

AMERICAN HISTORY LESSON



IS FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CAPITAL?

Sierra Leone is a country on the coast of West Africa and originally, was a part of the Songhai Empire. Earliest European contacts with Sierra Leone were originated at the time of the Phoenicians. Later, in 1462, Portuguese explorer Pedro da Cintra mapped the hills surrounding West Africa for the slave trade industry, and dishonorably named one of the countries in that vicinity, Sierra Leone (Portuguese for Lion Mountains).

The Gullah People:

Modern slave trading originated with the Portuguese in the late 1400's. During the period of 1530 – 1810 the major slave-trading base was located in Sierra Leone Africa on an Island known as Bunce. Bunce Island is located about 20 miles into the Sierra Leone River and is now known as "Freetown Harbour." The British slave traders on Bunce Island sent many of their kidnapped African victims to the American rice plantations of South Carolina and Georgia. However, some of the

enslaved, like the Gullah people, who currently inhabit the coastal regions of South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, and Florida, were taken to America for slave labor, because of their rice & cotton - farming skills. They, in fact, originally came from the Gola Forests of

Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The capital of Sierra Leone is Freetown, and was established in 1792 the British, and the ex-American slaves that settled there were in fact, black Freedom Fighters [from the USA] who fought in the American Revolution with the British against George Washington and the American slave institution. These brave yet forgotten black Freedom Fighters, fought in the American Revolutionary war, with the purpose of liberating the enslaved African people in America.

In 1783 the British lost the Revolutionary War, however, only the Black Freedom Fighters were exiled from America for their role in the war. Indeed they would have been executed on sight, for allying themselves with Great Britain, had they returned to the American Colonies. However, the British assisted thousands of these banished Freedom Fighters in their escape from certain death by the hands of George Washington and the successful revolters. The Black Freedom Fighters, also known as the black loyalists, fled to Freetown, Sierra Leone. These freed slaves were from all areas of Africa however; they joined the previous settlers in Sierra Leone and together became known as Creole or Krio people. Cut off from their American families and traditions, the Black Freedom Fighters assimilated some aspects of British styles of life and built a flourishing trade on the West African coast. The language of

the new created colony was Krio, a creole language rooted in eighteenth century African American English, which quickly spread across the region as a common language of trade.

During the slave trade, millions of captured Africans had been shipped from Sierra Leone to the Caribbean Islands and the Americas in what was shamefully known as the “Trans Atlantic Slave Trade Route”.

Independence came in April 1961 for Sierra Leone, and the progenies of the brave Black Freedom Fighters find themselves planted in one of the most fertile and mineral abundant countries in all of mother Africa. To this day, the Sierra Leoneans are well aware of their history and that they are in fact, direct kin to a lot of us here in America:. They are children of our African American brothers and sisters who were forced to leave us some two hundred plus years ago.

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