Although instances of diasporas in the New World and in the Indian Ocean in antiquity both qualify as slavery, there are grave differences amongst fundamental characteristics of the two populations. The definition of slavery is said to be the forcible control of another person, including their labor production and reproductive capabilities. As this is broad terminology, there are various relationships that constitute slavery. Even in the Indian Ocean region in antiquity there were multiple forms of slavery, with vastly different diasporas emanating from Africa and Asia. I will contrast the slave diasporas in the New World to that of Africa and Asia in the Indian Ocean.

In both African and Asian diasporas in the Indian Ocean, slavery was defined in its loosest sense. They were considered to be an open system of slavery, meaning that the time of servitude was not for an entire lifespan, and that in some instances, the slaves could be assimilated into their new culture after. African slaves that were brought to Middle Eastern countries typically performed tasks such as house hold duties, pearl diving, serving as concubines, and also forming large slave armies, or *mamluks*. Quite frequently, these individuals converted to Islam, and as a result were easily accepted into their communities once their time of servitude was completed. Except for the slave armies, the majority of these tasks were performed
individually, meaning the slaves lost most of their previous identity and adopted the new culture as their own. Asian slavery, primarily focusing on the Indian diasporas on the island of Mauritius, were similarly considered an “open” variation on slavery. However, they were slightly different from the Asian diasporas in the Middle East as this form of servitude was more in the sense of indentured labor. Generally, a sirdar, who originated from India but became a recruiter for plantation owners on Mauritius, traveled to the villages they knew in India. There, they would create contracts with Indians, preferably ones that had debt or other reasons to leave and make money. The contracts typically consisted of working for three years, with the option to extend their time of servitude to five years, and in return the slaves would receive minimal pay, with bare necessities such as minimal clothing and food. They would also have to pay for their trip to and from India, as well as any additional food and clothing. However, unlike the African diasporas in the Middle East, the typical work of indentured slaves in Mauritius was plantation work. They were not assimilated into the culture after their period of servitude, and were forced to go back to India. However, these slaves were allowed to bring over family members, which was an attempt to ensure that the slaves continued working despite undesirable conditions.

The third diaspora of slaves, which varied greatly from the two forms of slavery in the Indian Ocean in antiquity, was that of African slavery in the New World. This system of slavery was closed, with a strict divide kept between the population of slaves and the plantation owners. Like the Indian workers in Mauritius, these slaves worked on plantations. However, they did not go to America
voluntarily, did not receive any compensation, and generally were never released until their death. Also, any children of slaves were born into slavery, rather than being assimilated into the mainstream culture. This diaspora of African slaves often maintained their identity, as the entire group of them never adopted the new culture. Clearly, the African diaspora of slavery was the strictest sense of the term. Despite all three diasporas qualifying as slavery, the three systems varied greatly.