



October 27, 2026



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US Navy Contracts

A close-up view of the mast and radar equipment of a US Navy ship, partially obscured by the large red text 'US Navy Contracts'.The logo for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), featuring the letters 'CSIS' in white serif font on a dark blue square background.

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Naval History



Britain and slavery

SIR – Neither apologies nor reparations are needed for Britain’s part in the transatlantic slave trade (“King should apologise for slavery, Commonwealth chief suggests”, telegraph.co.uk, October 22). Britain played a major role in the abolition of this vile business. Because the Royal Navy, in the words of Rule Britannia, “ruled the waves”, it was able to enforce the Slave Trade Act passed by Parliament in 1807.

Between 1808 and 1860 the West Africa Squadron seized 1,600 slave ships and emancipated 150,000 slaves, while losing more than 1,500 sailors.

Historians have described it as the most expensive international humanitarian intervention in modern history. On his visit to the Caribbean, King Charles might wish to mention this action, of which we can be justly proud.

Francis Bown
London E3

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