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Research exercise: Modern Day Slavery: A Contrast Between Historical Thoughts of Slavery and the Modern Reality

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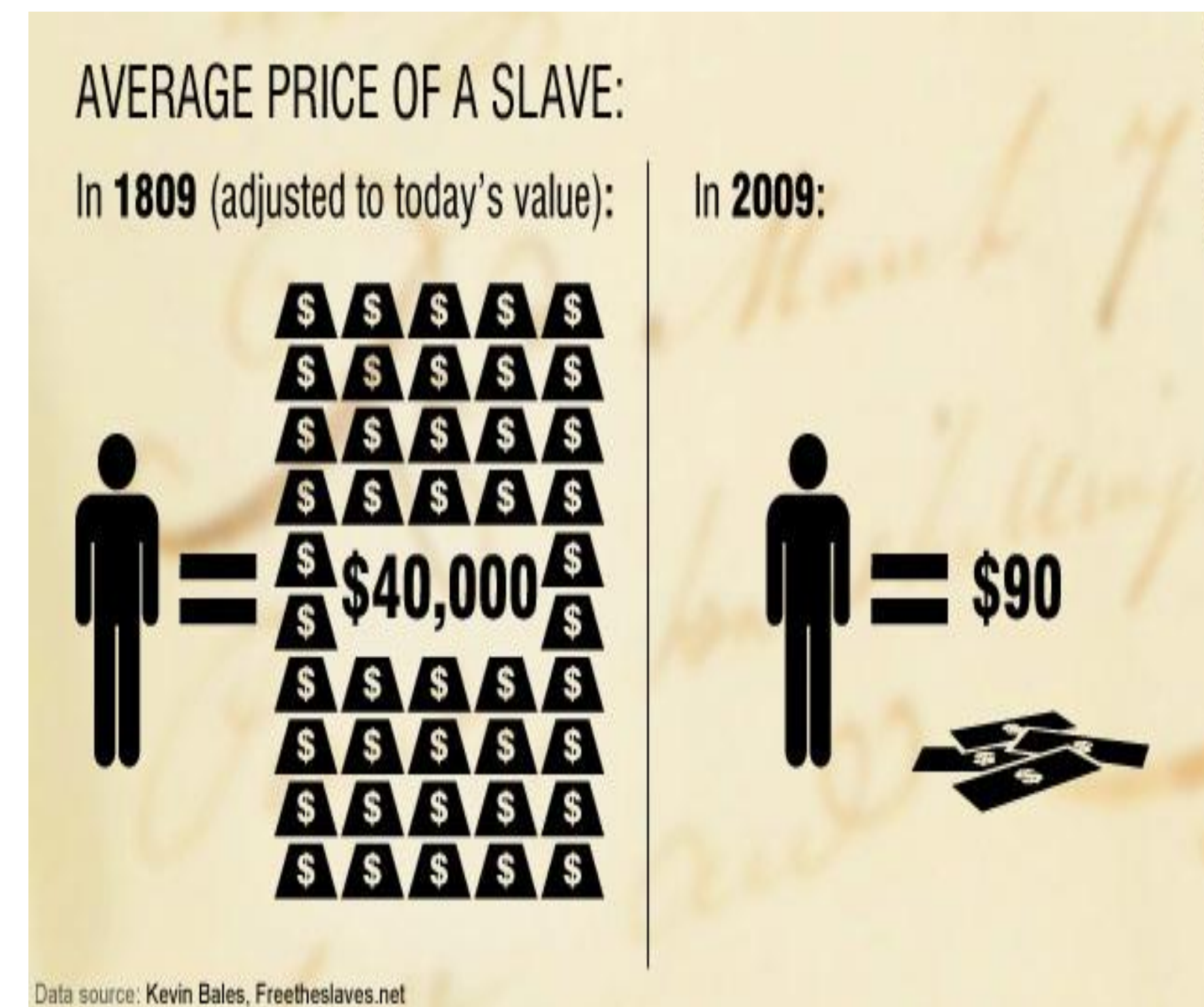


Modern Day Slavery: A Contrast Between Historical Thoughts of Slavery and the Modern Reality

