

Chapter 1 : BBC Bitesize - Higher History - Implications of the slave trade for African societies - Revision 1

The impact of the slave trade on Africa The course of human history is marked by appalling crimes. But even the hardened historian is filled with horror, loathing and indignation on examining the record of African slavery.

This in turn resulted in a failure to industrialize, making the nations of Africa far more susceptible to European colonization. Most of them were, of course, negative, though we can argue that the slave trade was beneficial for some African states in the short term. One negative about the slave trade was that it tended to increase the amount of war that occurred in West Africa. The reason for this is that European and American slave traders did not simply go out into the African countryside and kidnap their own slaves. Instead, they bought slaves from the coastal kingdoms. Those kingdoms generally got slaves to sell through war and through raids against inland tribes. Because the slave traders wanted more slaves, the coastal kingdoms were encouraged to wage more wars and conduct more raids against their neighbors. In addition, those kingdoms were provided with things like guns in exchange for slaves. This helped those kingdoms have a greater capacity for waging war. This brings us to the one short-term benefit of the slave trade: Those kingdoms became richer and more powerful because they were able to get guns, money, and other things in exchange for the slaves. However, even these kingdoms were hurt in the long term. This is because the slave trade hurt all of West Africa. First, the slave trade took away millions of Africans men more than women in the prime of their lives. This badly disrupted both the cultures and the economies of the African nations. Because they were disrupted, they were less able to progress. The link below argues that the slave trade made it harder for Africa to enjoy an agrarian revolution and, in turn, an industrial revolution. This is because the men and women who could have helped make these revolutions were being taken into slavery. Because the African nations did not develop economically and because their societies were weakened, they were unable to effectively resist the Europeans when the Europeans started to colonize Africa. Thus, we can say that Africa was badly harmed by the slave trade. The trade made war more common, harmed the economies and societies of the nations from which the slaves came, and eventually made it easier for Africa to be colonized by the Europeans.

Chapter 2 : The Atlantic Slave Trade

»¿ The Slave trade and its abolition Slavery which began in the 17th century and lasted until the 19th century it was all about making money. In the quest to achieve making the most amount of profit, Britain came up with ways to involve other countries in a trade where each country involved benefited somehow.

Two hundred years after the British parliament voted to abolish the trade, the effects on Africa are still being felt. Head to a village in northern Ghana or indeed many villages in West Africa and at times you might wonder what century you are in. Even though Ghana has achieved impressive growth rates in recent years, the scene in many rural areas appears to have changed little with grass thatched mud walled huts. There is often no electricity and yes, the water is collected in plastic containers these days but it is still quite an effort to fetch it. Because before you can industrialise you need to have stable agricultural production. So slavery has a very long effect. Another legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade was the fuelling of conflicts and long lasting rifts between communities which in some cases remain. Many of the slaves were prisoners of war, and enslaving an enemy soon became a motive for going to war. But when he asked why that was, he was told the people were at peace. So warfare was a major source of slaves. Period of great demand A trader named Bosman wrote, "Wars make gold scarce but negroes plenty," says Doctor Perbi. Doctor Perbi has written a book on the history of indigenous slavery in Ghana which, she says, was affected by the trans-Atlantic slave trade. This period of great demand for slaves also coincided with the introduction of guns and gunpowder into Ghana. Incessant wars of conquest, expansion, aggression and retaliation became a feature of the Ghanaian experience," she writes. But after the slave ships left, it was not long before the Africa was divided up and colonised by European countries. There has also been an impact on African culture. To mark the th anniversary of the abolition of slavery, the South African musician Hugh Masekela, recently performed inside Elmina slave fort alongside musicians from Britain, the Caribbean and across Africa. He says there is a need for African culture to be revived seeing as it was looked down upon and discouraged for so long. In other parts of the world culture is put at the forefront every day. But we only do it at ceremonies," Masekela says. Many young Ghanaians do not study their own history in any great depth as the subject is optional at secondary schools.

Chapter 3 : BBC NEWS | Africa | Slavery's long effects on Africa

The Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the New World Whatever the effect of slavery on Africa, there can be no doubt that black slaves played a crucial part in the economic development of the New World, above all by making up for shortages of labour.

In order to present the big picture to students, we should compare the slave trade and slavery across the region as a whole. Development of slave trade The Portuguese went to Africa in 15th century looking to bypass Muslim North Africans who had a monopoly on the sub-Saharan trade in gold and spices. As they explored and traded in West Africa, the Portuguese learned that money could be made by transporting slaves along the Atlantic coast to Muslim merchants. In addition to trading in Africa, the Portuguese began to export small numbers of slaves to Europe, to work in the cities. Also, at this time, Europeans established sugar plantations on the islands off of Northwest Africa and the slave trade to those islands became profitable. I want to highlight this because the use of slave labor for plantation agriculture foreshadows the development of slavery in the Americas. Soon enough, other countries became interested in the profitable slave trade. English and Dutch ships joined in. They would raid Portuguese ships as well as going onto the mainland to enslave Africans for the trade. When Europeans began to explore the Americas, Africans were part of most expeditions to the region. The Spanish brought them in the early 16th century to work on sugar plantations and in gold mines on the island of Hispaniola current-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The slave trade increased in the seventeenth century, as more large-scale agricultural production increased the need for labor. The demand for sugar, a highly profitable crop that grew well in various parts of the Americas, continued to grow. And the Europeans introduced large-scale production of indigo, rice, tobacco, coffee, cocoa, and cotton. Imports of African slaves increased over the latter half of the 17th century and into the 18th. The end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade began in the early 19th century, with bans on the importation of slaves in Britain and the U. International pressure, as well as British blockades of slave ships, led to the decline of the slave trade, which had mostly ended by the s. The effects of the slave trade on West Africa were massive, especially in terms of demographics. When we look at slave trade maps over the centuries and there are some on the website , we can see that West African populations were vastly reduced to the point where slave traders were launching further into the interior of the continent to purchase slaves. In addition to the loss of able-bodied workers to the Americas, the slave trade caused wars and slave raids that brought about additional deaths, as well as environmental destruction. Only a few traditional kingdoms like Benin, a kingdom in southern Nigeria were able to limit the trade or regulate it with local law. In the end, though, few were successful over the long haul: Brazil By the time the Portuguese started to pay attention to Brazil, they had been active in the slave trade for nearly a century. Although the Portuguese arrived in Brazil in , they only established a strict bureaucracy in â€”to fight off French and British incursions. We have to remember: Europeans were exploring the American continents throughout the sixteenth century, with each aspiring imperial power trying to find land and profitable resources to claim for itself. Brazil is actually named for its first primary sector export: In the midth century, sugar plantations began to spring up in the Northeast, where sugar grew well. The colonists looked to the Indians to provide the necessary work force for this labor-intensive crop. However, the enslaved Indians quickly fell victim to European diseases an important aspect of the Columbian Exchange or fled to the un navigated interior of the country. The Portuguese decided that the Indians were too fragile for plantation labor and, already active in the Atlantic slave trade, they began to import African slaves. Soon, the sugar plantation system became entirely dependent on African slave labor. While slaves were initially brought in to provide labor for the sugar plantations, the eventual overabundance of African slaves caused them to be used in almost all areas of the economy. Slaves were distributed in Brazil based on the primary export of the time, depending on where they were needed for work: The slave trade, which allowed for the constant importation of inexpensive labor, allowed Brazil to develop several major industries and filled their need for most manual labor in almost every profession. Over the centuries, Portugal exploited different parts of Africa. During the last 50 years of the slave trade, large numbers of Yoruba people from the area that is currently Nigeria and

