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**Britain and the Atlantic Slave Trade: From
16th to 19th century**

Submitted by

Safer Rekia

Members of Board:

Chair Person: Prof. Bahous Abbes

Supervisor: Mr. Sebbah Djamel

Examiner: Docr. Djaafri Yasmine

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Dedication

To my parents with love.

To my brothers and my sisters and to all my friends and classmates.

Acknowledgements

Before all I thank God for the accomplishment of this work.

I thank my supervisor Mr. Sebbah Djamel for his supervision and help. I appreciate his encouragement, inspiration, and good will. To my parents who has been the source of encouragement and inspiration to me throughout my life. And my thanks also go to the Bread of Teaching Profession of Department of English Studies in the University of Mostaganem, especially, to the specialty Doctor Larbi Yousef for his advice and encouragement.

Abstract

The Atlantic Slave Trade was the most inhuman event in history. It was the best example of the forced migration in the World. It was a deportation trade of the human beings from Africa to America. This trade of slaves was a crime against millions of Africans enslaved, sold and also and used as commodities. During the Atlantic Slave Trade, Britain as European nation became one of the World's greatest power because the British Empire was developed through the use of slaves. The African people were shipped to America (Caribbean); they worked in plantation in which helped the progressive of economy. Plus, it was built somehow by slaves in the end it was the first nation to proclaim decision to this illegal trade by Act of Abolition slavery in 1833.

Now days, in the Caribbean, America, and Africa many are asked Greet Britain for composition and recognition of this crime against humanity.

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General Introduction

Through the British history, the Atlantic Slave Trade was the best example of the forced immigration in the World history. Millions of Africans were shipped to the New World as part of the Atlantic Slave Trade, in which the enforced migration of the blacks (Africans) to the America in horrible conditions. It started from the middle of the sixteenth century until the nineteenth century, it constituted the biggest movement of Africans captured from their home land and enforced to across the Atlantic. The Triangular route was marked by the dangerous stage “the Middle Passage” which was the crime millions of people. Moreover, Britain was the first nation in Europe had a big guilt in this trade, because it was the super power which guided the trade from Africa to their colonies in America (Caribbean), because slave trade interested her more. At the same time, it was the leader who supported and abolished the use of human beings as slaves and commodities.

The motivation behind choosing this topic “Britain and the Atlantic Slave Trade from the 16th to the 19th century” is to show the route of the enforced Africans who kidnapped and sold to across the Atlantic Ocean, from the Triangular Trade that involved Africa, America, and Europe. Hence, to see the special role played by Britain during Slave Trade. Moreover, my motivations are to bring some things new about my specialty “Afro American Studies” and to find answers about research question: How did the Atlantic Slave Trade effected Britain? It means, how did Britain benefited from the Slave Trade? Whereas, the main objective of this research is to highlight some hidden point of slave trade in the history as to see the major events that happened in Britain during the Atlantic Slave Trade. It means in this research I will discuss and analyze the issue of slave trade, and how this system influenced Britain?

My research topic is qualitative research. It is based mostly from our lecture in the class room and reading books and articles and some others historical documents about slavery and Slave Trade as it was the international trade in the world history.

My research is divided into three chapters: the first chapter entitled the concept of slavery, it seeks to identify the concepts of slavery. different of Philosophers ‘visions, Islam, and Christianity, it talks the history of slavery in the World. Whereas the second chapter entitled the Atlantic Slave Trade in which it discusses this movement, it involves the definition of the triangle route that illustrated by a map and figures. Also it explains

why Africa was the source of slave trade. And analyzes the reasons behind enslaved Africans with showing the role of Britain in the Atlantic Slave Trade. While the third chapter entitled the effects of the Slave Trade on Britain, it analyzes the influence of the Atlantic Slave Trade on Britain, it explores the impacts of slave trade on British country, and also it deals with the Abolition of Slave Trade.

The Atlantic Slave Trade was the most important trade in the World history that African continent submitted as crime. Slavery or Slave Trade was a crime against the right of human beings.

Chapter one

Concept of Slavery

Chapter one: Concept of Slavery

Introduction

This chapter tackles some definitions of slavery. It includes different visions of Philosophers and religions, (Islam and Christianity). It also talks about the history of slavery in the world.

I.1.Definition of Slavery in History

In many time and places, slavery had previously existed in the world. According to many historians, slavery is in which principal of property law was applied to people allowing individuals to own and sell them, it means slavery was a way in which human beings treated as property. In stories of slavery, it was known in the first civilizations, thus the majority of historians see slavery as criminal issue and dangerous business against humanity. At the same time, slavery was a problem of skin color specially the black in which suffered more, because “Negroes” did not have the right of human beings but to live as slaves.¹

I.2.By Philosophers

There were many philosophers who attempted to define and justify slavery and give their visions about this issue, such as Aristotle and Plato, Aquinas. Francis Hutcheson, Jean Jacques Rousseau.

