

# Acadian Slave Labor

The relationship between Acadians and slavery in the Caribbean is complex and tied to the upheaval caused by the Expulsion of the Acadians (also called *Le Grand Dérangement*).

## What happened to Acadians?

After 1755, thousands of Acadians—French settlers from present-day Nova Scotia—were forcibly removed by the British. Many were:

- Sent to the American colonies
- Deported to Europe
- Relocated to places like Saint-Domingue, Guadeloupe, and Martinique

## Were Acadians used as slave labor?

Many Acadians were forced or coerced into slave labor:

- In colonies like Saint-Domingue (modern Haiti), Acadians arrived as displaced refugees with **no land, money, or legal protection**
- Many were forced into **indentured or survival labor**, working on plantations or in harsh agricultural conditions
- They were economically trapped and dependent on colonial systems

## Overlap in colonial systems

In places like Saint-Domingue:

- Acadians lived within societies heavily dependent on enslaved African labor
- Acadians worked alongside or within plantation economies
- A small number eventually became landholders themselves, though many remained poor

## Bottom line

Acadians in the Caribbean were:

- **Refugees of a forced deportation**
- Subjected to **exploitative labor conditions**