Benin were brought to cities in Northeastern Brazil, resulting in a lasting impact on the culture of that region. African slaves were brought into Brazil as early as 1500, with abolition in 1850. During those three and a half centuries, Brazil received 4 million Africans, over four times as many as any other American destination. The slave trade lasted longer in Brazil than in almost any other country in the Americas. Slavery was abolished in the British and French Caribbean, the United States, and Spanish America a generation or more before it was abolished in Brazil. When Brazil gained independence, in 1822, slavery was such an entrenched part of the system that the elites who structured the new nation never seriously debated the issue. We should note here that slavery in Brazil was justified by the need for labor, but slavery was rarely defended on racial grounds; for the Portuguese the key issue was legal status, not race. Not only was the slave trade continuing, the same number of Africans 1. This has led to a Brazilian connection to Africa that has not been as present in the United States. The transference of African culture, in these circumstances, was much more direct than in the U.S. Only recently have U.S. African-Americans begun to develop that connection with Africa in a way that more closely resembles the situation in Brazil. The lingering effects of the slave trade and the institution of slavery can be seen every day in Brazilian cuisine, religion, music, and dance. It can be seen in the people, in a black and brown population that is larger than the population of every African country except for Nigeria. The Spanish introduced slavery and small-scale sugar production almost immediately. As the indigenous population was dying of abuse and disease, African slaves were brought in; the first 15 Africans arrived in 1492. Although the Spanish settled on the eastern part of the island, they focused their attention on their more prosperous colonies in other parts of the Americas. This led, in the early 1600s, to an incursion into the western part of the island by the French. The French were very involved in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, just behind the Portuguese and the British in terms of volume. Between the end of the 17th century, around the time that they settled on Hispaniola, and the mid-18th century, the French made more than 4,000 registered slaving trips to the Americas. So, much like the Portuguese, the French had easy and regular access to slave labor. The French originally cultivated indigo but quickly exhausted the soil. They quickly moved on to another labor intensive, and even more profitable, crop: More than 100 sugar plantations were established between 1660 and 1700. As sugar expanded, so did the slave population. By 1700, the French were importing 8,000 slaves each year from Africa. Haiti was the main destination for most of the slaves carried across the Atlantic on French ships. An interesting note about the triangular trade is that ships criss-crossed the ocean loaded with valuable goods whether that be textiles, slaves, or sugar, but almost no money. This whole system worked by barter, with slaves being traded for sugar although slaves were worth twice as much as the sugar; later, boats would have to travel to France to bring the rest of the sugar that was owed to the slave traders. When the French began to plant coffee, around 1700, profits in Haiti soared and more slaves were needed for yet another labor-intensive crop. Crop expansion required additional labor, as did the high mortality of the slave population due to harsh working conditions. The average life span of a slave in Haiti was less than seven years. By the mid-18th century, more than 10,000 slaves arrived each year, with more than 40,000 arriving in 1789. Easy access to slaves coupled with soaring profits from cash crops created a situation in which the slave population of Haiti vastly outnumbered free colonists. However, as time wore on, and as the rich plantation owners and working class colonists fought amongst themselves over their relationship and privileges with France, the slaves, who outnumbered the free population more than 10 to 1, began to organize. This hegemony, in which a French minority ruled a large enslaved population, was possible due to the French belief in their socio-political superiority which resulted in their strict, and often violent, control of the slave population. The French believed that they were superior to the people they conquered and the people that they enslaved. Whereas the Portuguese were defending slavery on the basis of the need for labor, the French justified it on racial grounds. They were focused on how that ancestry broke down between European and African roots. The true obsession was shown in the categories in between. It came as quite a shock to them when the slaves revolted, and their refusal to let go of the colony led to a year long war that eventually devastated the landscape that had been so profitable. Spanish colonies Although the numbers of slaves that ended up in Haiti and Brazil were far greater, the Spanish were also buying slaves to work in their colonies. The primary difference here was that the Spanish were not as active in the slave trade directly from Africa, and were more often purchasing slaves from British and Dutch traders. As I mentioned

before, African slaves were with the Spanish from the very beginning. Slaves were also put to work in the sugarcane and rice fields of Mexico, along the coast of Veracruz. The numbers were significantly smaller than in Brazil and Haiti, however, with a slave population of only 16, in all of Mexico in the mid 16th century. Still, the black population outnumbered the Spanish settlers in the colony. Like in Mexico, slaves traveled with the conquistadors of Peru. Francisco Pizarro received a permit to bring in slaves for public construction: The Spanish colonies where sugar or mining were king employed considerable slave labor: Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru. Africans were nearly one-third of the population of Buenos Aires in the early 17th century. Through these paintings, you would learn that someone who had a Spanish parent and a mestizo half Spanish, half Indian parent was a castizo and so on. Dozens of racial categories were defined in these casta paintings. Because the Indian populations in Mexico were greater than in Brazil and Haiti, many of the racial categories focused on that mixing, but African mixes were also included. A lot of time was spent distinguishing Europeans from the indigenous, African, and mixed populations, all of whom they considered inferior. Whether in large numbers or relatively small, African slaves drove the economies of the New World colonies. Their labor helped to build the infrastructure of the region and the riches of European nations. European domination of the slave trade allowed easy access to inexpensive labor—labor that was also deemed highly expendable—which in turn allowed European powers to exploit the resources of the Americas for three hundred years. Documents and Further Reading.

