

Chapter 20.3 – The Atlantic Slave Trade

1. SETTING THE STAGE

- a. Sugar plantations and tobacco farms required a large supply of workers to make them profitable for their owners
- b. European owners had planned to use Native Americans but millions of Native Americans died from disease, warfare, and brutal treatment
- c. Europeans in Brazil, the Caribbean, and the southern colonies of North America soon turned to Africa for workers

2. The Causes of African Slavery

- a. Beginning around 1500, European colonists in the Americas who needed _____ began using _____ on plantations and farms

b. Slavery in Africa

- i. Slavery had existed in Africa for centuries but most regions it was a relatively minor institution
 1. The spread of _____ into Africa during the seventh century ushered in an increase in _____ and the _____
 2. Muslim rulers in Africa justified enslavement with the Muslim belief that _____ prisoners of war could be bought and sold as
 - a. 650 and 1600, Muslims transported about 17 million Africans to the Muslim lands of North Africa and Southwest Asia
- ii. In most African and Muslim societies, slaves had some _____ and an opportunity for _____

c. The Demand for Africans

- i. The first Europeans to explore Africa were the Portuguese during the 1400s who more interested in trading for _____ than for _____
 1. That changed with the _____ of the Americas, as _____ by the millions
- ii. Europeans saw advantages in using Africans in the Americas
 1. First, many Africans had been exposed to _____ and had built up some _____
 2. Second, many Africans had experience in _____ and could be taught _____
 3. Third, Africans were less likely to _____ because they did not know their way _____
 4. Fourth, their _____ made it easier to catch them if they _____ and tried to live among others
- iii. In time, the buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas — known as the _____ — became a massive enterprise
 1. By the time the Atlantic slave trade ended around 1870, Europeans had imported about 9.5 million Africans to the Americas

d. Spain and Portugal Lead the Way

- i. The _____ took an early lead in importing Africans to the Americas
 1. By 1650, nearly 300,000 Africans labored throughout Spanish America on plantations and in gold and silver mines
- ii. By this time, however, the _____ had surpassed the _____ in the importation of Africans to the Americas
 1. During the 1600s, Brazil dominated the European _____ – as the _____ grew so did demand for _____
 - a. More than 40 percent of all Africans brought to the Americas went to Brazil

How had Africans built up immunity to European diseases?

3. Slavery Spreads Throughout the Americas

a. As the other European nations established colonies in the Americas, their demand for cheap labor grew

b. England Dominates the Slave Trade

- i. As _____ presence in the Americas grew, it came to dominate the Atlantic slave trade
 1. From 1690 until England abolished the slave trade in 1807, it was the leading carrier of enslaved Africans
 - a. By the time the slave trade ended, the English had transported nearly 1.7 million Africans to their colonies in the West Indies
 2. African slaves were also brought to what is now the United States
 - a. Nearly 400,000 Africans were sold to Britain's North American colonies and once in North America the slave population steadily grew
 - b. By 1830, roughly 2 million slaves toiled in the United States

c. African Cooperation and Resistance

- i. Many African rulers and merchants played a willing role in the Atlantic slave trade
 1. Most European traders, rather than travel inland, waited in ports along the coasts of Africa
 2. African _____, with the help of _____, captured Africans to be enslaved
 3. They then delivered them to the Europeans in exchange for gold, guns, and other goods
- ii. As the slave trade grew, some African rulers voiced their opposition to the practice
 1. Lured by its _____, many African _____ continued to participate
 2. African merchants developed _____ to avoid rulers who refused to cooperate

Why does the number of slaves transported by the British to the United States understate the scope of slavery there?

4. A Forced Journey

a. After being captured, African men and women were shipped to the Americas as part of a profitable trade network

b. The Triangular Trade

- i. Africans transported to the Americas were part of a _____ known as the _____
 1. Over one trade route, Europeans transported manufactured goods to the west coast of Africa
 2. There, traders exchanged these goods for captured Africans
 3. Africans were then transported across the Atlantic and sold in the West Indies
 4. Merchants bought sugar, coffee, and tobacco in the West Indies and sailed to Europe with these products
- ii. On another triangular route, merchants carried rum and other goods from the New England colonies to Africa
 1. There they exchanged their merchandise for Africans
 2. The traders transported the Africans to the West Indies and sold them for sugar and molasses
 3. They then sold these goods to rum producers in New England
- iii. The “_____” trade encompassed a network of trade routes crisscrossing the northern and southern colonies, the West Indies, England, Europe, and Africa.

c. The Middle Passage

- i. The voyage that brought captured Africans to the West Indies and later to North and South America was known as the _____
 1. It was considered the _____ of the transatlantic trade triangle
 - a. In African ports, European traders packed Africans into the dark holds of large ships
 - b. On board, Africans endured whippings and beatings from merchants, as well as diseases that swept through the vessel
 - i. Numerous Africans died from disease or physical abuse aboard the slave ships
- ii. Scholars estimate that roughly _____ of the Africans aboard each slave ship _____ during the brutal trip

What pivotal role did the West Indies play in the triangular trade?

5. Slavery in the Americas

a. Africans who survived their ocean voyage faced a difficult life in the Americas.

b. A Harsh Life

- i. Upon arriving in the Americas and being sold, slaves worked in mines or fields or as domestic servants
 1. Slaves lived a grueling existence with little food in small, dreary huts, worked long days and suffered beatings

2. In much of the Americas, slavery was a _____, as well as a _____

c. Resistance and Rebellion

i. To cope with the horrors of slavery, Africans developed a way of life based on their cultural heritage

1. They kept alive such things as their _____ as well as the _____ of their _____

ii. Slaves also found ways to resist

1. They made themselves less productive by _____ tools, _____ plants, and _____ slowly, while thousands also _____

iii. Some slaves pushed their resistance to open revolt

1. As early as 1522, about 20 slaves on Hispaniola attacked and killed several Spanish colonists

In what ways were enslaved Africans treated as property?

6. Consequences of the Slave Trade

a. The Atlantic slave trade had a profound impact on both Africa and the Americas

i. In Africa, numerous _____ of their fittest members to European traders and plantation owners

1. Countless African families were _____ and many of them were never _____

2. The slave trade devastated _____ in another way by introducing _____ into the continent

ii. African slaves contributed greatly to the economic and cultural development of the Americas

1. Their greatest contribution was their _____

2. Enslaved Africans brought their _____

3. They also brought their _____

a. Their art, music, religion, and food continue to influence American societies.

iii. The influx of so many Africans to the Americas also has left its mark on the very population itself

1. From the United States to Brazil, many of the nations of the Western Hemisphere today have substantial African-American populations

2. Many Latin American countries have sizable mixed-race populations

In what ways were slaves a source of profit for Europeans?