

Enslavement across the Ages

Slavery has existed in lots of ANCIENT Civilisations. From the ANCIENT ROMAN Empire; to ANCIENT China; to ANCIENT African civilisations, Slavery was common across the World.

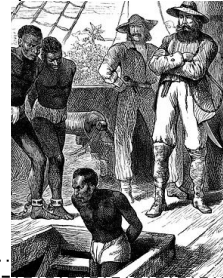


West Africa (Strengths before Slavery)

Common perception is that West Africa was poor and Europeans could dominate easily. This is untrue. The Kingdoms of Mali and Songhai (capital city = Timbuktu) were as wealthy as any kingdoms in Europe. Both had advanced ideas of Government; education, art and agriculture.

West Africa (Weaknesses before Slavery)

West Africa was divided into rival, warring kingdoms. Europeans took advantage of those rivalries. West Africa was still using Bronze Age technology, whilst Europeans brought Iron / Steel tech & guns. Weapons and tools like this gave a huge advantage to kingdoms that possessed them and they could use that advantage to conquer other countries, enslave more people for trade and become more powerful vs rivals. The Wars weakened the whole area of West Africa and left them open to be taken over by European countries later in the 19th century.

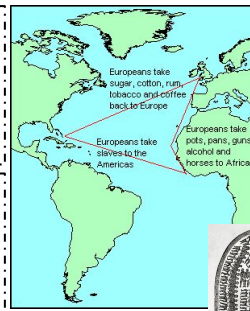


The Middle Passage

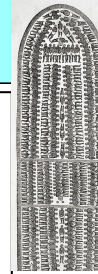
2nd part of the Slavery Triangle journey from West Africa to the Americas. It was the journey made by the sold or kidnapped from West Africa to their new lives as enslaved workers in the plantations. Many died on the journey. There are no records of how many lives were lost due to the poor hygiene; whippings; forced killings due to lack of water or supplies. The enslaved were regularly thrown overboard if they were diseased or delayed and ship owners would be insured by places like Lloyd's Insurance if they 'lost' cargo.

The Slavery Triangle

The Triangular Trade route was designed to make more and more profit at every stage. Cheap factory products from the UK were exchanged for enslaved people in W. Africa, which were then swapped in the Americas for the much desired products of cotton, sugar and tobacco to be sold to UK factories.



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ENSLAVEMENT
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Impact on Britain & Industrial Revolution

COTTON & SLAVE Trading was the key behind Britain's INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. It led to the expansion of ports like Liverpool, Bristol and London. Cotton/ textile Factories supported the growth of cities & areas like Manchester, Birmingham & Lancashire. Canals, Railways & Roads were built to move goods faster from the ports to factory cities. It had a direct impact on the massive growth in cities (URBANISATION) and the 4x population growth.

ENSLAVEMENT

This unit explores the issues of Slavery across the ages with a special focus on the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade of the 18th & 19th Centuries.

Enslaved Life in Americas

Kidnapped or sold into slavery

Not paid as a slave, but could earn money from side-hustles.

Dangerous working conditions in fields and sugar vats.

Beaten & punished by overseer if not working

Worked long hours and 6 days a week-possibly 14 hours a day.

Lived in poor, basic conditions.

Factory worker in UK

Migrated from the countryside to find work in the cities and factories

Paid poorly but higher and more regular wages than farm workers in UK.

Dangerous working condition with industrial machines and poor air quality.

Beaten & punished by overseer if not working

Worked long hours and 6 days a week-possibly 10-12 hours a day.

Lived in awful conditions; overcrowded terraced houses; CHOLERA.

Enslaved Life on the Plantations

The enslaved either worked in the FIELD or the HOUSE. Field Slaves looked after the crops of cotton, sugar & tobacco. House Slaves could be cooks, maids or nannies. Overseers were used to watch the enslaved and punish any who did not work well.



Abolition of Slavery

By the 19th century, Britain would lead the campaign to ABOLISH (ban) slavery. Campaigners like William Wilberforce (MP) and Olaudah Equiano (former slave) changed public opinion. By 1807 Britain banned the sale of people, 1833 all forms of slavery banned. £20M compensation paid to British slave owners, £0 paid to the enslaved BUT they did have freedom.

Slave Spirituals: Origins of Modern Music

Slave SPIRITUALS (songs) were the start of modern music. Songs were used to keep spirits up but were often disguised with secret messages.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

History After Slavery

Windrush Generation 1948 (1950s-60s)

In 1948, the British Government invited people from the West Indies to emigrate over to the UK to help rebuild and settle in the country after WW2. They became known as "The Windrush Generation" named after the boat that first docked in Britain. Many worked on the buses and railways and were a core part of Nursing & Midwifery in the NHS. Future generations have become famous sports stars and musicians. The Black Lives Matter Campaign (BLM) 2013 RACISM; PREJUDICE continued in the 2000s. The campaign feels that many of the attitudes from SLAVERY still exist in day to day life.