Chapter 4 : Episode 6: Effects of the Atlantic Slave Trade on the Americas | 15 Minute History

The slave trade had many effects on Africa. Most of them were, of course, negative, though we can argue that the slave trade was beneficial for some African states in the short term.

They claim no reward for their services except food and clothing, and are treated with kindness or severity, according to the good or bad disposition of their masters. Custom, however, has established certain rules with regard to the treatment of slaves, which it is thought dishonourable to violate. But these restrictions on the power of the master extend not to the care of prisoners taken in war, nor to that of slaves purchased with money. All these unfortunate beings are considered as strangers and foreigners, who have no right to the protection of the law, and may be treated with severity, or sold to a stranger, according to the pleasure of their owners. The forms of slavery in Africa were closely related to kinship structures. In many African communities, where land could not be owned, enslavement of individuals was used as a means to increase the influence a person had and expand connections. As such, the owner is free to sell, trade, or treat the slave as he would other pieces of property and the children of the slave often are retained as the property of the master. Domestic service[edit] Many slave relationships in Africa revolved around domestic slavery, where slaves would work primarily in the house of the master but retain some freedoms. The slaves could own the profits from their labour whether in land or in products , and could marry and pass the land on to their children in many cases. Slave labor is performed by the debtor , or a relative of the debtor usually a child. Pawnship was a common form of collateral in West Africa. Pawnship was related to, yet distinct from, slavery in most conceptualizations, because the arrangement could include limited, specific terms of service to be provided and because kinship ties would protect the person from being sold into slavery. Pawnship was a common practice throughout West Africa prior to European contact, including amongst the Akan people , the Ewe people , the Ga people , the Yoruba people , and the Edo people in modified forms, it also existed amongst the Efik people , the Igbo people , the Ijaw people , and the Fon people. Military slavery involved the acquisition and training of conscripted military units which would retain the identity of military slaves even after their service. Although archaeological evidence is not clear on the issue prior to European contact, in those societies that practiced human sacrifice, slaves became the most prominent victims. Sacrifices were carried out all along the West African coast and further inland. Sacrifices were common in the Benin Empire , in what is now Ghana , and in the small independent states in what is now southern Nigeria. In the Ashanti Region , human sacrifice was often combined with capital punishment. Groups such as the Imbangala of Angola and the Nyamwezi of Tanzania would serve as intermediaries or roving bands, waging war on African states to capture people for export as slaves. Redemption of Christian slaves by Catholic monks in Algiers in Burning of a Village in Africa, and Capture of its Inhabitants p. A slave trade bringing Saharans through the desert to North Africa, which existed in Roman times, continued and documentary evidence in the Nile Valley shows it to have been regulated there by treaty. After the Islamic expansion into most of the region, the practices continued and eventually, the chattel form of slavery spread to major societies on the southern end of the Sahara such as Mali, Songhai, and Ghana. Because of religious constraints, the slave trade was carried out in parts of Europe by Iberian Jews known as Radhanites who were able to transfer slaves from pagan Central Europe through Christian Western Europe to Muslim countries in Al-Andalus and Africa. The first Mamluks served the Abbasid caliphs in 9th century Baghdad. Over time, they became a powerful military caste , and on more than one occasion they seized power for themselves, for example, ruling Egypt from 1171 From Egypt had been ruled by the Bahri dynasty of Kipchak Turk origin. White enslaved people from the Caucasus served in the army and formed an elite corps of troops eventually revolting in Egypt to form the Burji dynasty. On this basis it is thought that around 8, new slaves were needed annually to replenish numbers - about , captives over the century from to By extension, for the years between and , the figure could easily have been as high as 1,, Hence, there were wide fluctuations year-to-year, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries, given slave imports, and also given the fact that, prior to the s, there are no consistent records. Middle East expert, John Wright, cautions that modern estimates are based on back-calculations from human observation. The majority

