

## A Positive View of Slavery

The most shocking fact  
in American history:

**“The majority of freed  
slaves had a positive  
view of the institution  
of slavery, and many  
unabashedly wished  
to return to slavery.”<sup>1</sup>**

Why? Because they had come to  
view the slavemaster as the provider  
of free services, stability, and security.  
Born into slavery, they could not  
easily imagine a life of freedom.

Now think about  
the assumptions  
you were born into.

<sup>1</sup> Sources: Paraphrasing of Columbia University historian Thaddeus Russell, quantitative analysis of WPA interviews with 2300 ex-slaves found in *Slavery: Remembered: A Record of Twentieth-Century Slave Narratives* (1979) by Paul Escott. Transcripts of the ex-slave interviews can be found in George Hewitt's *The American Slave* (1972) and online at [internationall.co.gov](http://internationall.co.gov). See also *A Renegade History of the United States* (2010) by Russell.