The Beginning of Slavery in the United States

By Sam

The first 19 or so Africans to reach the English colonies arrived in Point Comfort, Virginia, near Jamestown, in 1619, brought by English privateers. They seized them from a captured Portuguese slave ship called the White Lion to bring them back to British Colonies to be physical laborers. Virginia by the mid 1600s was known for its Tobacco crop. This moment was the origin of slavery in the British colonies.

Nikole Hannah-Jones used the arrival of the White Lion as an inflection point that should take the place of the Declaration of Independence as our official starting point as a nation.