were sailors particularly those who were English, taken with their ships, but others were fishermen and coastal villagers. However, most of these captives were people from lands close to Africa, particularly Spain and Italy. When pirates sacked Vieste in southern Italy in they took an estimated 7, slaves. In , Turgut Reis sailed to Corsica and ransacked Bastia, taking prisoners. In Barbary corsairs captured the town of Ciutadella, destroyed it, slaughtered the inhabitants and carried off 3, survivors to Istanbul as slaves. Barbary pirates frequently attacked the Balearic islands, resulting in many coastal watchtowers and fortified churches being erected. The threat was so severe that Formentera became uninhabited. Those who have not seen a galley at sea, especially in chasing or being chased, cannot well conceive the shock such a spectacle must give to a heart capable of the least tincture of commiseration. To behold ranks and files of half-naked, half-starved, half-tanned meagre wretches, chained to a plank, from whence they remove not for months together commonly half a year, urged on, even beyond human strength, with cruel and repeated blows on their bare flesh Sahrawi-Moorish society in Northwest Africa was traditionally and still is, to some extent stratified into several tribal castes, with the Hassane warrior tribes ruling and extracting tribute " horma " from the subservient Berber -descended znaga tribes. Below them ranked servile groups known as Haratin, a black population. In the Horn of Africa, the Christian kings of the Ethiopian Empire often exported pagan Nilotic slaves from their western borderlands, or from newly conquered or reconquered lowland territories. Slavery as practiced in Ethiopia was essentially domestic. Slaves thus served in the houses of their masters or mistresses, and were not employed to any significant extent for productive purpose. In terms of legal considerations, the customs regarding the treatment of Bantu slaves were established by the decree of Sultans and local administrative legates. Additionally Freedom for these plantation slaves was also often acquired through eventual emancipation, escape, and ransom. When the Atlantic trade came to an end, the prices of slaves dropped dramatically, and the regional slave trade grew, dominated by Bobangi traders. The Bobangi also purchased a large number of slaves with profits from selling ivory, who they used to populate their villages. A distinction was made between two different types of slaves in this region; slaves who had been sold by their kin group, typically as a result of undesirable behavior such as adultery, were unlikely to attempt to flee. In addition to those considered socially undesirable, the sale of children was also common in times of famine. Slaves who were captured, however, were likely to attempt to escape and had to be moved hundreds of kilometers from their homes as a safeguard against this. For instance, the slave trade helped to create a robust regional trade network for the foodstuffs and crafted goods of small producers along the river. As the transport of only a few slaves in a canoe was sufficient to cover the cost of a trip and still make a profit, traders could fill any unused space on their canoes with other goods and transport them long distances without a significant markup on price. While the large profits from the Congo River slave trade only went to a small number of traders, this aspect of the trade provided some benefit to local producers and consumers. Various forms of slavery were practiced in diverse ways in different communities of West Africa prior to European trade. The Mossi Kingdoms tried to take over key sites in the trans-Saharan trade and, when these efforts failed, the Mossi became defenders against slave raiding by the powerful states of the western Sahel. The Mossi would eventually enter the slave trade in the s with the Atlantic slave trade being the main market. Akinjogbin contends that European accounts reveal that the slave trade was not a major activity along the coast controlled by the Yoruba people and Aja people before Europeans arrived. Upon slavery Mr Robins remarked that it was not what people in England thought it to be. It means, as continually found in this part of Africa, belonging to a family group-there is no compulsory labour, the owner and the slave work together, eat the like food, wear the like clothing and sleep in the same huts. Some slaves have more wives than their masters. It gives protection to the slaves and everything necessary for their subsistence- food and clothing. A free man is worse off than a slave; he cannot claim his food from anyone. In early Islamic states of the western Sahel, including Ghana " , Mali " , Segou " , and Songhai " , about a third of the population were enslaved. In Sierra Leone in the 19th century about half of the population consisted of enslaved people. Among the Vai people, during the 19th century, three quarters of people were slaves. In the 19th century at least half the population was enslaved among the Duala of the Cameroon and other peoples of the lower Niger, the Kongo, and the Kasanje kingdom and Chokwe of Angola. Among the Ashanti and Yoruba a third of the population consisted

of enslaved people. The population of the Kanem " was about a third-enslaved. Between and from one- to two-thirds of the entire population of the Fulani jihad states consisted of enslaved people. The population of the Sokoto caliphate formed by Hausas in the northern Nigeria and Cameroon was half-enslaved in the 19th century. Slavery was widespread among Taureg peoples and lasted until at least Among the Adrar 15 percent of people were enslaved, and 75 percent of the Gurma were enslaved. When mentioned, the slave trade appears to be of a small-scale and mostly involve slave raiding of women and children along the islands of Kilwa Kisiwani , Madagascar and Pemba. However, slavery never became a significant part of the domestic economies except in Sultanate of Zanzibar where plantations and agricultural slavery were maintained. Along the Kenya coast, 90 percent of the population was enslaved, while half of Madagascars population was enslaved. Memorial to the slave trade through the port of Ouidah. Slave relationships in Africa have been transformed through three large-scale processes: Each of these processes significantly changed the forms, level, and economics of slavery in Africa. Eighteenth century writers in Europe claimed that slavery in Africa was quite brutal in order to justify the Atlantic slave trade. Later writers used similar arguments to justify intervention and eventual colonization by European powers to end slavery in Africa. Many elite Africans visited Europe on slave ships following the prevailing winds through the New World. African monarchs also sent their children along these same slave routes to be educated in Europe, and thousands of former slaves eventually returned to settle Liberia and Sierra Leone. Arab slave trade Nineteenth-century engraving of Arab slave-trading caravan transporting African slaves across the Sahara. The Arab slave trade, established in the eighth and ninth centuries AD, began with small-scale movement of people largely from the eastern Great Lakes region and the Sahel. Islamic law allowed slavery but prohibited slavery involving other pre-existing Muslims; as a result, the main target for slavery were the people who lived in the frontier areas of Islam in Africa. It is estimated that, at that time, a few thousand enslaved people were taken each year from the Red Sea and Indian Ocean coast. They were sold throughout the Middle East. This trade accelerated as superior ships led to more trade and greater demand for labour on plantations in the region. Eventually, tens of thousands per year were being taken.

Chapter 5 : Effect of the Slave Trade on West Africa – SchoolWorkHelper

We will now explore the background of the triangle trade in America, Britain, and Africa, along with the economic effects that were brought to not only America and Britain but also the economic effects brought to Africa as a result of slavery and the slave trade.

The western portion of the continent was ravaged by Europeans eager to find a labor force that would assist them in acquiring more wealth and resources. The effects were far-reaching and devastating. The male population of Africa was hit the hardest. Statistics claim that two-thirds of the slaves brought to the New World were male. This forced removal of You would be hard pressed to find any positive outcomes concerning the slave trade in Africa. This forced removal of such a large number of males created a demographic disaster. The population of Africa would remain stagnant until the s as a result of this forced migration. Without the expected growth and advance of civilization, the African continent was devoid of progress in areas such as technology and medicine throughout the slave era. Many cultural traditions and norms were no longer sustainable and the continent fell into a period of stagnation, if not outright regression. Slavery was big business for Europeans and Africans alike. It is estimated as many as 8 million slaves remained in Africa to serve at the pleasure of African slave masters. As rival groups sought to control areas in which to capture slaves, conflict ensued which further aided in the destruction of any cultural progress on the continent. Without advancements militarily and with a significant loss of the male population, the continent of Africa lay open to the colonizing forces of Europe. Those forces would later pillage much of the resources Africa harbored, further setting the continent back in its quest to modernize and remain independent. As for positive outcomes, that is a very difficult thing to find. Obviously some of the more powerful African tribes became even more powerful through the slave trade, as Europeans were often willing to pay a high price for captured Africans. It is difficult for me to say that one group benefiting at the expense of another is a positive, however. Without question the African Slave Trade was evil and served to keep the continent several steps behind Europe technologically, socially and militarily. This image has been Flagged as inappropriate Click to unflag Image 1 of 1.

