From Emancipation to the 1894 RIOTS

Instead of being allowed to comfort and assist one another, the slaves are often compelled to hold one of their number, while another wretched being is forced to ply the lash.
ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE IN 1807:
The first major step on the road to emancipation was an ‘Act for the Abolishment of the Slave Trade’ in 1807. The members of the Society for the Abolishment of the Slave Trade decided to concentrate on a campaign to persuade British Parliament to prohibit trading in slaves. They felt they were more likely to succeed than if they demanded the abolition of slavery itself throughout the empire. They also believe that if the slave trade was ceased, slavery would eventually be brought to an end. On 25th March, 1807, the Act for the Abolition of the slave trade made it illegal to carry enslaved people on British Ships.
In July 1833, a bill to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire was passed in British Parliament. This was the result of several factors which included:

1) The education campaign laid by the abolitionists.

2) Major slave revolts in Jamaica, Demerara and Barbados.

3) Reduced demand for slave-based goods.


As of August 1st, 1834, slavery was officially brought to an end pending a transition period known as Apprenticeship.
KING MAHOGANY
In British Honduras, the end of the apprenticeship period on its eve of July 31st, 1838, was marked with prayer and mild celebration. In places like Jamaica, the end of slavery was symbolized by burying a coffin containing a whip and chain inside. The Superintendent of Belize reported that after most of the ex-slaves were carrying on with their own activities.

After Emancipation, the former masters still found various ways to control the labour force and developed a system of dependency.

Here are some ways:

1) **Only white men** could own land and former slaves could not.
2) **Land** was to be sold at one pound per acre, which was too expensive for the ex-slaves.
3) The British Woodcutters developed the ‘**advance system**’ where advances were given under a strict contract system. This ensured the ex-slaves were bound to the employer for six to twelve months.
4) The ‘**Truck System**’ where the ex-slave had to take a portion of their wages as provisions from their employers store.
The First step towards emancipation was the registering of all slaves in the settlement before August 1834. Order-in-Council reached Belize in March 1834 and established a registration period of two months. In order to compensate slaves’ owners for their loss they would incur once the slaves were free, Britain paid 20 million pounds today. This was equal to roughly 40% of the national budget at the time and about 1.34 billion pounds today; on the other hand the slaves received nothing. Instead the final emancipation would be reached over a period of six years which was later shortened to four years. In Belize slave owners were paid an average of 54 pounds per enslaved person.
The Rise of Merchants

Since British settlers had to export their wood and needed to import their supplies, merchants and traders in Belize became wealthy and powerful. Trade with Central America, which sent about four-fifths of its trade through Belize, grew substantially in the 1920s. Merchants also profited from the trade of contraband with the confederates during the U.S. Civil War.
In 1852 and 1885 “Masters and Servants” laws were passed out. These laws were very ruthless to the employee, which allowed the employer to basically have all rights over their workers.

WORKERS COULD BE SENT TO SERVE JAIL TIME SHOULD THEY MISS A DAY OF WORK, DIDN'T FINISH THE JOB, OR FOR BEING DISOBEDIENT.

Although the working class protested, fought and took this matter to the Governor nothing was done.
Emancipation Day 2012 in Jamaica

Emancipation Day 2017 in Trinidad and Tobago
1ST AUGUST 2018
emancipation JUBILEE

actions 5th year of acknowledging 1st August Emancipation Jubilee in recognition of the 180 years of the liberation of our former enslaved Afrikan Ancestors by their former enslavers the British

Tuesday 31st July, 2018 | 10:30 to 12:30pm
1st August Emancipation Jubilee Church Service at Queen Street Baptist Church in Belize City

Wednesday 1st August, 2018 | 6-7 am
1st August Emancipation Jubilee Drum Call. Boat Ramp by Golden Bay on Marine Parade. Please wear white clothing. Open call to all drummers.

Wednesday 1st August, 2018 | 7-8 pm
1st August Emancipation Jubilee Community Talk with Professor Bayyinah Bello at Gateway Youth Center on 1st August from 7 to 8 p.m.

