

Newton Key, Spring 2011, His 2560, Paper 2, **Equiano's Worlds Paper, due 1 December** (20% of final grade, typed, double-spaced, 7 pp.; must also submit electronic file of paper in email attachment to nekey@eiu.edu). Use a clear and consistent form of referencing, preferably Turabian—see citation guide on the web at <http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/citate.htm>.



Use **one** of the following essay prompts to write your essay

1) Compare and contrast different types of unfree labor in the Atlantic and Mediterranean World in the mid-18th century. Use evidence *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (at least five specific examples) and at least three additional primary sources (one may be document at end of the editions of Equiano; others should be drawn from British Periodicals online). How do you distinguish between and interrelate the different types of slavery and unfree labor mentioned in these 18th-century sources? How does your definition of this socioeconomic feature compare with that developed in the textbook by Brummett, *et. al.*?

2) World history is about cross-cultural interactions, trans-regional perspectives, or exchanges. (For example, look at the series of intended and unintended exchange of goods, populations, and diseases between the Old World and the New after 1492 called the Columbian Exchange.) Focusing on two-or-three types of exchanges, show the interaction of European, African, and New World ideas, activities, and populations in the mid-18th century. Use evidence from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (at least five specific examples) and at least three additional primary sources (one may be document at end of the editions of Equiano; others should be drawn from British Periodicals online). Rather than just noting that this particular person moved from one place to another, give evidence of specific customs, words, activities that migrate from one place and group to another.

References for your main source may be parenthetical, and the rest given or as foot- or endnotes:

The mid-18th century Atlantic World was one where free, unfree, and slave labor mixed, as did the races. We can find evidence of this in Equiano's *Life*. Thus, Equiano, late in his life returned to the Caribbean where he had once been a slave, to work with his "old friend" Dr. Irving on the Musquito Coast (now Panama), but this time as an overseer and he helped "purchase some slaves to...cultivate a plantation," all of whom must have been Black Africans, who Equiano states were "all my own countrymen" (Equiano, pp. 153, 155). There were Indians there (like the Paraguayans in *Candide*), but "they would not work at any thing for us" (Equiano, p. 156). Another African, Quobna Ottobah Cugoano, also contrasted African slavery "which...are well fed...and treated well" with "those inhospitable regions of misery which they meet with in the West-Indies" (Cugoano, *Thoughts*, 1787, in Equiano, p. 274). The textbook *Civilization Past and Present* notes that African slaves were used in South America by the 1550s. By the 1700s they were mainly used to "serve in elite households" as they were by Voltaire's Jesuits.¹

[51]
ands, signifying, I suppose, their country; but we did not. At last, when the ship got in all her cargo, they made many fearful noises, and we were ordered to go on deck, so that we could not manage the vessel. But this was the least of my sorrow. I could not sleep for some old while we were on the coast, so loathsome, that it was impossible to remain there for any time, and

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¹Palmira Brummett, *et. al.*, *Civilization Past & Present*, 11th ed. (New York, 2006), 478.

Pre-assignment (**due submitted on WebCT 17 November**). You may work on this in class with Katie Payne and submit it there, or you may do it at the library, in your dormitory, or at home. But it must be submitted before the end of 17 November. Find **one** article from British Periodicals (1750-1800) that fits the subject of your essay [either (1) or (2) on the reverse of this paper], cite it, and write two sentences on how it compares with Equiano (focus on volume 1). Remember that I have provided a chapter outline including references to both subjects at http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/syllabi/2560/equiano_chapteroutline_slaves.pdf. (Obviously you may also include this in your paper.)

To search British Periodicals

Go to Booth Library <http://www.library.eiu.edu/>

Resources by subject <http://www.library.eiu.edu/eresources/bysubject.html>

History <http://www.library.eiu.edu/eresources/databases/websites.asp?subcode=AH1>

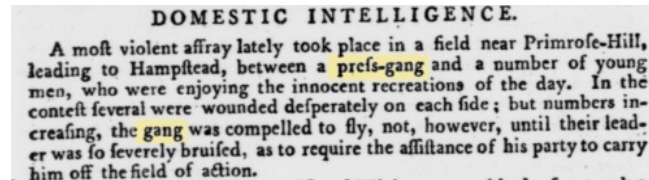
British Periodicals

Select a term to search, say “Press gang”

Narrow dates to pre-1800 on the right

Click on an article

Example



Citation: *The General magazine and impartial review* (Sept. 1790): 424.

Sentences: Press gangs show that the army and the navy were not really free during Equiano's time. Here is an example of a press gang on land, "in a field near Primrose-Hill." Equiano refers to a press gang onboard ship: "a man of war's boat came alongside to press our people.... Immediately afterwards the press-gang came on board with their swords drawn, and searched all about, pulled the people out by force, and put them into the boat."