

## Document 4

**Source:** Frederick Douglass, "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro," a speech delivered in Rochester, New York, July 5, 1852.

**Document Note:** This passage is from a speech given by the famous African-American abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Douglass was himself an escaped slave from Maryland. His audience was almost entirely white Northerners. Douglass was 34 at the time.

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer, a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; ... your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; ... your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, ... are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy – a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.

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## Document 5

**Source:** George Fitzhugh, *Cannibals All! Or Slaves Without Masters*, Richmond, Virginia, 1857.

The Negro slaves of the South are the happiest, and, in some sense, the freest people in the world. The children and the aged infirm work not at all, and yet have all the comforts and necessities of life provided for them. They enjoy liberty, because they are oppressed neither by care nor labor. The women do little hard work, and are protected from the despotism of their husbands by their masters. The Negro men and stout boys work, on the average, in good weather, not more than nine hours a day ... With their faces upturned to the sun, they can sleep at any hour; and quiet sleep is the greatest of human enjoyments....

**Note:** Fitzhugh was a sociologist from North Carolina. *Cannibals All!* was one of his most famous books.