I.2.1. Aristotle

The Great Geek Philosopher Aristotle was the first who thought that slavery was a natural thing and that human being came into two types- slaves and non-slaves.

According to Aristotle (1430s, politics), « *For that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only necessary, but expedient; from the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, others for rule...* ».²

¹<https://newint.org>, article: Brief History of slavery. (October 07, 2017).

²Www.bbc.co.Uk BBC–Ethics – Slavery: Philosophers justifying slavery. (October 07, 2017).

Moreover, he said that we were born natural slaves and ought to be slaves under any circumstance. Other people were born to rule these slaves, could use slaves as they pleased and could treat them as property.

According to the vision of Aristotle, we find that slavery was a very natural thing and at the same time, it was innate with them as natural slaves because they needed someone to guide them as master, and also their soul was not complete to be human beings responsible on their life.

I.2.2. Plato

The Greek philosopher Plato also thought similarly that slavery was right for the ‘better’ to rule over the ‘inferior’

Nature herself intimates that it is just for the better to have more the worse, the more powerful than the weaker, and in many ways she shows, among men as well as among animals, and indeed among whole cities and races, that justice consists in the superior ruling over and having more than the inferior.³ Plato, Gorgias

According to Plato and her vision about slavery, it is the one who has free life the one who has more powerful in all human beings; it means slavery was for the inferior people, and the natural slaves generally needed to control by superior rules as master laws because they considered them less humanists in their thought.

I.2.3. Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas had another vision about slavery, he agreed that slavery was the result of fall, but he also thought that the universe did have a natural structure that gave some men authority over other. More than, he justified this by pointing out the hierarchical nature of heaven, where some angels were superior to others.⁴

³ Wwww.bbc.CO.UK: BBC–Ethics – Slavery: Philosophers justifying slavery. (October 10, 2017).

⁴ Wwww.bbc.CO.UK: BBC–Ethics – Slavery: Philosophers justifying slavery. (October 10, 2017).

I.2.4. Francis Hutcheson

Francis Hutcheson as Scottish Enlightenment thinker agreed that *“All men have strong desire of liberty and property, have notion of right, and strong natural impulses to marriage, families, and of spring, and earnest desire of their safety”*.⁵

According to Francis Hutcheson, all the human beings had a desire to control their own life, and this later should not take by another by force or power. Thus no one had the right to enslave another one. Because humanity was a sacred thing, it could not be destroyed by enslaving each other.

I.2.5. Jean Jacques Rousseau

Jean Jacques Rousseau was one of the major enlightenment thinkers whose main concern was the right of man and humanity because in this book I ‘the social contract’ he noted that *“Man was born free, and he is everywhere in chains”*. *The social contract, Chapter 1-5*

Moreover, he agreed that human beings were created free, and in the same time rejected the idea that legitimate political authority was found in nature because the only natural form of authority was the authority of father has over a child, which exists only in the preservation of the child⁶.

For Rousseau the individuals can only be considered to be free if they possess political freedom, it means they did not possess under the political freedom or autonomy because they empowered other individuals to make these decisions for them, contributing to type of enslavement. Therefore, the emphasis on political freedom was the point that made differentiation between freedom and enslavement in the life of human beings.

I.3. Religions

The issue of slavery supported in many religions in the world, thus Islam and Christianity took a big part because the use of slavery debated in these two religions.

⁵ Princeamongslaves.org.: Prince among Slave. (November 04, 2017).

⁶<https://www.enotes.com/article>: How does Rousseau define slavery? (December 25, 2017).

I.3.1. Islam

The relationship among the practice of slavery and Islamic religion has been spread through history since the issue of slavery has been supported in religions.

Islam as religion was taken a big part to speak about the rights of human beings to live free, thus the issue of slavery was one of the most things that Islam focus on with details. Because slavery in Islam was institutional and allowed in the war since when the Prophet Mohamed moved to Medina with his power, he took slaves as ‘booty ‘and they were taken during Jihad, it means taken slaves as spoils of war. On the other hand, Islamic law justified slavery in many verses in the Quran. Then it assumes the existence of slavery it means it not against slavery but at the same considers slaves and free man as the same⁷.

“Prophet, we have made lawful to you the wives to whom you have granted dowries and the slave girls whom God has given you as booty.”⁸

Moreover, Hadith also deals with slavery because there are hinderers of Hadith that mentioned slavery and the relation of Muslims with slaves, since the Prophet Mohamed and his companions allowed slaves; some of them needed slaves because the Quran is not against slavery but taken non-Muslims as slaves during religion wars. Whereas taken slaves in Islam was not means kidnapping and sold, owners their property as what happened in the world history of slavery because there are many factors that allowed slavery such as poverty, raids, warfare, debts.