Chapter 6 : Slavery in Africa - Wikipedia

The Impact of the Slave Trade on African Economies Warren Whatley and Rob Gillezeau May 23, Contact Information Warren Whatley, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, Tappan Street, Ann Arbor, MI,

They were trying to find peoples with whom they could trade. For a long time they found nothing but a barren coast, with very few inhabitants. In , however, they rounded Cape Verdi and passed the southern boundary of the Sahara desert. They now found local populations who were eager to trade with them. The Portuguese had come mainly in search of gold. However, the societies here had a long history of slave trading. The Portuguese began buying human beings from the local rulers. The Atlantic Slave Trade had begun. Slavery in Africa Slavery and slave trading were well established in Africa long before the Portuguese ships arrived off the West African coast. Raiding for slaves was a feature of West African life. It is estimated that between one-third and two-thirds of the population of some West African kingdoms were slaves. Modern scholars think that the main reason for the prevalence of African slavery was under-population, caused by the many deadly tropical diseases common in this region. This under-population meant that free farmers could move to new, underpopulated areas quite easily. If they wanted to avoid paying taxes to a king, or doing labour service, they could simply move out of his territory. Because of this, rulers often relied on enslaved people to farm their land and work for them. Slave raiding and trading was therefore widespread in Africa. Wars and raids Wars between kingdoms and chiefdoms, particularly in West Africa, always produced many captives, who were sold in the slave markets right across the region. Many such captives were then sold to merchants for export to North Africa and the Middle East. The demand for slaves also caused frequent raiding for slaves. Often, such raids were conducted by horse-riding bands from the Savannah kingdoms just south of the Sahara , southwards into the forest areas. Sometimes such bands would set up a base in the forests, which became the centre of a new kingdom “ and a new base from which to raid further south. West African trading network Gradually a trading network grew up, covering the whole of West Africa. Along this network moved not only slaves, but also gold, salt, ostrich feathers, ivory and other goods. This network also extended northwards across the Sahara desert. These trans-Saharan routes were operated by Muslim merchants from North Africa. Being actively involved in trading was an important part of the role of kings and chiefs. They dealt with long-distance traders in charge of the big trans-Saharan trading caravans. These must have resembled small armies as they travelled along. By the 15th century, this network of trade routes had spread right to the Atlantic coast. When the Portuguese arrived in their ships, they simply slotted in, dealing with the local chiefs and buying and selling the same goods which the Africans were accustomed to trading in. European Background The Portuguese were the first Europeans to undertake long-distance voyages. Portugal was a small southern European kingdom on the Atlantic coast, which had been carved out of Muslim territory. Arab armies had conquered most of this part of Europe in the 8th century AD, and set up several Muslim states here. Then, over the following centuries, the Christians had fought back and reconquered most of their lost territory. Several European kingdoms had appeared, and Portugal was one of these. In the 15th century, Portugal became the centre of a new European activity “ organizing long-distance voyages. The aim of these expeditions was to find new lands with which Portuguese merchants could trade. Because of their long coastline along the Atlantic Ocean, the Portuguese were well placed to do this. They knew that the cities of North Africa traded with peoples south of the huge Sahara Desert. Camel caravans brought valuable goods back from those distant southern lands, of gold, ostrich feathers, ivory “ and enslaved human beings. Their intention was to open up contact with the peoples who lived south of the desert, to buy gold from them directly rather than in the markets of North Africa. However, full slavery, in which individuals had no rights at all and could be sold from one person to another, was very rare in Europe at this time. There were no slave markets, as there were in the Middle East and Africa. This changed somewhat in Portugal, with the arrival of slaves from West Africa. These became household servants, or were put to work on the sugar plantations in the south of the country, or in the newly conquered Atlantic island of Madeira. Sugar plantations Sugar production had spread westward through the Mediterranean, from the Middle East to Portugal, in the 13th

