

Banana: how the united fruit company shaped the world



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Nat Turner was a highly intelligent African American. Even as a young boy his family, masters, and others noticed his talents. Turner believed he was unfit to be a slave and that he was a prophet due to the fact that he taught himself how to read, the mark on his head and chest and finally the revelation instructing him to seek the kingdom of Heaven. He took these as signs to become a leader and end slavery in Virginia.

Nat Turner's rebellion was believed to be one of the largest slave rebellions in United States history.

Nearly about seventy people were killed during this bloody, violent massacre. Turner had only about sixty to eighty followers and they held their meeting at Cabin Pond the day before the rebellion. The rebellion wasn't an act of revenge.

It was more against slavery than against an actual person. The rebels in some sense showed some control because they never burned a building, raped a woman, stole valuable goods, or take part in torture. The slaves merely wanted to end slavery. Within a day of all the madness, the local militia defeated the rebellion.

The militia captured and killed the rebels except for Turner.

Nat Turner hid for about two months and was finally captured on October 30th, tried one week later and was executed on November 1st. Many neighboring communities began to panic, and felt threatened so they received military and naval support. Whites immediately started accusing all slaves of being in the rebellion which resulted in many innocent African Americans

death. General Epees had troops stand guard of accused rebels to assure orderly trials.

Nearly fifty African Americans were tried within a three week period.

Although every slave was appointed a lawyer by the court, the lawyer didn't take the time to put forward a good defense.

In the end, thirty people were sentenced to death for participation, and nineteen died on the gallows (21). It's hard to portray Nat Turner's "Confession" to be a reliable document. Some scholars believe that Thomas Gray wrote false statements and included wrong information to make it more dramatic.

It's not for sure what Nat Turner's real thoughts were and if Gray interpreted them as Turner wanted. Readers must stay mindful that the confessions contain information that differs from more reliable sources so it can be considered to be inaccurate (13). Thomas Dew wanted Valhalla to eventually become an anti-slave state.

He wrote an essay after the rebellion about why slaves should be emancipated. He felt that it was rational to free African Americans after the Nat Turner rebellion.

According to Dew, Valhalla would decline not only socially, but economically as well, if blacks were included in the population instead of being managed as slaves. Banana: How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World By Sanchez Turner's rebellion was believed to be one of the largest slave rebellions in United States so they received military and naval support.

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