On the other hand, there are many texts in Islam that taken a big part against the way of taken slaves just to owners their as slaves. For instance, it says in a Hadith qudsi: *‘Allah, may He be exalted, said; ‘There are three whose opponent I will be on the Day of Resurrection, and whomever I oppose, I will defeat...A man who sold a free man and consumed his price’. Narrated by al-Bukhaari (2227).*

According, this hadith, we mentioned that Islam was against about whom enslaved people and owners them as slaves in order to sold them as trade, because there is no one on the earth takes the freedom of other one, because all the people created equal and free⁹

⁷<http://en.m.wikipedia.org>. article: slavery and religion. (January 12, 2018).

⁸www.answering-islam.org. article: slavery in Islam. (January 25, 2018).

⁹www.answering-islam.org. article: slavery in Islam. (January 25, 2018).

I.3.2. Christianity

The term of slavery existed through history, because slaves or slave trade could be viewed in Christians, since the Bible itself supported the practice of human slavery and at the same time gave instructions on how slaves should be treated, because there are numerous Geneses in the Bible, which allowed enslaved people specially the black one, for example the old statement allowed slavery as property.

Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary resident living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. Leviticus 25:44-45 ¹⁰

It means slavery in the Bible based on skin color and the black people were slaved in their skin and nationality. Thus, Christians believed that all the blacks were inferior human beings. Slaves were slaves in the mind of white Christians that owned them because the bible supported and regulated slaves ownership and at the same time doesn't say that owning human being is wrong, thus the majority of Christians used the Bible to convince themselves that enslaved people were the best thing that protect and gave them also the rights to live because their soul not completed .¹¹

In addition, the Saint Augustine argued that slavery was part of mechanism to keep the natural order of things, and also, John Chrysostom argued that slaves have to be resigned to their own fate, and obeying their masters in obeying God to. It means slaves had a Christian obligation to submit to their masters.¹²

Therefore, Christianity had long record to support slavery because the majority of Christians believed that anyone with dark (black) skin had a black soul too it means considered as inhumane.

I.4. History of Slavery in the World

Slavery has old existed throughout history, it was founded in the world in many cultures and nationalities, and also religions, it was common in ancient world, it means, slavery

¹⁰ www.worldfuturefund.org/article:christainity and slavery. (February 02,2018).

¹¹ [https://answersingenesis.org/article:the bible and slavery](https://answersingenesis.org/article:the-bible-and-slavery) by Bodie Hodge and Paul F.Taylor on February 2, 2007. (March 13, 2018).

¹² [https ://answersingenesis.org. article: Christianity and black slavery](https://answersingenesis.org/article:Christianity-and-black-slavery). (March 15,2018).

began with civilizations, because slavery first emerged in Ancient Greece since it gave the role of slavery in life.

Every Ancient civilizations used slaves such as Ancient Roman where used slaves that it captured in battles, it means slavery played important role in the development of Roman Empire, because the Romans used slaves in many domestic services, they worked in agriculture and household chores, and also in the military services that participated in the spread of the Empire, because they considered as property under Roman Law.¹³

Moreover, The Ottoman Empire was one of the most Empires that used slaves because slavery was legal in many Ottoman Empire's domains. The majority of slaves that founded in this Empire, they captured from wars and expeditions that they did in the North and the East Africa, and Eastern Europe. Thus slavery for Ottomans took different meaning and way as slavery means in other civilizations since slaves treated well and strengthened in order to obtain high position of power, because the majority of slaves purchased by the government for military services. Therefore, slaves in Ottoman Empire were slaves that had another meaning in history; they helped in the spread of Islam that was the main aim of the Empire.

After that, slavery continued their spread in all countries; it was existed in Europe, because when Europeans began to colonize the New World at the end of 15th century, they were well aware of the institution of slavery. For instance, numerous of Europeans used blacks and Indians to raise plantation¹⁴, and at the same time they exploited Africans labor on slave plantation because slaves for the Europeans means trade. They forced millions of Africans to owner them as property after sold them as slaves because Africa was the main source of trade that later become global in all the world.

In addition, Slavery founded in the Central America, Asian and in Arabs. First, slavery in America was divided issue that began in the 15th century, because the majority of Africans slaves that they deported by Europeans to America. they worked in the plantation in order to growing the demand for the Europeans North American colonies. Slavery in America developed to be trade through buying and selling slaves because they treated in harsh way with living and working in bad conditions since slaves had important role in

¹³ [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/article: Slavery in Ancient Rome](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/article:Slavery%20in%20Ancient%20Rome). (April 10,1018).

¹⁴ Plantation: a large farm, especially in a hot part of the world, on which a particular type of crop is growing: a tea/cotton/rubber plantation. From the Cambridge Dictionary. (April 20,2018).

progressing of the country. Thus the history of Americans related with slaves specially Africans slaves.

On the other hand, slavery also existed in Arabs because they took a large numbers of slaves from Africans where they transported to across the Sahara and Indian Ocean since slavery was nothing new for Africans because they sold other Africans to the Arabs as slaves, while this way allowed the arrival of Europeans and Americans in Africa to took slaves and sold them as trade, in which slavery was practiced by Europeans prior to the arrival in the America that was important to all the colonial powers.

