The Cambridge Companion to Global Literature and Slavery reveals the way recent scholarship in the field of slavery studies has taken a more expansive turn, in terms of both the geographical and the temporal. These new studies perform area studies–driven analyses of the representation of slavery from national or regional literary traditions that are not always considered by scholars of slavery and explore the diverse range of unfreedoms depicted therein. Literary scholars of China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa provide original scholarly arguments about some of the most trenchant themes that arise in the literatures of slavery – authentication and legitimation; ethnic formation and globalization; displacement, exile, and alienation; representation and metaphorization; and resistance and liberation. This Cambridge Companion to Global Literature and Slavery is designed to highlight the shifting terrain in literary studies of slavery and collectively challenge the reductive notion of what constitutes slavery and its representation.

Laura T. Murphy is the author of Freedomville: The Story of a 21st Century Slave Revolt; The New Slave Narrative: The Battle over Representations of Contemporary Slavery; and Metaphor and the Slave Trade in West African Literature. She is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award and has been a fellow of the National Humanities Center and the British Academy.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO GLOBAL LITERATURE AND SLAVERY

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**Chronology**

It almost certainly goes without saying that writing a chronology of critical events in the history of global slavery is a daunting task. Slavery has existed since antiquity and has operated both through institutions that keep records and on the margins where little record has been kept. Perhaps, the most important moments in slavery’s trajectory and the ones that many of the writers of literature are most interested in – those in which oppressed people fought back, won their freedom, or resisted in their daily lives – are more often silenced by the record instead of being touted in a chronology such as this one. As contributor Parisa Vaziri wrote in response to a request for items for this timeline, The traditional historiographic method fails to give us a lucid understanding of this past; neither does it help us to orient our present in relation to this past . . . It is worth remembering that slavery is itself the very obliteration of orientation. Timelines do not do justice, and at worst, potentially conceal, the absolute disorientation of sense that slavery is . . . As Saidiya Hartman and other Black Studies scholars have so powerfully instructed, it is facile to correlate the end of a historical institution like slavery with a date, with a legal decree, or other putatively significant moment in history. Slavery is not an event and does not comfortably with the order of eventuality crafted by timelines.

With this caution in mind, the contributors to this volume collectively submit this compilation of dates that would be better understood as a timeline of institutional investments in and geopolitical responses to slavery that are most relevant to the essays collected in this volume.

**500**
Trade route developed through the Straits of Malacca, linking the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea

**642–1220**
Slavery expands and fuels growth of the Islamic Empire under the Ummayads, Abbasids, and
Persian dynasties. From the beginning, slavery in the Near East was domestic, sexual, and military, but also in certain cases agricultural, and contributed to the economic and political growth of the region.

*711* Arab conquest of the Iberian Peninsula and Sind
*780* Islamic mosque constructed in Shanga, on the east coast of Africa

*869–893* Zendj rebellion
*1050* Muslim dynasty established at Kilwa, on the East African coast

*1206–1294* Conquest and consolidation of the unified Mongol Empire across Eurasia; continent-spanning forced displacement of people, including enslavement of subjugated people

*1488* Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias rounds the southern tip of Africa, opening the way for a sea route from Europe to Asia

*1502–1736* Enslaved people from East Africa and the Caucasus employed at various levels of society under the Safavid and, eventually, the Qajar dynasties

*1508–1582* The height of power of the Tümed Mongols under Altan Khan; significant Chinese migration to Mongolian regions, including enslavement of Chinese by Mongols

*1602* Founding of the Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, VOC)

*1636–1691* Incorporation of Inner and Outer Mongolia into the Qing Empire; Qing colonial legal regime adapts to and redefines the terms of slavery in Mongolia

*1652* Dutch East India outpost established at the Cape of Good Hope

*1680* Junghar Mongol conquest of the Tarim Basin; beginning of deportation of Muslim peasantry to Ili Valley

*1685* Code Noir instituted in order to codify punishments for marronnage that was taking place in the Caribbean colonies; evidence of marronage apparent as early as 1655 in Martinique, 1657 in Guadeloupe, and 1700 in Guyana
Qing Dynasty completes its conquest of Xinjiang and begins transportation of Muslim peasants to “Muslim farms” in the Ili region

November 1781
The Zong massacre (142 enslaved people are thrown overboard by Captain Luke Collingwood so that he can claim insurance on the value of the drowned)

August 29, 1793
Haitian revolutionaries force France to abolish slavery in the colony of Saint Domingue

February 4, 1794
France abolishes slavery throughout its colonies

1795
British forces take the Cape of Good Hope, Cochin, and Malacca from the VOC

July 8, 1801
Toussaint L’Ouverture publishes Haiti’s 1801 colonial constitution that abolished slavery

1802
Napoleon Bonaparte reinstitutes slavery and the slave trade in colonies

May 20, 1805
Article 2 of Haitian Constitution abolishes slavery and puts an end to the slave trade

1806
Transatlantic slave trade abolished in the United Kingdom

1807
Transatlantic slave trade abolished in the United States

February 8, 1815
Declaration of the Powers on the Abolition of the Slave Trade, Congress of Vienna Act XV, often cited as the first international instrument to call for an abolition of the slave trade

1817
Establishment of mixed maritime commissions (whose courts operated from 1819 to the 1860s)

1828
Suppression of Jahangir Khoja’s uprising (in present-day Central Asia); enslavement of some 1,600 relatives of participants in Ili

1828
Through the Treaty of Turkmenchay, Russia gains control of the Caucasus and ends the slave trade from the Caucasus to Iran, intensifying demand for slave labor from the African continent

1834
First indentured laborers arrive in Mauritius
### Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Emperor Daoguang (China) orders release of captives enslaved in the wake of Jahangir Khoja’s uprising</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar formally forbids importation of enslaved people to Iran; in practice, slavery continues through the early twentieth century</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td>Iran signs a treaty with Great Britain to allow British patrollers to search slave ships</td>
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<td>1870s</td>
<td>Jim Crow era begins in the United States</td>
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<td>February 26, 1885</td>
<td>Article VI, General Act of the Conference of Berlin, divides Africa into European colonies and abolishes slavery in those colonies</td>
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<td>July 2, 1890</td>
<td>Brussels Antislavery Conference</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>The Natives Land Act (South Africa) passed</td>
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<td>1921–1923</td>
<td>Abolition of personal servants (qamjilg-a) by decree of the Provisional State Khural of Mongolia and constitutional guarantee of equality of all Mongol citizens</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Slavery Convention of the League of Nations</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>The anti-slavery bill ratified by the Iranian National Parliament</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>International Labour Organization, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105), United Nations</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Bonded Labor System Abolition Act India</td>
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January 18, 2002  

February 12, 2002  