



Why consider history?

*“History would become all that men
during the day, but nothing of
what they did during the night”*

--Barbara Omolade

Auction block

Stripped naked
Sold to highest bidder
Family's divided
"Breeder" were valuable



SELLING A MOTHER FROM HER CHILD.

“ ‘Do you often buy the wife without the husband?’ ‘Yes, very often; and frequently, too, they sell me the mother while they keep her children. I have often known them take away the infant from its mother’s breast, and keep it, while they sold her.’ ”—*Prof. Andrews, late of the University*

Rape of enslaved women



According to historians, at least 58% of enslaved Black women between the ages of 15 and 30 had been sexually assaulted by White men.

Sommerville, D. M. (2004). *Rape and race in the nineteenth-century South*. University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill, NC.

Intra-racial Rape



The crime of rape does not exist in this State between African slaves...

The regulations of law, as to the white race, on the subject of sexual intercourse, do not and cannot, for obvious reasons, apply to slaves; their intercourse is promiscuous, and the violence of a female slave by a male slave would be a mere assault and battery.

—Mississippi Court (1859)

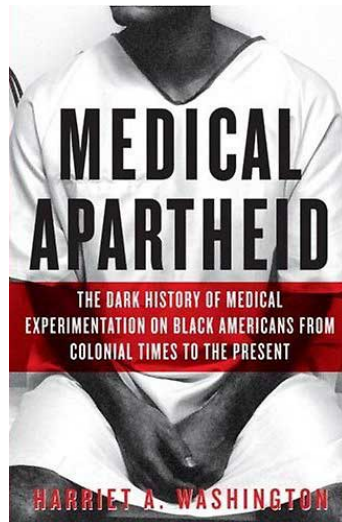
Medical experiments on enslaved women

Dr. J. Marion Sims

‘Father of Gynecology’

Speculum, 1845

Fistula repair on enslaved women





Culture of Silence

“Slaves could either go silently to the grave or go to the grave for breaking the silence.”

Gay, P. L. (1999). Slavery as a sexual atrocity. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 6, 5-10.

Legacy of Slave Rape



“Although we don't often discuss it, we carry this legacy in our cultural DNA. For me, to think about rape culture is to think about enslaved African women who bore the brunt of this horror. It's a dimension that belongs in the modern conversation just as surely as alcohol and victim-blaming, slut-shaming and rape do.”

--Akiba Solomon

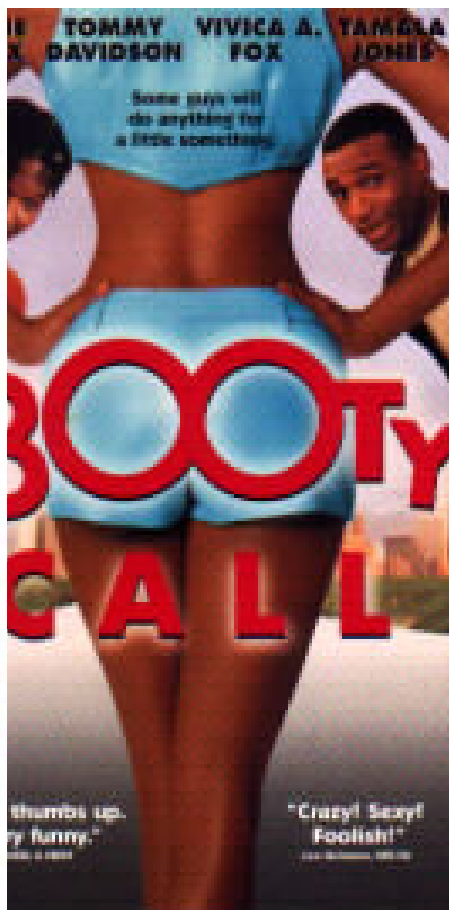
<http://www.colorlines.com/articles/how-12-years-slave-exposes-early-rape-culture>



How has this history influenced Black women **TODAY?**

- Media influences
- Internalization of the Jezebel image
- Culture of silence/Political Gag Order
- Expectation of strength
- Racial loyalty

Contemporary Images/Jezebel



Have their roots
in historical
images and
sexual
stereotypes