CONCLUSION

Through the component parts of this chapter, it gives the reader the chance to have thorough understanding of the concept of slavery and helps him to contextualize the phenomenon of slavery through the world history.

In conclusion, slavery as term, issue and phenomenon or any other thing was crime against humanity in which buying and selling humans as slaves among persons with power in order to make work without payment or reward of any kind feeding which marked increase throughout history in their existence. As result slavery was accepted in antiquity in different ways, because it spent in the entire world among people themselves. Therefore, slavery became global trade between colonial powers that supported the system of Transatlantic Slave Trade, this later made competition between Europeans to colonial Africa.

Chapter Two

The Atlantic Slave Trade

Chapter Two: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Introduction:

The period between 16th to 19th centuries was important in history of both Africa and Europe. The Europeans powers were the first to colonize the continent and allowed the arrival of traders to do their businesses. Since Africa was the source of trade such as Raw materials; Ivory and Slaves. Therefore, there is no continent on the earth suffered from slavery like Africans. This later was the main reason that made a huge movement in this centuries (16th to 19th) between the Europeans and Africans; because they were traded many people as slaves, plus Africans themselves enslaved the black people to the Europeans; thus slavery took a way in the involvement of colonial powers in trading the human beings (Africans) as slaves and at the same time led what is known the Atlantic Slave Trade.

II.1.the Definition of the Atlantic Slave Trade

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was one of the most historically criminal movements against humanity in the world history, and it was widespread way of slave trade in the continent of Africa. Moreover, it was classified as the historical terms that limited and indicated the trade between several regions and continents; it means the slaves trade that collected Africa as crime and the colonial's power (Europe and America). the majority of people that were traded as slaves were Africans from the Central and Western Africa. See the map page 13.

In addition, the Atlantic Slave Trade was also responsible for the force migration since it began in the 16th century when the Portuguese explored the Coast of West Africa. When millions of Africans (man, woman, children) were kidnapped, captured from their homeland as slaves and they were forced to across the Atlantic Ocean. Thus this system was the best example of force migration in the human history.¹⁵

¹⁵www.understandingslavery.com/ the Transatlantic Slave trade: introduction. (May 05, 2018).



Figure 01 Map of Triangular Trade and Trade Goods

Source: sainttravelled. Com. (May 05, 2018)

On the other hand, the Trans- Atlantic Slave Trade was not only violent transportation of the black people but at the same time, the crime of the death of many millions of people.

Over nine million slaves were shipped across the Atlantic between 1451 and 1870. Another million or more did not survive the voyage, while untold numbers died on the journey from their point of capture to the coast. Europe's taste for sugar was the principal incentive of the trade. (John Reader, 1998: p368).

According to many historians, no one knows the total number of slaves who died in the journey of enslaved the blacks, because the Atlantic Slave Trade was famous by the dangerous stage which was the Middle Passage, where millions of African slaves were shipped to the New World in order to work in plantations. This stage of journey was known as the triangular route between Africa, the New World, and Europe.

It began in Europe where the Europeans were sending many ships which were loaded with goods (Iron; Brandy; Gunpowder; and weapons) to Africa, in order to be exchanged by slaves taken to America. As the result of this passage of shipping blacks marked the death of many slaves, because they were transported in the ships, where they lived horrible conditions imposed by the crew of the ship. Since they were chained together, common diseases like, measles; syphilis, smallpox and; amoebic dysentery. Then they refused to eat and commit suicide because they chained to each other in the ships where they suffered more.¹⁶ See the figures page 15.

Moreover, slave ships spent several days and months travelling to different parts of the coast, buying their cargo. The captives were often in poor health from the physical and mental abuse they had suffered. They were taken in board, stripped naked and examined from head to toe by the captain or surgeon. Plus, conditions on board ship during the middle passage were appalling where the men were packed together below and were deck and were also secured by leg irons. (Linda A. Newson & Susie Minchin:11-12).

¹⁶[www.softschools.com/article: the Middle passage facts](http://www.softschools.com/article/the-Middle-passage-facts). (May 03, 2018)