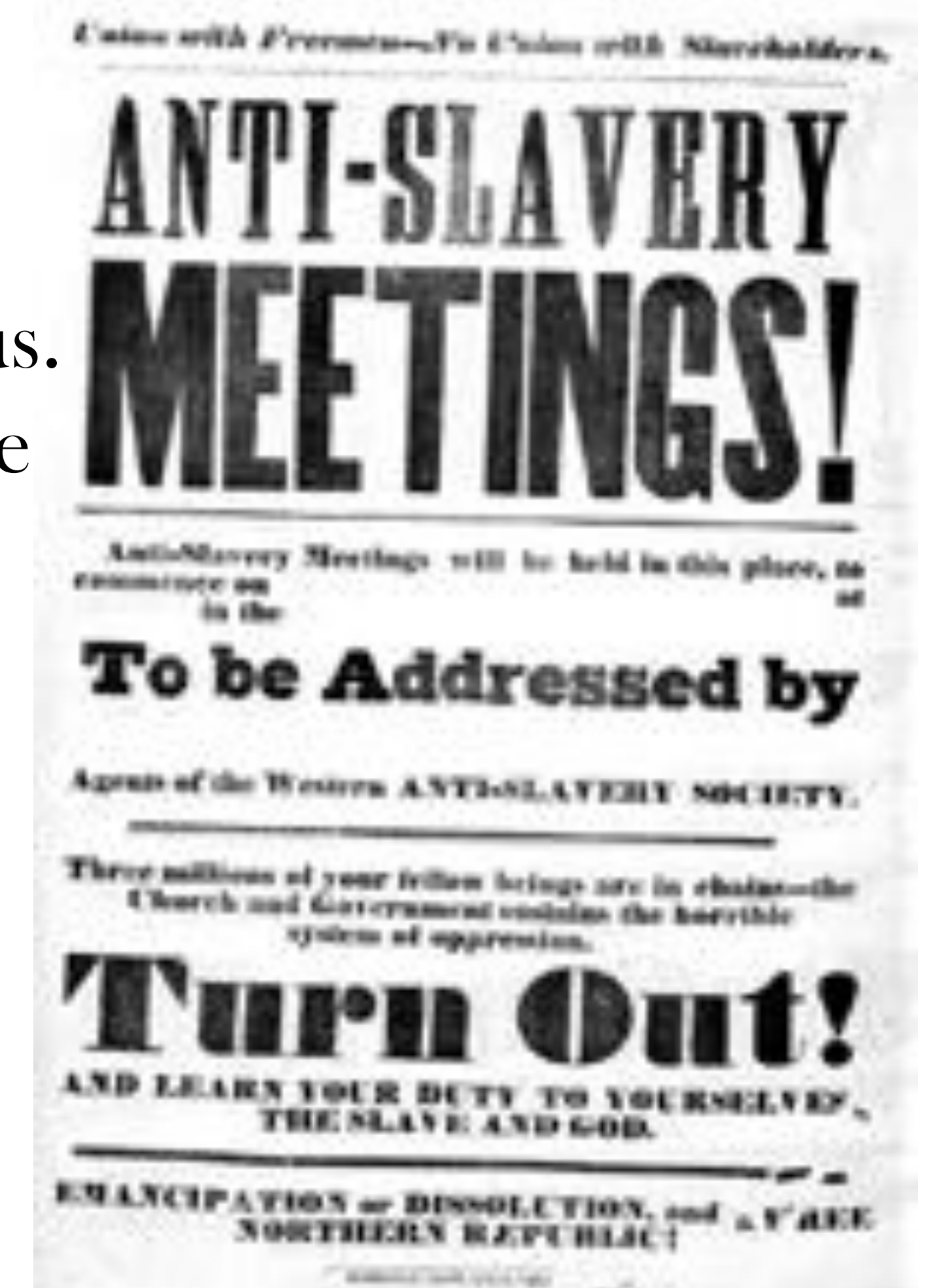
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The modern day slave trade is not commonly heard of. As a matter of fact, most Americans will tell you that they know that slavery is illegal and morally wrong. However, the reality of today is that at this very moment there are at least **27 million people held captive and under worse conditions** than during the era of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

- * Slaves are cheaper than ever!
- * You can purchase a slave for less than \$90 USD.
- * Slaves were once a long-term investment. If they were sick or injured they were taken care of.
- * Now, these human beings have become disposable and a commodity.



- * Slavery was more visible in the 1800's and its cruelties were obvious. The abolitionist movement was able to gain momentum because people saw something that needed to be changed.



Today, less than 1% of all human traffickers are convicted

Slave exports from Africa on the Trans-Atlantic route		
Period	Number of slaves accounted for	%
1450-1500	[81,000] ¹	-
1500-1600	328,000 ²	2.9
1601-1700	1,348,000	12.0
1701-1800	6,090,000	54.2
1801-1900	3,466,000 ³	30.9
Total	11,232,000	100.0

1. Mainly traded as a commodity along the Atlantic coast for gold as well as a small number exported to Europe and Atlantic islands.
 2. Does not include up to 50,000 slaves exported to Europe and Atlantic islands.
 3. Includes those exported as contract labourers or *libertos* by the French and Portuguese.

Source: *Transformations in Slavery* by Paul E. Lovejoy
 Cambridge University Press, 2000,
 ISBN 0-521-78430-1
 Derived from tables: 2.1 and 3.1

- * The average return on investment (ROI) during the legalized slave trade was of 5%.
- * Slaves today generate anywhere between 8% ROI and 800%.

Groups like Abolition Ohio are actively working to prevent and raise awareness on human trafficking. **Slavery has not ended!**

