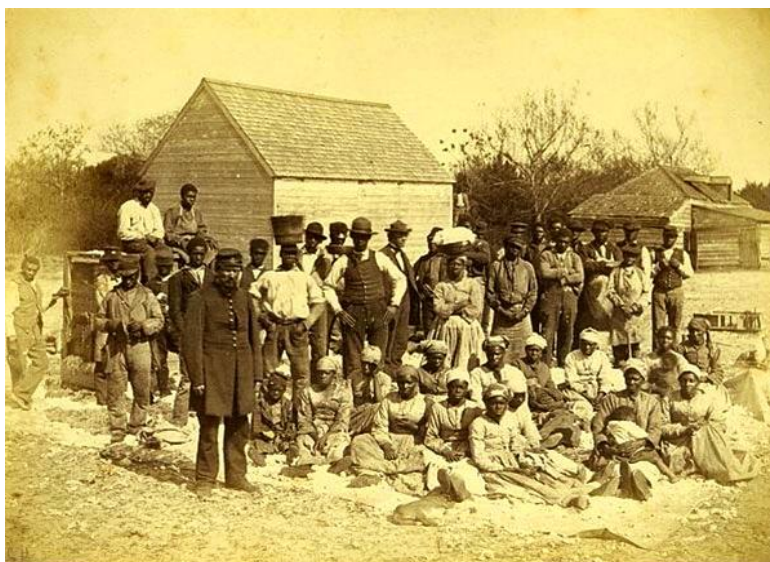
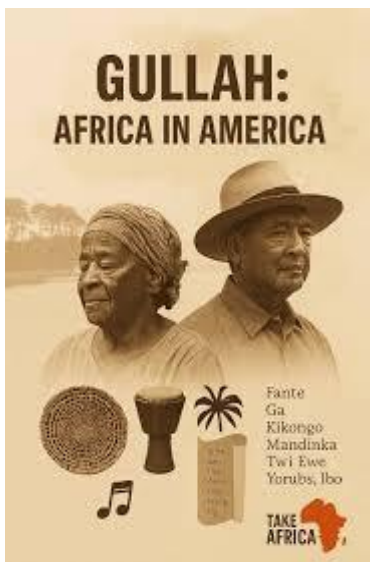


America's 250th Anniversary and It's Foundation



As America approaches its 250th anniversary, it is both fitting and necessary to honor the full story of its foundation—one that includes the enduring legacy of the Gullah Geechee people. Beginning in the early 1700s, enslaved Africans from West and Central Africa were brought to the southeastern coast, where their knowledge of rice cultivation helped shape the economic backbone of the emerging nation. In the Lowcountry regions of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina, they preserved their language, traditions, foodways, and spiritual practices, creating a vibrant culture that still thrives today.

Due to relative geographic isolation and high population density on sea island plantations, they retained strong African cultural traditions, including art, cooking, and linguistics.

This anniversary is more than a celebration of independence—it is an opportunity to recognize resilience, acknowledge contributions often overlooked, and uplift the ancestral voices that helped build America from its earliest days. Honoring Gullah Geechee heritage during this historic milestone connects past to present, reminding us that the nation's strength lies in the richness of all its people and the stories they carry forward.

Origins and Enslavement

- **The Rice Coast:** Many Gullah ancestors were brought in the 18th century from West Africa's "Rice Coast," specifically valued for their agricultural knowledge of rice cultivation.
- **Isolated Culture:** Because planters in these coastal areas often practiced "absentee ownership," the enslaved population saw limited interaction with white society, allowing them to retain African cultural practices.
- **Development of Gullah:** The Gullah language developed as a blend of English and several West/Central African languages, acting as a unique creole spoken nowhere else in the US.



Gullah history predates America's 250th anniversary.



We must take ownership of our story

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