

Slavery and Islam: What is Slavery?	
Authors	Jonathan Brown - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)  Abdullah Hamid Ali - B.A. (Qarawiyyin University), Ph.D. (Graduate Theological Union)
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	Ownership, freedom, and exploitation exist on spectrums  * How do you distinguish slavery from other forms of forced labor?  - 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  - Master/servant relationship: relationship between laborer and employer in which violating the worker's contract was a criminal offense  - Debt servitude: person unable to pay the debt becomes the slave of the creditor  - 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  * The line between slavery and forms of coerced labor is unclear

Legal rights	<p>In Ming China, slaves could not own property, marry, and the killing of them was not a legal issue</p> <p>Roman Republic (6th-1st centuries BCE) - slaves were legally dead since they were prisoners of war who had been spared death</p> <p>- Roman slave laws continued to develop until 565 CE when master's rights to violence were limited to reasonable discipline</p> <p>Indentured servants from Britain, who made up two-thirds of the immigrants to British North America before 1776, could be sold, worked to exhaustion, beaten for misbehavior and could not marry</p>
	<p>* There is no one definition of slavery under which all instances of slavery in history can fit</p>
Slavery and politics	<p>Slavery is a deeply political issue in the sense that it is inherently tied to questions of power. Just as the practice of slavery is an extreme exercise of power by some human beings over others, wielding the language of slavery is a claim to <i>moral authority</i> over others. It is no surprise that advocates of ending brutal or unacceptably exploitative labor practices such as sweatshops, child sex trafficking, forced marriage, and organ trading refer to such phenomena as 'modern day slavery'</p>
Self-censorship in the usage of the word 13th Amendment	<p>The most prominent advocates for ending modern day slavery - not willing to accuse the US government of engaging in ongoing slavery - have not applied the label to the forced labor of criminals in the American penal system</p> <p>- "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime ... shall exist within the United States"</p>
Conclusion	<p>Instead of focusing on the term 'slavery' itself we should focus on the conditions associated with it</p>

*CKR*