



# THE OTHER SLAVERY: Histories of Indian Bondage from New Spain to the Southwestern United States

Presented by the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in association with the Smithsonian's initiative, *Our Shared Future: Reckoning with Our Racial Past*.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**China/Chino:** A colloquial term applied in Spain's Philippine and American colonies to designate Indigenous peoples of the Philippine archipelago and Southeast Asia.

1

**Criada/Criado:** From the Spanish verb *criar*, "to rear." Refers to Natives who were usually captured while young and raised by Spanish colonists to work in colonizers' households. A euphemism for an indentured servant.

**Debt Peonage:** A state of indebtedness that forces labor for employer benefit until a debt is paid off.

**Encomienda:** A legal system in Spain's American and Philippine colonies that conferred grants of *indios* (Indigenous Americans and Filipinos) to select colonists. The receiver of the grant, the *encomendero*, could extract labor or goods from the *indios* and was required to protect them and instruct them in the Catholic faith.

**Genízara/Genízaro:** Detribalized Indigenous people who, through war or trade, were abducted and taken into Hispano households as laborers.

**Gente de razón:** Translates to “people of reason.” A phrase used to distinguish Christianized Indigenous peoples from non-Christian ones. The exchange of their former lifestyle for one with a Catholic outlook demonstrated cultural mobility. In Alta California, this term also connotated an affiliation with Spanish or Caucasian ancestry.

**Indentured Servitude:** A system of forced contract labor in which an individual works without or for little pay for a period of time.

**India/Indio:** A Spanish legal and colloquial term applied in its American and Philippine colonies to designate Indigenous peoples.

**Indios bárbaros:** A term used by Spanish colonists, especially in the northern frontier, to refer to unassimilated Native populations and, particularly, to combative Native tribes, mainly Apaches and Comanches.

**Indios de rescate:** A term used to describe Native people who were traded, ransomed, or rescued. They were then subjected to some years of servitude and taught to adhere to Spanish cultural and religious norms. Often, they later came to be regarded as Genízaras and Genízaros in Spain’s northern frontier colonies.

**Naborías:** In the pre-Contact Indigenous world, this was a term used for laborers who were permanently dependent on rulers or nobles. This system was appropriated by Spanish colonists who seized large numbers of Indians for their permanent employ.

**New Laws of the Indies:** Colonial governing laws and ordinances decreed by the Spanish Crown in 1542 that explicitly outlawed Indian slavery; **the Recompilation of the Laws of the Indies** expanded on the existing laws in 1681 and reiterated the prohibition of Indian slavery. In the Spanish colonies on the empire’s margin, however, the practice of Indian slavery became clandestine and served as enticement to attract capital investment necessary for colonization.

**Obedezco pero no cumplo:** Translates to “I obey but I do not comply.” A phrase used by Spanish colonizers to describe their response to the Spanish Crown’s New Laws prohibiting Indian slavery.

**Repartimiento:** A legal system in Spain’s American and Philippine colonies that allowed certain well-placed colonists to recruit Indigenous peoples for forced labor.

**Slavery:** A legal system enabling the slaveholder to own, buy, or sell individuals as property.

**Vassalage:** A system in feudal societies in which an individual is under the protection of a feudal lord to whom she/he vows homage and fealty.