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“The Importance of the 13th Amendment”

“I have always hated slavery, I think as much as any other Abolitionist.” This is what Abraham Lincoln said on July 10, 1858 in a speech in Chicago. He made slavery illegal with the 13th Amendment and helped end it. Slavery existed globally, but I will be focusing on America and Brazil. There were similarities and differences between slavery in America and Brazil, but the greatest similarity was when it was abolished.

The first slaves came over to America in 1619. Through the 1700s and 1800s many more people were kidnapped and forced into slavery. A large amount of people were taken from Africa and sold into slavery. The average cost for a slave was between 400-500 dollars. The slaves were forced to plant, grow, and harvest crops to be sold. Some slaves were paid a small amount, but the majority of slaves were without pay. Slavery was finally abolished in America on December 18, 1865.

Brazil first brought over slaves in 1530, 89 years earlier than America. Brazil brought over 4,000,000 Africans, four times as many as any other American colony. Most of the slave labor was for agriculture. Brazil had a big sugar export, and slave masters often put steel masks to prevent them from eating the sugarcane. The masks made it harder to breathe, which means

that less work would be done. If the slaves didn't meet their master's expectations for that day, they would be punished. Some of the punishments were being whipped and having your feet looked to the floor in a room. It was long overdue, but on May 13, 1888, Princess Isabel of Bragança signed Imperial Law number 3,353, also known as the "The Golden Law," abolishing all kinds of slavery.

Slavery in America and Brazil were similar in many ways. The greatest being the abolishment of slavery. America had our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, and Brazil had Princess Isabel of Bragança. The princess was nicknamed "The Redemptress." When Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment into our constitution and abolished slavery, he freed about 100,000 enslaved people from Kentucky to Delaware. When The Redemptress signed The Golden Law, she freed the remaining 700,000 slaves in Brazil. Without their contribution towards their countries, legal slavery would have lasted longer.

In conclusion, slavery in Brazil and America was more similar than different. It took great leaders in both countries to bring slavery to an end. In summary, slavery took many families and split them apart, and none of them lived very happy lives. Even though slavery is illegal today, there are currently more slaves today than there were 200-400 years ago. Slavery today is referred to as human trafficking, and it will take all of us to end it.

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