

<b>Slavery and Islam: What is Slavery?</b>	
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Western idea of slavery	We associate slavery with physical degradation, harsh labor, violence and total loss of agency
Dictionary definition	Someone who is legally owned by another person and is forced to work for that person without pay
Concept of ownership	Defining what it means to “own” a person is important because if it refers to having total control then parents have control over their children but cannot legally harm them; similar is the relationship in Islam between Muslims and their slaves
Slave versus son	Both receive food, clothes, and shelter and are expected to obey with no pay
“Man is born in chains, but everywhere he thinks himself free.”	Everyone is forced to work in order to earn wages to buy food. The son is dependent on his father for support and has to obey him or face his anger. Almost no human being is free of dependence on others and on society as a whole
Spectrum of coerced labor	<p>Ownership, freedom, and exploitation exist on spectrums</p> <p>* How do you distinguish slavery from other forms of forced labor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serfdom: condition in medieval Europe in which a tenant farmer was bound to a plot of land and the will of his landlord with a substantial proportion of crops given to the landlord. They owned their own clothes, tools, livestock as well as the fruits of their labor</li> <li>- Master/servant relationship: relationship between laborer and employer in which violating the worker’s contract was a criminal offense</li> <li>- Debt servitude: person unable to pay the debt becomes the slave of the creditor</li> <li>- Indentured servitude: person willingly surrenders their labor and a degree of freedom for a fixed period in exchange for some service or up-front payment</li> </ul> <p>* The line between slavery and forms of coerced labor is unclear</p>