century. Because the work involved such back-breaking work, sugar plantations in the Middle East had often been worked by slave labour. Portugal had been one of the few areas in 13th and 14th century Europe where slaves were readily available – from captives taken in the wars with the Muslims in southern Spain. By the 15th century, these wars were mostly over, and the supply of enslaved captives was drying up. These had been purchased by Italian and Portuguese merchants from slave markets in the Middle East. However, these slaves became more expensive after the Black Death of the mid-century, which resulted in a severe shortage of workers throughout Europe. This was critical in some industries, no more so than in sugar production. From an early date, Black Africans, purchased from the slave markets of North Africa, had also been used on the sugar plantations. It was a small step for slaves shipped directly in from West Africa to be put to work on the plantations. The opening up of a new source of forced labour from West Africa was a welcome development for the plantation owners. The Portuguese Trade System One of the main reasons for the Portuguese to explore the West African coast in the first place had been to find gold. Sure enough, the Portuguese found local rulers able and willing to trade gold in exchange for cloth, metals and – slaves. In the years after the Portuguese first arrived in West African waters, therefore, they set up a trading network along the African coast, based primarily on gold, slave and sugar. This network involved the Portuguese ships sailing from Europe to coastal chiefdoms and kingdoms in West Africa. The region of the Senegal river was the main source of slaves at this time. They were purchased by Portuguese slaving expeditions sailing up the river and buying captives from local rulers along the banks. Later, the Portuguese bought captives from the king of Benin, and then from chiefs in the Niger Delta region. From these locations, they shipped the slaves to several destinations. Other slaves were taken to sugar plantations which the Portuguese had set up on the islands of Sao Tome, a previously uninhabited island off the coast of Africa which the Portuguese first came across in 1482. Slaves were also sent to the sugar plantations on the Atlantic island of Madeira, and a few were shipped back home to Portugal, to work as domestic servants or on the sugar plantations there. Most of the ships returning to Portugal, however, had cargoes of sugar; only a few had slaves on board. Expansion along the coast By the early 16th century Sao Tome was the main source of sugar for Europe – by this time Europeans could not get enough of the commodity. To supply slaves for the expanding plantations there, the Portuguese started buying slaves from the Kingdom of Kongo, which they had first visited in 1482. Kongo at this time was a well-organized kingdom which the newcomers treated with great respect. Soon all the leading men of Kongo were selling slaves to the Portuguese – and raiding their neighbours to get them. Early Impacts on African Societies With the rise of the sugar industries in Madeira and then Sao Tome, the number of slaves being taken from certain African societies was growing. Already at this early date it began to cause problems in some places. In Benin, the king and his advisors came to fear that the slave trade was causing a loss of manpower, and they refused to sell any more adult males to the Portuguese after 1500. In Kongo, the slave trade was soon weakening the stability of the kingdom, as the nobles took to raiding their neighbours for captives. In 1575, the king of Kongo imposed strict controls over the slave trade. From the 1580s and 1590s onwards, Spanish conquistadores and Portuguese colonists began opening up the Americas to European settlement. This also opened up a huge new market for African slaves. The Spanish, and later Portuguese, colonists were desperate for a labour force which they could use to mine metals and grow crops in their new possessions. The bulk of the white settlers were not farmers, but soldiers – proud members of the landowning classes in Spain who were entirely unsuited to the back-breaking manual work needed to farm the land themselves. They needed a work force to do this for them. Africans had a much greater degree of tolerance to tropical American diseases than Europeans had, and they were accustomed to farming in hot climates. Certain numbers of African slaves also found their way to the gold and silver mines of Peru. However, here the Native Americans were dragooned into working for their new Spanish rulers. They found themselves farming the land for Spanish landowners and mining for silver in the dreadful conditions of the Spanish-controlled mines. Most of the African slaves remained in the Caribbean region, until the opening up of Brazil. Soon, the bulk of African slaves arriving in the New World were being landed in Brazil. However, they had not in fact settled many of them. In the 17th century, these fell one by one to the northern European countries of England, France, Holland and Denmark. These islands remained underdeveloped and of not much economic value for several

years. They were home to tiny populations of colonists struggling to make a living. In , the Dutch, at that time at war with Spain and Portugal, took northern Brazil from the Portuguese. Although they were only there until , when they were ejected, their occupation had long-lasting effects. The Dutch discovered the thriving sugar industry there, and then introduced it to their Caribbean islands. From there, it spread to the English and French islands. In order to secure supplies of African slaves needed to work the plantations, these countries established bases along the West African coast, from which to trade with the local chiefs. The Northern European Countries By the middle of the 17th century, countries in northern European such as England and Holland had a larger and more powerful merchant class than those of Spain and Portugal. Both countries had a more democratic system of government than the countries of southern Europe, whose kings were absolutist monarchs.. In Britain, the 17th century was the period when parliament became the most important political institution in the land. In both countries, the merchants had real political influence with their governments.

Chapter 7 : British Involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade: The Abolition of Slavery Project

The history of the Atlantic Slave Trade, from its origins to its height, and its impact on Africa, the Americas and Europe. The trade's indirect impact had the.

Their sweat and blood served as a bedstone to the tremendous wealth still enjoyed in Europe and the Americas. The discovery of the New World boosted the European economy and marked the starting point of what one can call the "African nightmare. The enslavement of Indians rapidly proved to be inefficient because the native population was hard to control and it was profoundly affected by the diseases brought from the Old world. Europeans could not obviously count on their own "proletarians" who did not have the suited skills especially when tropical agriculture was concerned. The final solution came from Africa where Europeans discovered a potential slave market at the time of their arrival in the middle of the fifteenth century. As a result of the slave trade, five times as many Africans arrived in the Americas than Europeans. Slaves were needed on plantations and in mining. The majority was shipped to Brazil, the Caribbean, and the Spanish Empire. According to the figures published by Hugh Thomas, around 13 million Africans were deported among whom 11 million arrived alive in the Americas. One million people 7. The principal carriers were the Portuguese and their Brazilian colony Other smaller carriers including the Danes and the Americans share the rest of the trade. Trans-Atlantic Slave Exports by region slaveryimages. Trans-Atlantic Slave Imports by Region. Thomas , table IV. The Portuguese, who came first, were primarily interested in the gold which was hitherto brought to Europe by the trans-Saharan trade handled by the Arabo-Berbers. Their goal was also to connect directly with the Asian market of silk and spices from which Europe was barred with the rise of the Ottoman Empire which controlled the Eastern Mediterranean sea. The Portuguese were soon followed by the Dutch, the Danes, the French, the English, the Brandenburgers Germans , the Spaniards and other nations who completed the "encirclement" of Africa which led later to its effective colonization. The Portuguese first saw the coast of Senegambia in By the end of the century they had already set the curve to Asia when they discovered the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. This was also the time when Christopher Columbus made the "discovery" which changed the course of history. So far slaves were being transported in small numbers to Portugal, Spain, as well as the Atlantic islands. Most of them were kidnapped on the coast of Northern Senegambia, notably in Wolof and Berber villages, and put to work on the Iberian islands where the Moors had previously developed rice and sugar cane plantations, using African and European slaves. When the Reconquista expelled the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula in the second half of the 15th century, the demand for skilled laborers rose sharply. This demand then peaked with the colonization of the Americas. Africa could not satisfy it since the slave market was too narrow. People were being enslaved in this continent through warfare and put to work for reparations if their kins failed to liberate them through exchange of prisoners or buying them out. Others were enslaved to pay their debts or for committing crimes such as adultery or murder. In the Sahel and Savannah lands north of the equator, the captives called jaam sayor by the Wolof supplemented the trans-Saharan trade which lasted many centuries before and after the arrival of the Europeans. But the crossing of the Saharan desert, exclusively handled with camel caravans, prevented the transportation of large numbers of slaves. The exploitation of a pre-existing slave market in Africa was far from being able to implement the huge market of the Americas which required millions of laborers. Since slaves were obtained mainly through wars, the only reliable solution to this problem was to generate permanent warfare between and within nations. From Senegal to Angola and Mozambique, African rulers were methodically played against each other by the European companies: The European businessmen also soon understood that war was not enough by itself. Putting the African elites in the middle of an enslaving business would prove to be more efficient. Addiction to European commodities was the bait used in their strategy in which alcohol and firearms played a key role. Wine and hard liquor were used in negotiations in order to obtain the best terms of trade and ultimately became basic items of the same trade. Firearms were highly demanded in the process of empire building. They turned the traditionally peaceful successions into civil wars in which the European companies supported the candidates whom they later used as indispensable

