**Colonial Laws on Race and Slavery in the Chesapeake**

**Virginia, 1639**

Act X. All persons except Negroes are to be provided with arms and ammunitions or be fined at the pleasure of the governor and council.   
  
**Maryland, 1664**

That whatsoever free-born [English] woman shall intermarry with any slave. . . shall serve the master of such slave during the life of her husband; and that all the issue of such free-born women, so married shall be slaves as their fathers were.   
  
**Virginia, 1667**

Act III. Whereas some doubts have arisen whether children that are slaves by birth. . . should by virtue of their baptism be made free, it is enacted that baptism does not alter the condition to the person as to his bondage or freedom; masters freed from this doubt may more carefully propagate Christianity by permitting slaves to be admitted to that sacrament.   
  
**Virginia, 1682**

Act I. It is enacted that all servants. . . which [sic] shall be imported into this country either by sea or by land, whether Negroes, Moors [Muslim North Africans], mulattoes or Indians who and whose parentage and native countries are not Christian at the time of their first purchase by some Christian. . . and all Indians, which shall be sold by our neighborign Indians, or any other trafficing with us for slaves, are hereby adjudged, deemed and taken to be slaves to all intents and purposes any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Sources:**

*Black Laws of Virginia  
Negro Universities Press*, 1969  
Greenwood Publishing Group  
  
*Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America*

*Penguin Books*, 1983