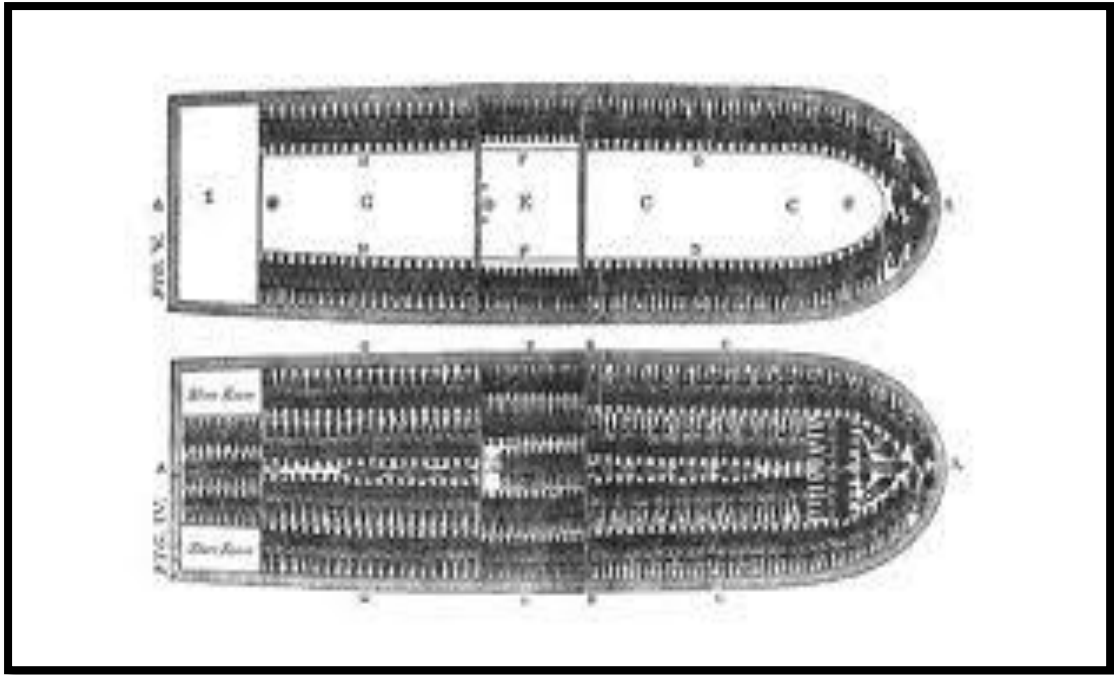


Figure 02: Ship of slaves Source: black history. Com, (May 05, 2018)



Figure 03: Bad Living Conditions Source: black history. Com, (May 05, 2018)

II.2. Africa as Source of the Atlantic Slave Trade

There are no continents in the World which suffered from Slavery and Slave Trade as the African, because it was the main point that included all the sources of trade. And at the same time, it was the first continent facing the trade during the Atlantic Slave Trade. Moreover, there were many reasons that made Africa the source of Slave Trade such as Social and Religious, and Economic reason.

II.2.1. Social reasons

The Africans society was the main cause behind Slavery and Slave Trade in Africa and the World. Africans themselves enslaved Africans. Where Africans lived in tribes and each one governed by Chieftain, they had the power to enslave other Africans in order to sell them as slaves. For a long time, the Africans traded slaves with Europe and this later paved the way to involve in the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Moreover, the Society of Africans facilitated all the way for the Europeans to enslave the Africans because some tribes kidnapped others and sold them to Europeans. Thus the Europeans did not face any difficulties to enslave the Blacks. Then, slavery as trade in Africa was a way to meet economic means because they knew that something they saw as pure economics would turn into horror and oppression. (John Thornton, 1992, p74)

The wars between African Tribes made the society as the point to take prisoners who could be exchanged with Arabs –slave's trade and Europeans for goods, as result slave trade was not new for the Africans, it existed between them as natural trade.

In Africa, Slavery was accepted as the norm in most societies. Before Europeans arrived, and long after, millions of Africans were marched north across the desert by Arab traders. Most had been taken in war. The guns given in exchange helped wars to multiply and grow large. Prisoners who might earlier have been absorbed into the victor's army or workforce, or killed, were now fed to European and American ships seeking human cargo, from Gambia round to Mozambique. Other Africans were sold as slaves because they owed a debt; some even by their own families. Some like Equiano were simply grabbed; though only in the early years by Europeans, because that upset relations with the African coastal kings, who wanted to keep control of the trade.¹⁷ (The Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society, Florida)

Slavery and Slave Trade was widespread in Africa in that time, and at the same time accepted in most societies. The Africans before the Arrival of the Europeans traded slaves with Arabs by exchanging slaves with goods. Therefore, Africans gave the Europeans the chance to be enslaved, because they found who helped them to engage in the Atlantic Slave Trade. Since slavery was an established fact of African life before the advent of slave trade.

II.2.2. Religion Reasons

From the Sixteenth to the nineteenth century, the issue of Slave Trade became the focus trade between the Europeans and Africans that led to many changes in Africa, because the Europeans had the opportunity to spread their faith. The arrival of the Europeans to Africa was not to enslave blacks but at the same time to convert people to Christianity. (Roland Oliver and J.D. Fage: p 44-45).

Historical records only noted that the Slave Trade played an important role to convert Africans on Christianity that led to enslave many Africans. The European Christians had the aim to spread their faith in Africa perceived as best place. They send the Machineries to convert the Kingdom's Chiefs to Christianity; they used kings to convert people in their Faith. Moreover, they afforded them many things as to educate children, built hospitals and Orphanages where they taught and took care of orphans. These motivations convinced the chiefs and his people to convert to Christianity that led the establishment of Christians

¹⁷Www. Ironbark sources. com: Slavery of Africans by Africans. (May 05, 2018).