UBAD Educational Foundation Community Partners are:
Image Factory Art Foundation, Krem TV, The Museum of Belize, Krem Radio, The National Heritage Library, Gateway Youth Center, Amandala, Queen Street Baptist Church, The Institute of Social and Cultural Research (ISCR), Office of the Prime Minister, Belize City Council, Vegan Bites, Florasol, Astar Florals, XAMS Flower Shop, Rosalyn Roland, Annie Tillett, Masani Live
The essence of society, a **rigidly hierarchical system** in which people were ranked according to race and class was well established by the time of full emancipation in 1838.

**PURPOSE OF APPRENTICESHIP**

The act to abolish slavery throughout the British colonies, passed in 1833, was intended to avoid drastic social changes by effecting emancipation over a five-year transition period. The act included two generous measures for slave owners: a system of "apprenticeship" calculated to extend their control over the former slaves who were to continue to work for their masters without pay, and compensation for the former slave owners for their loss of property. These measures helped ensure that the majority of the population, even when it was legally freed after apprenticeship ended in 1838, depended on their former owners for work.
Before 1838, a **handful of the inhabitants** controlled the settlement and owned most of the people.

After 1838, the masters of the settlement, **a tiny elite**, continued to control the country for over a century by denying access to land, and by promoting economic dependency of the freed slaves through a combination of wage advances and company stores.
In 1864, Belize became a British colony governed from Jamaica. Movement from a settlement to a colony was because settlers felt threatened by the entrance of a large number of Mestizo refugees and hostile Maya from the Caste War. Settlers were threatened by Maya such as Marcos Canul who won victories over the British West Indian Regiment in Belize. As a result of these skirmishes, settlers were successful in convincing the King of England to make Belize become a Crown Colony in 1871.

When Belize became a COLONY of Britain what were the connections between the African and the Maya?
Colonial order, 1871–1931

new constitution of 1871, the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Council

This constitutional change = The change moved power from the old settler oligarchy to the boardrooms of British companies and to the Colonial Office in London.

In 1875, the British Honduras Company became the Belize Estate and Produce Company, a London-based business that owned about half of all the privately held land in the colony.

This concentration and centralisation of capital meant that the direction of the colony's economy was henceforth determined largely in London.

By about 1890, most commerce in British Honduras was in the hands of a clique of Scottish and German merchants, most of them newcomers. This clique encouraged consumption of imported goods and thus furthered British Honduras's dependence on Britain. The European minority exercised great influence in the colony's politics, partly because it was guaranteed representation on the wholly appointed Legislative Council. The manager of the Belize Estate and Produce Company, for example, was automatically a member of the council, while members of the emerging Creole elite were excluded from holding seats on the council.

WHO BENEFITS from CHANGE?

THE OLD SETTLER Oligarchy to the Boardrooms of British Companies and to the Colonial Office in London.
A little riot in British Honduras aptly illustrates the kind of ferocity which all Labour disputes nowadays seem to provoke, The Government of that Colony has abolished silver currency in favour of gold, the old currency being treated as worth only half its face-value, which is, we imagine, scientifically accurate. The cutters of logwood and mahogany refused, however, to accept that valuation; and on the contractors persisting, wrecked their offices, and subsequently stormed the police-station, to rescue their comrades imprisoned for the wrecking. It was necessary, when the offices were attacked, to land sailors and marines, and threaten to fire, whereupon the crowd dispersed; but the rescue occurred afterwards, and troops have been sent from Jamaica to restore order. The occurrence is an unfortunate one; for while order must always be maintained, we do not doubt that the cutters believed they had a most serious grievance. Gold is worth twice as much as silver in Belize; but will it buy twice as much in the far interior where these men pass a large part of their lives? We are quite sure the Government in India or Ceylon would not venture to pay troops accustomed to silver, in gold, at half-rates, though the silver is in India and Ceylon scientifically "worth" half its old gold value. The unlucky cutters were not going to buy gold in Belize, but bread and liquor in the forest.

How does this report characterize the riots?