allies for the slave trade. In time of peace, farmers were kidnapped in their fields by mercenaries, usually royal slaves jaami Buur in Wolof , linked to local elites and armed by European companies. Villages were raided at night, just before daybreak, when bodies were totally numbed by the last hours of sleep. Dwellings were set on fire to increase confusion. Elderly people, and sometime children, were exterminated and their bodies left to rot under the sun, becoming prey to vultures and hyenas. The strong ones were caught, shackled, and walked to the coast, carrying trade goods such as elephant tusks on their heads. Many died of exhaustion on their way to the coast or from starvation while awaiting slave ships. Many others died during the middle passage or shortly after their arrival. To this very day, Wolof griots still sing this song of sorrow which clearly depicts the reign of tyranny during slavery times:

Chapter 8 : What effects did the slave trade have on Africa? | eNotes

During the last 50 years of the slave trade, large numbers of Yoruba people (from the area that is currently Nigeria and Benin) were brought to cities in Northeastern Brazil, resulting in a lasting impact on the culture of that region.

Captain John Hawkins made the first known English slaving voyage to Africa, in 1482, in the reign of Elizabeth I. Hawkins made three such journeys over a period of six years. He captured over 2000 Africans and sold them as goods in the Spanish colonies in the Americas. To start with, British traders supplied slaves for the Spanish and Portuguese colonists in America. The first record of enslaved Africans being landed in the British colony of Virginia was in 1619. Barbados became the first British settlement in the Caribbean in 1627 and the British took control of Jamaica in 1655. The ports of Bristol and Liverpool, in particular, lobbied to have the charter changed and, in 1701, the monopoly was taken away. In the 18th century, the number of slaves taken from Africa in British ships averaged 6,000 per year. The profits gained from chattel slavery helped to finance the Industrial Revolution and the Caribbean islands became the hub of the British Empire. By the end of the eighteenth century, four million pounds came into Britain from its West Indian plantations, compared with one million from the rest of the world. Who benefited from the Transatlantic Slave Trade? In the Transatlantic Slave Trade, triangle ships never sailed empty and some people made enormous profits. James Houston, who worked for a firm of 18th-century slave merchants, wrote, "What a glorious and advantageous trade this is. It is the hinge on which all the trade of this globe moves. The money made on the Transatlantic Slave Trade triangle was vast and poured into Britain and other European countries involved in slavery, changing their landscapes forever. In Britain, those who had made much of their wealth from the trade built fine mansions, established banks such as the Bank of England and funded new industries. Large sums of money were made by ship owners who never left England. British Slave Traders - who bought and sold enslaved Africans. Plantation Owners - who used slave labour to grow their crops. Vast profits could be made by using unpaid workers. Some planters used the money they had made to become MPs. Others invested their profits in new factories and inventions, helping to finance the Industrial Revolution. The factory owners in Britain - who had a market for their goods. Textiles from Yorkshire and Lancashire were bought by slave-captains to barter with. One half of the textiles produced in Manchester were exported to Africa and half to the West Indies. In addition, industrial plants were built to refine the imported raw sugar. Glassware was needed to bottle the rum. West African leaders involved in the trade - who captured people and sold them as slaves to Europeans. The ports - Bristol and Liverpool became major ports through fitting out slave ships and handling the cargoes they brought back. Bankers - banks and finance houses grew rich from the fees and interest they earned from merchants who borrowed money for their long voyages. Ordinary people - the Transatlantic Slave Trade provided many jobs for people back in Britain. Many people worked in factories which sold their goods to West Africa. These goods would then be traded for enslaved Africans. Birmingham had over 1000 gun-makers, with 100,000 guns a year going to slave-traders. Others worked in factories that had been set up with money made from the Slave Trade. Many trades-people bought a share in a slave ship. Slave labour also made goods, such as sugar, more affordable for people living in Britain.

Chapter 9 : Digital History

Introduction. Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the most largest and famous slave trade, which occurred in Africa during the early period of 15 th century. During its occurrence, slaves were transported to the new world colonies of Europe, from various regions and States including Eastern region of Africa, West Central Africa, as well as West Africa (Inikori).