Kingdoms, it means they mixed religion with political. However, these changes in Africa created conflicts between Africans themselves, it means separation in the African society that allowed to the Europeans to enslave them.

II.2.3. Economic reasons

Slave Trade was very important economically speaking in the history of Africa and Europe. The Atlantic Slave trade presented the route of trade where millions of Africans being sold to Europe into slaves labour, and at the same time, they shipped them over the Atlantic to America (Caribbean) in order to work in plantations such as tobacco, sugar, cotton, coffee.¹⁸

In addition, The Atlantic Slave Trade was caused by the demand of cheap labour and also the growing economies of European colonial powers that they desired to make money.

Moreover, Africa for the Europeans was the source of supporting economy such as Raw materials, Ivory and Gold that they needed in the progressing of the Industrial Revolution. Thus this natural sources found in Africa where becoming interested.

Slaves were the most expensive element to get money by selling them, since the Atlantic Slave Trade allowed the Europeans to exchange goods by slaves. They sold to America to work in plantations and after they took these goods to Europe markets in which they treated and sold then to Africans. It means this way participated in the growth of economic domains in both continents.

On the other hand, the Slave Trade in Africa played a big role in the development of the trade both in Africa and Europe, because during this trade the world history noted the creation of competition between super powers to enslave more blacks, in order to get more money that gave them the power to continue their trade in Africa, where millions of Africans were submitted to this crime.

¹⁸<http://studymoose.com>: The cause and the consequences of the Atlantic slave trade. (May 07, 2018).

II.3. The Role of Britain in the Atlantic Slave Trade

The British traders were amongst the trade during the Atlantic Slave Trade. They were responsible to enslave West Africans to the New World to be sold as slaves. The British traders facilitated the movement from West and Central Africa to the America and Caribbean to work in farming and in the white men's home and also construction industries and factories.

Moreover, Britain was interested to the Atlantic Slave Trade when it involved in the globe slave trade. The British traders generated immense spoils by transporting over 5.5 million of African slaves to its Caribbean colonies where they started to develop their trade and enforced their power in their colonies during this trade.¹⁹

The number of British ships that took part in the Atlantic Slave Trade is unknown because they sold many blacks from Africa used to work in sugar plantations. Therefore, Britain opened their ports in order to receive the cargoes of slaves such as in Bristol and Liverpool. They were the major important to use slave trade.

On the other hand, the role of Britain in the Atlantic Slave Trade presented in the way of selling slaves and owning them, where the British traders participated on the spread of this trade because their trade was based on rules and also aims in which they wanted to develop their economic where it was the first interested of the country because slave trade helped in the development of Economic trade.

¹⁹ Abolition. E2bn.org. British Involvement in transatlantic slave trade. (May 10, 2018).

Conclusion

To sum up, the Movement of the Atlantic Slave Trade that related Africa, Europe and the New World was the best example of force migration in the world history. The institution of slavery was a big crime against humanity. Therefore, millions of Africans were enforced to be slaves and properties. Beside, this route of trade was described in many different ways as slave trade. At that time, the slave trade in the Trans- Atlantic World referred to the use of Blacks from who had been sold and used for their labour in order to create goods for Europe as Britain, where it had a big role. As result, this movement effected Britain in many domains in which it benefited and was the power one that guided this trade in the world history.

Chapter Three

The Effects of the Slave Trade on Britain

Chapter Three: The Effects of Slave Trade on Britain

Introduction

Historical records only noted that the Transatlantic Slave Trade was so benefit for Europe such as Britain in which was the first leader in this trade (Caribbean), because enslaved Africans were very difficult and at the same time paved the way to bring changes in all domains. Therefore, the slave trade affected Britain in political and economic fields.

III.1. The Benefits of the Atlantic Slave Trade On the British

III.1.1 In Political

Slave Trade had several notable impacts in political life in Britain. The British Empire was the first who had engaged in this trade. And as result, the system of Slave Trade during the Atlantic route opened big competitions between the super powers, in Britain where British traders effected by the Atlantic Slave Trade as they engaged rapidly in it. In order to take more land where it made her enter in Europeans power struggles and competition for dominance between France and Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. They believed that power could be showing by who owned the most territories over surface of Africa and the world. Moreover, the Slave Trade in Africa between these super powers was the international trade in the World, in which it created conflicts and wars in order to control it.²⁰

Furthermore, through the Slave Trade, Britain became the power that guided the trade in the World from the movement of the Triangular Trade, because it took slaves from Africa to American; it means in their Caribbean colonial to work in plantations since it was their colonies. As result, the Atlantic Slave Trade in Britain made the domain of political very powerful because it was the first continent in Europe that participated in the spread of Slave Trade.

²⁰[https://www.ukessays.com. Impacts of African Slave Trade on Europe. \(May 15, 2018\).](https://www.ukessays.com. Impacts of African Slave Trade on Europe. (May 15, 2018).)

