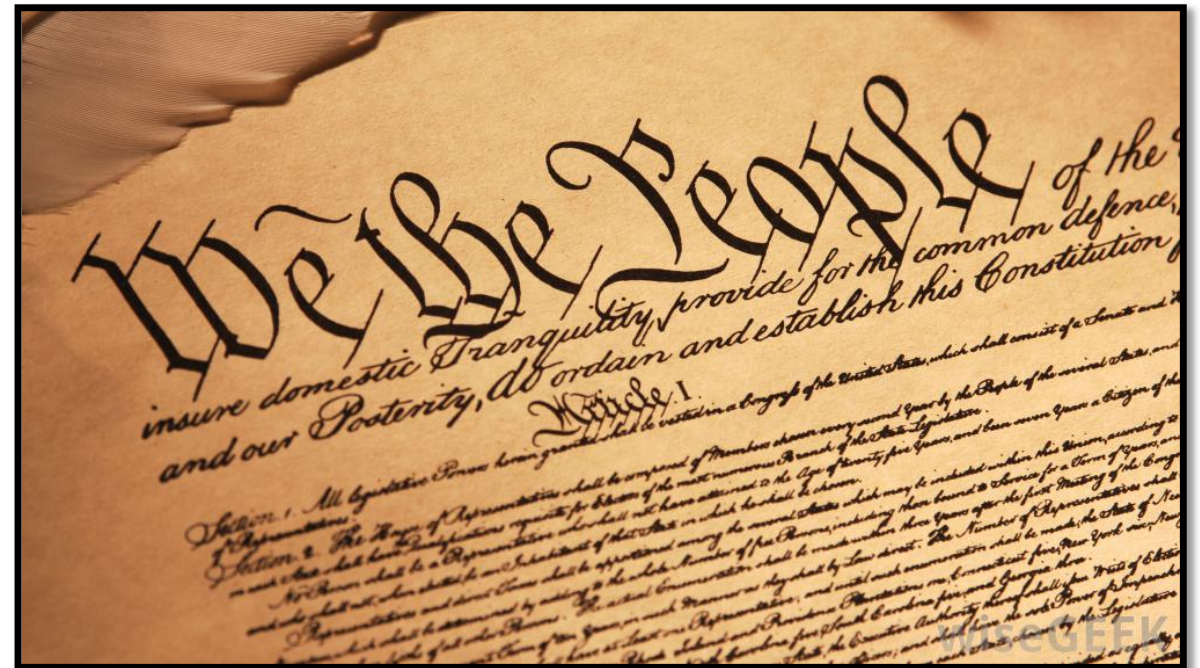
## Criminalizing Race—Not Being White Was Deemed Suspicious and Policed

- “If any negroes or Indians either freemen, servants, or slaves, do walk in the street of the town of Newport, or any other town in this Collony, after nine of the clock of the night, without a certificate from their masters, or some English person of said family with them, or some lawfull excuse for the same, that it shall be lawfull for any person to take them up and deliver them to a Constable.”
  - **Passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1703**



# The Constitution—A Proslavery Document

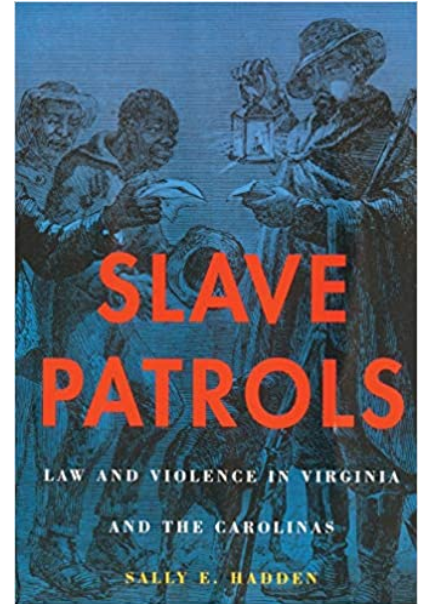
- Written primarily by the Enslaver Class
  - 2/3 of the founding fathers held people in bondage
  - the other 1/3 of the founders fathers were willing to compromise on the issue of slavery in order to create a union (some opposed others were indifferent)
- Legal Protections for Race-Based of Slavery
  - 3/5 Clause
  - Fugitive slave Clause
  - 1808 Slave Trade Law
  - Northwest Ordinance
- 1790 Congress Limits Naturalized Citizenship to White Person—overturned in 1952 by the Immigration and Nationality Act





# Slave Patrols were the First Local Large Scale Policing Systems in the Nation

- First appear in the colonial period—in emerging “slave societies”
- All adult able-Bodied white men were required to serve in the slave patrols. Most patrollers were not slaveholders.
- Expanded as the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Focused on the protection of property





## RESOLUTION.

### RESOLVED.

That at the same time when the votes of the electors shall be taken for the adoption or rejection of this constitution, an additional section in the following words, that is to say:— "All male citizens of the African blood, possessing the qualifications required by the first section of the article on 'Suffrage and the elective franchise,' shall have the right to vote for all officers, and be eligible to all offices that now are, or hereafter may be elective by the people after the adoption of this constitution," shall be submitted to the electors of this state, for adoption or rejection, in the form following, to wit: A separate ballot may be given by every person having the right to vote for the adoption of this constitution to be deposited in a separate box. Upon the ballots given for the adoption of the said separate amendment, shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, Yes!" and upon the ballots given against the adoption of the said separate amendment, in like manner, the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, No!" and on such ballots shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, the words "Constitution suffrage" in such manner that such words shall appear on the outside of such ballot when folded. If, at the said election a majority of all the votes given for and against the said separate amendment, shall contain the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, Yes!" then the said separate amendment after the adoption of this constitution, shall be a separate section of Article— of this constitution, in full force and effect, any thing contained in the constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.

Done in convention, at Madison, the sixteen day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the seventy first.

*L. J. Kellogg*  
Secretary.

*L. J. Stephens*  
President of the Convention

## ARTICLE III.

### SUFFRAGE.

SECTION 1. Every male person of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, of the following classes, who shall have resided in this State for one year next preceding any election, shall be deemed a qualified elector at such election.

1st. White citizens of the United States.

2d. White persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization.

3d. Persons of Indian blood who shall have once been declared by law of Congress to be citizens of the United States, any subsequent act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding.

4th. Civilized persons of Indian descent not members of any tribe; Provided, that the legislature may at any time extend by law the right of suffrage to persons not herein enumerated, but no such law shall be in force until the same shall have been submitted to a vote of the people at a general election, and approved by a majority of all the votes cast at such election.

SEC. 2. No person under guardianship, non compos mentis, or insane, shall be qualified to vote at any election: nor shall any person, convicted of treason or felony, be qualified to vote at any election, unless restored to civil rights.

SEC. 3. All votes shall be given by ballot, except for such township officers as may by law be directed or allowed to be otherwise chosen.