To force the decision through, he had warned of the danger of a general uprising if nothing was done. But even the hardened historian is filled with horror, loathing and indignation on examining the record of African slavery. How was it possible? How could it have gone on for so long, and on such a scale? A tragedy of such dimensions has no parallel in any other part of the world. The African continent was bled of its human resources via all possible routes. At least ten centuries of slavery for the benefit of the Muslim countries from the ninth to the nineteenth. Then more than four centuries from the end of the fifteenth to the nineteenth of a regular slave trade to build the Americas and the prosperity of the Christian states of Europe. The figures, even where hotly disputed, make your head spin. The Atlantic trade is the least poorly documented to date, but this is not the only reason. More significantly, it was directed at Africans only, whereas the Muslim countries enslaved both Blacks and Whites. And it was the form of slavery that indisputably contributed most to the present situation of Africa. It permanently weakened the continent, led to its colonisation by the Europeans in the nineteenth century, and engendered the racism and contempt from which Africans still suffer. While specialists squabble about the details, the basic questions raised by the enslavement of the Africans have scarcely varied since the eighteenth century, when the issue first became the subject of public debate as the result of the efforts of abolitionists in the Northern slave states, the demands of black intellectuals, and the unremitting struggle of the slaves themselves. Why the Africans rather than other peoples? Who exactly should be held responsible for the slave trade? The Europeans alone, or the Africans themselves? Did the slave trade do real damage to Africa, or was it a marginal phenomenon affecting only a few coastal societies? Trade or go under We need to take a fresh look at the origins of the Atlantic slave trade. They shed light on the enduring mechanisms that established and maintained the vicious spiral. It is not certain that the European slave trade originally derived from the Arab trade. For a long time the Arab slave trade appears to have been a supplement to a much more profitable commerce in Sudanese gold and the precious, rare or exotic products of the African countries. Whereas, despite some exports of gold, ivory and hardwoods, it was the trade in human beings that galvanised the energy of the Europeans along the coast of Africa. Again, the Arab slave trade was geared mainly to the satisfaction of domestic needs. The enslavement of Africans for production was tried in Iraq but proved a disaster. The two slavery systems nevertheless shared the same justification of the unjustifiable: In both cases, we find the same fallacious interpretation of Genesis, according to which the Blacks of Africa, as the alleged descendants of Ham, are cursed and condemned to slavery. At first, they simply raided the coast and carried people off. But the regular exploitation of mines and plantations required an ever larger workforce. A proper system had to be established to ensure a steady supply. The great slaving companies were formed in the second half of the seventeenth century, when the Americas, and other parts of the world which the Treaty of Tordesillas and various papal edicts had reserved to the Spaniards and Portuguese, were redistributed among the nations of Europe. The whole of Europe - France, England, Holland, Portugal and Spain, and even Denmark, Sweden and Brandenburg shared in the spoils, establishing a chain of monopoly companies, forts, trading posts and colonies that stretched from Senegal to Mozambique. Only distant Russia and the Balkan countries were missing from the pack - and they received their own small contingents of slaves via the Ottoman Empire. In Africa itself, sporadic raids by Europeans soon gave way to regular commerce. African societies were drawn into the slavery system under duress, hoping that, once inside it, they would be able to derive maximum benefit for themselves. Nzinga Mbemba, ruler of the Kongo Kingdom, is a good example. He had converted to Christianity in and referred to the king of Portugal as his brother. It was to no avail. The African monarch gradually allowed himself to be convinced that the slave trade was both useful and necessary. Among the goods offered in exchange for human beings, rifles took pride of place. And only states equipped with rifles, i. The African states fell into the trap set by the European

slavers. Trade or go under. All the states along the coast or close to the slave trading areas were riven by the conflict between national interest, which demands that no resource necessary to security and prosperity be neglected, and the founding charters of kingdoms, which impose on sovereigns the obligation to defend the lives, property and rights of their subjects. The states involved in the slave trade strove to keep it within strict limits. In , when the French requested permission to establish a trading post on his territory, King Tezifon of Allada made the following clear-sighted reply: In Angola, Mozambique and certain parts of Guinea, however, Europeans got directly involved in the African warfare and trade networks with the help of local black accomplices or half-castes who were the offspring of white adventurers. These adventurers had a reputation that was unenviable even in an age of extreme cruelty. How profitable was it? They give us a very clear picture of what was traded in exchange for millions of African lives. Rifles, gunpowder, brandy, cloth, glassware, and ironmongery. A surprisingly unequal exchange? But the same sort of thing is still going on today. The countries of the North stop at nothing to convince African heads of state to import white elephants in exchange for mediocre personal profit. Clearly, the ideological weapons used to justify the slave trade reflected neither the reality nor the dynamics of African society. Africans, like all other peoples, had no particular liking for slavery. Slavery was generated and maintained by a specific system. While the revolts of black slaves during the Atlantic crossing and in America are well documented, there is much less awareness of the scale and diversity of resistance to slavery within Africa. Both to the Atlantic slave trade as such and to the slavery in Africa which it induced or aggravated. It throws unexpected light on the rejection of the slave trade in the African coastal societies. It is packed full of details of damage to vessels insured by the famous London company from its foundation in The perpetrators of these revolts were the slaves themselves, assisted by the coastal population. It is as if there were two separate interests at work: As for slavery within African society itself, everything appears to indicate that it grew in parallel with the Atlantic slave trade and was reinforced by it. It similarly gave rise to many forms of resistance: In the Senegal valley, for example, the attempts by certain monarchs to enslave and sell their own subjects gave rise, at the end of the 17th century, to the Marabout war and the Toubenan movement from the word tuub, meaning to convert to Islam. He appointed them, on the contrary, to preserve their subjects and protect them from their enemies. Peoples were not made for kings, but kings for peoples. Similar appeals to religion are still a feature of demands for freedom and equality in various parts of Africa. Clearly, the slave trade was far from marginal. It is central to modern African history, and resistance to it engendered attitudes and practices that have persisted to the present day. The desire for freedom, and freedom itself, did not come to the Africans from outside, whether from Enlightenment philosophers, abolitionist agitators or republican humanists. They came from internal developments within the African societies themselves. Moreover, from the end of the 18th century, merchants in countries bordering on the Gulf of Guinea, who had mostly grown rich on the slave trade, began to distance themselves from slavery and send their children to Britain to train in the sciences and other professions useful for the development of commerce. But the Africa of the 19th century was very different from the continent which Europeans had encountered four hundred years earlier. The racism rooted in the slave-trade era blossomed anew in these propitious circumstances. On the basis of such value judgements, the West was postulated as a model. However, once the colonial powers had carved up the continent between them, they took great care not to abolish the slavery structures they had found in place. Worse still, in order to drive the economic machine, they created a new type of slavery in the form of forced labour. Histoire et Civilisations, Vol. I, Haite-Aupelf, Paris, , p. The impact of the export slave trade on African societies, Hutchinson, London, ; P. Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade.