World Servitude
“Either poverty must use democracy to destroy the power of property, or property in fear of poverty will destroy democracy”

(Aneurin Bevan, Labour M.P. and founder the English national health service)
English Revolution, 1640

--“No taxation without representation”
--expanded the writ of habeas corpus
--did away with censorship of the press
--abolished repressive courts
--dissolved the monarchy and the House of Lords and declared a republic
Oliver Cromwell

--Atlantic merchants and nascent industrialists gained much from the economic changes encouraged by the state

Ex:

--the Navigation Acts
--agricultural enclosures privatized property
--industrial legislation removed production from paternal restrictions on profiteering
--English merchants moved decisively toward the African slave trade

--crucial: Levellers, soldiers, sailors, urban rioters and commoners

--a “great overturning, questioning, revaluing of everything in England”
ideas of the radicals eventually suppressed by Cromwell

Antinomianism:
--the idea that members of a particular religious group are under no obligation to obey the laws of ethics or morality as presented by religious authorities
--1644 and 1649 the peak of antinomianism
--meetings “there was liberty for any brother, and for any sister by a brother, to propose his doubt of, or their desire of understanding, any portion of scripture.”

--direct democracy

“Who are the oppressors but the Nobility and Gentry; and who are the oppressed, if not the Yeoman, the Farmer, the Tradesman and the Labourer? then consider, have you not chosen oppressors to redeems you from oppression?...your slavery is their liberty, your poverty is their prosperity; yea, in brief, your honoring of them, your poverty is their prosperity; yea, in brief, your honoring of them, dishonoreth the communality…Unlord those that are lorded by you.”
women notoriously outspoken in the 1640s
Anne Hutchinson sailed to Massachusetts Bay in 1634
--midwife, a healer, and a spiritual counselor
--prophesied and expressed her antinomian ideas
--orthodox Puritan ministers began to see the meetings as affronts to their own power
--reproduction of antinomian ideas was closely linked to the broader reproduction of the population of the Bay colony
--Hutchinson’s allies in the militia objected to the appointment of an army chaplain
--Antinomian Controversy: a major challenge to the ruling authority of the Puritan elders in Massachusetts Bay
Hutchinson had a miscarriage in 1638:
  --Puritan elders’ response:
She had given “30 monstrous births or thereabouts, at once; some of them bigger, some lesser, some of one shape, some of another; few of any perfect shape, none at all of them of humane shape.”
--her defeat removed opposition to the Pequot War and cleared the way for slavery
--Witch-Finder General
--criminalization of women
--prosecutions for infanticide, abortions and witchcraft reached their high rate
Men began to take control of reproduction from women

--“attention was focused on the ‘population’ as a fundamental category for economic and political analysis.”

“proletariat”:

--current meaning: referring to a member of the poorest class

--original sense: “reserved only to beget children”

--“such as thro their poverty contributed nothing to the Commonwealth but children.”

--birth of capitalism, based as it was on exploited unpaid labor, thus required control even over human birth
Impressment--Military Servitude:
--the soldier “hath fought to enslave himself, to give power to men of riches, men of estates, to make him a perpetual slave.”
--a “slavish condition”
--rough definition of slavery:
  --an act of expropriation and terror
  --affected children and young people particularly
  --compelled violent exploitation
  --most often ended in death
Bacon’s Rebellion, 1675-76
--one: war for land by freedmen and small farmers against Indians and a portion of the colonial ruling class in Virginia
--two: war against slavery, waged by servants and slaves
--abolitionists burned Jamestown and looted the estates of Berkeley’s supporters

Thomas Grantham began to negotiate on behalf of the king
   --tried to divide English and African servants and slaves by offering a better deal to the servants
   --Bacon denounced as a Leveller, and his followers as antinomians
--uprising of the plantation workers shaped the subsequent evolution of the Chesapeake
Legislation of 1682:

“all servants not being christians, being imported into this country by shipping” (i.e., Africans) should be slaves for life, while those who came by land (Indians) should be servants for twelve years.

--planters’ fear of multiracial rebellion was replaced by fear of the slave revolt

--expressed in two acts aimed at preventing “Negro insurrections”; 1680 and 1682

“An Act Concerning Servants and Slaves” (1705)

--guaranteed the rights of servants and defined slaves as a form of property that would constitute the basis of production in Virginia
1659 two English citizens petitioned the House of Commons

--sold in Barbados; made to sleep in pigsties; were whipped; were bought and sold

--in Barbados, “the work is mostly carried on by the Negroes”

debate in Parliament:

--if Parliament failed to act on the petition, “our lives will be as cheap as those negroes.” Edward Boscawen

--Virginia in 1662 the House of Burgesses granted masters the legal right to beat their servants

--1661, 1662, legislation that made the servant responsible for the time that the slave was away from his master
“whiteness”:
--legal documents identified whites as Englishmen and/or Christians
--Africans as: Blacka moors, Moors, Africans

--”Whites” were under the protection of recognized and organized governments
  --could appeal to a monarch or to white public opinion
  --could escape into a crowd

--Indians too could escape and blend in

--Africans were becoming less and less expensive due to European competition
  --Africans were visible, making it harder for them to escape
  --unprotected by any one recognized government.
Change:
--dropping birth rates in England
--rising real wages in England
--equaled fewer unemployed and footloose men
--Africans comparatively inexpensive

Africans existed on equal footing with whites until the latter 1600s
--would take an ideology, a change of consciousness--racism--to change their status