III.1.2. In Economic

The Triangular Slave Trade was one of the main point in the Economic of Britain. The trade during this era had a big effect on doing business of enslaved Africans. Moreover, the arrival of British traders in West African Coast and their establishment of slave ports in various parts in the continent allowed exploitation of African's human resource as labour and commodities which affected the British economy. As result, the British traders benefited from the Atlantic Slave Trade, because slave trade allowed them to mass Raw materials that fed the Industrial Revolution and determine the Africans societies.²¹

In addition, the Slave Trade had an important commerce for the British because it contributed to the growth of both the Royal Navy and the United Kingdom's merchant navy, since these later started through crises of controlling the colonies. Britain had grown to determine the Caribbean in which made the Navy needed to control and protect these territories and British slave ships.

On the other hand, the British Economy had grown and developed through the plantations in America and Caribbean colonies that led to a growth in shipping, since slave trade was carried with rules that facilitated of training this trade among the major British ports. Moreover, the Atlantic Slave Trade from Britain to Africa was opened to exchange goods such as guns and tobacco, weapons with slaves. Where it made the trade become more benefits, because their commodities were grown rabidly to feed the Industrial Revolution.²²

Therefore, the Atlantic Slave Trade took big part in the development of British Economy, Britain benefited from the Transatlantic Slave Trade by using the blacks to work in British owned plantations and at the same time, slave trade also supported Banks and Factories thus the money generated from this trade allowed it to keep its hold on some of its colonies and then helped finance wars with other Europeans super powers.

²¹<https://www.enotes.com>: What impact did the triangle trade on Europe? (May 20, 2018).

²²<https://www.bbc.com>: Higher History of Britain. (May 20, 2018).

III.2. Britain and the Abolition of the Slave Trade

The emergence of Slave Trade in Britain had been related with religion, where it played an important role in enslavement of Africans, then to convert them in their faith. At that time, Christianity as religion got in the way of moneymaking venture by taking Africans away from their work. Moreover, the religious men also were presented more because they supported Slave Trade in the beginning in order to spread Christianity. Plus, the religion during the Atlantic Slave Trade in Britain was turned the blacks into servile slaves where they accepted their faith, because Christianity kept their Africans traditional belief system.²³

In addition, the Atlantic Slave Trade in Britain spread more, the use of slaves as commodities became crime against humanity. Where the Religious man in Britain as Quakers groups, in which played a central role in the Abolition of Slave Trade, the Africans were the victims. They use Anti-slavery as pretest to convert people to Christianity.

Moreover, the British Empire was the first who decided to end the slave trade; it means the British parliament made decision to stop the use of human beings as commodities. Where the British Government as the power of the country put an Act that abolished the slave trade which named “the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, it was an Act of the Parliament of United Kingdom. It was first as bill rejected by the majority members in the parliament in 1807.²⁴

Slavery Abolition Act 1833: An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British colonies: for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to Services of such Slaves.²⁵

²³www.bbc.co.uk: BBC-Religions- Christianity. (May 21, 2018).

²⁴<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/> Slavery Abolition Act 1833. (May 22, 2018).

²⁵<https://www.saylor.org/> abolition act pdf. (May 22, 2018).

In addition, the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 in the United Kingdom Parliaments was an Act throughout the British Empire in order to stop Slave Trade in the Country and after spread the aim of this Act in other continents. The Act was of freeing the enslavement of the Africans and also stopping the use of human beings as commodities, because slaves were suffering more during the Atlantic Slave Trade where they became international trade in the World history.

On the other hand, the Abolition of Slave Trade took place during the colonial period in Africa; because there were many reasons that imposed the British Empire to put decision of this trade both in Europe and Africa. The reasons behind the Abolition of Slave Trade in Britain were Economic, Religious, and Humanitarians reasons.

III.2.1. Economic Reasons

In the 19th century, both the Industrial and Agricultural works brought technology and new machines instead of the hand work, because these machines were faster and gain time; thus the European nations wanted to forget the hand work of slaves. In plantation, the sugar crisis was between France and British, since it was competition among them for markets of their sugar. Britain was the first who declared the Abolition of Slave Trade in order to put limits of the French sugar. Moreover, another issue was the demand of capitalist production where they needed worker's employers because the Industrial Revolution imposed great demand for Raw materials that be used in the machines by the Europeans.²⁶

In addition, slave labour in Britain was less useful. The development of the Industrial Revolution was interested in many Markets and factories rather than slave's services. Economically needed the machines and materials which were profitable and their goods and products were well found.

²⁶<https://www.myelimu.com/> Abolition of Slave Trade. (May 22, 2018).

III.2.2. Religious Reasons

The religious man played an important role of Abolition Slave Trade where they created groups as Quakers in which they believed that slavery and slave trade was against God's will. More than that, they viewed slavery as an act of inhumane, because they thought that blacks brought from their home land under the guise that they were to be Christianized and civilized where the majority received education in the first principle of Christianity. As result the Religious man and other providence Society recognized the hostility of slaves must have left towards Christians, this later was done in order to spread their faith of Christianity, where this argument made them to abolish Slave Trade.²⁷

III.2.3. Humanitarian Reasons

The Slave Trade in the United Kingdom appeared with many figures in the society against using slaves as commodities such as William Wilberforce (24-08-1759, 29-07-1833) who was an English Politian and leader of the movement to eradicate the slave trade. He believed that Slave Trade society was formed in 1787s and in 1828, and it must to be Anti- slavery society, it means he supported to stop enslaved human beings and gave them their rights as humans.²⁸

Moreover, the French revolution of 1789 brought many ideas of liberty and equality for all human beings because their aim was to spread the idea of freeing slaves. This revolution led Europeans criticized Slavery and Slave Trade in all the country.²⁹

In Addition, free people in Britain improved their legal conditions in these societies, where this conditions paved the way to the humanitarians *“who believed that the Abolition of slave trade in 1807 would lead to an improvement in the condition of slaves and also they argued that slaves would no longer be expendable as they had previously been, and consequently planters would look after them more carefully.”* (Andrew Porter, 1999: p 473).

²⁷<https://scholar.library.miami.edu/> The Slave Trade. (May 22, 2018).

²⁸<https://www.myelimu.com/> Abolition of Slave Trade. (May 22, 2018).

²⁹<https://www.myelimu.com/> Abolition of Slave Trade. (May 22, 2018).

The Abolition of Slave Trade for the Humanitarians was a right that all human beings had to take because all people were created equal and free and anyone who wanted to be owned another one considered as crime against humanity. Plus, the Humanitarians had impacted in the Abolition of Slavery since their ideas intrinsic to the movement of Abolition.

Conclusion

The Atlantic Slave Trade was the main point in Europe, because Britain took part in this trade route as the power that guided the Slave Trade. It was the first nation in Europe who benefited more. The Atlantic Slave Trade was effected the country in many domains such as political and Economic that helped the British country to be international trade in the world. Whereas in the middle of the 19th century the use and the demand of slaves in Britain became less important because it increase with the Industrial Revolution, and the spread of humanitarian's ideas and Religious man against slavery that led to support the Abolition of Slave Trade in United Kingdom in 1833 where after be spread in the United State.

General conclusion

To conclude, the Africans were the most who suffered from the cruelty of Slavery and Slave Trade. The Atlantic Movement was the best example of this crime because the European nations as Britain was the first who engaged in this trade. Africa for them was the main source, since it enriched by what they wanted as slaves, Raw materials, Ivory, and it was the place where they made their fortunes. Britain was the first leader of trade that enforced millions of Africans crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the New World, in order to work in plantation in their colonies in Caribbean. The Slave Trade for British was the main economic aim; it made her the power that guided the trade during the Triangular route, because it played a potential role to spread this system and made her international trade in the World history.


In addition, the Atlantic Slave Trade had tremendous effects on Britain; it was developed in many fields, especially economically where it was the first goal by using slaves to work in plantations and also to fueled the Industrial Revolution. The Slave Trade was an important business in British economy, because without slaves the Triangular Trade would never have taken place in the World history. As result Britain became the World's leading slave Trade power.

Whereas, the spread of Slave Trade in the eighteenth and nineteenth century was less useful, because there were many events and reasons happened in Europe that imposed the United Kingdom decision to stop this system under many reasons that they gave the Blacks the right to be free. The Africans suffered more during the Atlantic Slave Trade because they enforced to be slaves and used as commodities. Therefore, Britain was the first leader and nation in Europe that decided the Abolition of Slave Trade in 1833 because slavery and Slave Trade were illegal institutions. But the question that still ask: was slavery abolish even if slave trade end?

Appendix

Slavery Abolition Act 1833

Slavery Abolition Act 1833

Slavery Abolition Act 1833	
	
United Kingdom Parliamentss	
Long title:	An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves.
Statute book chapter:	3 & 4 Will.4 c.73
Dates	
Royal Assent:	28 August 1833
Commencement:	1 August 1834 1 December 1834 (Cape of Good Hope) 1 February 1835 (Mauritius)
Repeal date:	19 November 1998
Other legislation	
Related legislation:	Slave Trade Act 1807, Slave Trade Act 1824, Slave Trade Act 1843, Slave Trade Act 1873
Repealing legislation:	Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1998
Status: Repealed	
Text of statute as originally enacted ^[1]	

The *Slavery Abolition Act 1833* (citation 3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73) was an 1833 Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom abolishing slavery throughout most of the British Empire (with the notable exceptions "of the Territories in the Possession of the East India Company," the "Island of Ceylon," and "the Island of Saint Helena").^[2] The Act was repealed in 1998 as part of a wider rationalisation of English statute law, but later anti-slavery legislation remains in force.

Source : <https://www.saylor.org/pdf>.

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