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**“Abolition of the slave trade: Did really eliminate the slavery and**

**injustice to people of Africa and African descent.”**

**Jasmeet Kaur**

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**Professor: Dr. Remi Alapo**

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**Introduction**

Slavery was a common practice that gave birth to the slave trade everywhere globally. Eventually, with the emerging slave trade, slaves became the focus of trade between Europe and Africa, and then among Africa, Europe, and New World across the Atlantic Ocean. African Slave trade that emerged as the trans-Atlantic slave trade was very profitable to major African Empires and Europeans, mostly to Britain. The history of abolishing the slave trade is vast as African slaves were transported to the New World and all parts of the world. It took a while when Europeans started viewing the Trans-Atlantic slave trade as less profitable. After which the events for the abolition of the slave trade started. After the emancipation and abolition of slave trade, the Africa and African descents were greatly impacted. Although the slave trade and slavery were abolished, do we really think that it doesn’t exist anymore in today’s world. Yes, it exists in many forms. It has been ingrained in the racism and never brought justice to the people of Africa and African descent.

In this paper, we will examine the how abolishment of slave trade impacted the Africa and people of African descent and how after the abolishment of slave trade racial and injustice existed. The paper will then provide recommendation on the issues.

**Africa before 1500 and Contributions of African Kingdoms and empire**

Africa before European contact was very diverse in culture, religion, and natural resources. Africa is a renowned name that originated as the kingdom and civilizations developed. Africa initially was referred to by different names, which is also still unknown to many people. According to the article, "Africa was initially named Alkebulan and was widely referred to as Alkebulan before the name Africa was birthed" (Akinyoade, 2020). In a similar article, the author mentions that Alkebu-lan means "mother of mankind" or "garden of Eden" (Akinyoade, 2020). Africa is the first human's birthplace, making it the oldest inhabitant territory on Earth. Ancient Africa had no kingdoms and nation-states; instead, it was an inhabitant of hunter groups such as the Khoi and San. Agriculture was practiced from the very beginning; cattle were used for agriculture. As mentioned in the article, lumen learning, "It is speculated that by 6,000 BCE, cattle were already domesticated in North Africa. In 4,000 BCE, climate change led to increasing desertification, which contributed to the migrations of farming communities to the more tropical climate of West Africa."

During the first Millennium, Iron craft started in Northern Africa that eventually spread across the Sahara into the Northern parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. Iron was used to make vessels, tools, and weapons. Iron tools and weapons were also one of the critical commodities in the trade; during 500 BCE, iron, other natural mineral resources such as copper used for metalworking, becoming famous in East and West Africa. The primary sources of copper were Egypt, North Africa, Nubia, Ethiopia, and West Africa. In 500 BCE, these discoveries of mineral resources and metalworking established trans-Saharan trade networks. At almost 3300 BCE, Old Egypt's Pharaonic civilization came to control, a rule that kept going until 343 BCE. Egyptian impact profoundly into advanced Libya, north to Crete and Canaan, and south to the Kingdoms of Aksum and Nubia.

Correspondingly, Europeans investigation of Africa started with Old Greeks and Romans. In 332 BCE, Alexandria in Egypt was founded by Great Alexander, which would become the Ptolemaic dynasty's affluential capital after he passed away. Roman Empire conquered North Africa's Mediterranean coastline, coordinated economically and culturally into the Roman frameworks. It caused Christianity to spread across the region. In the early seventh century, Arabian reached Africa and formed Arabian Islamic Caliphate that expanded into Egypt and then into North Africa. It became an assorted center for spiritualists, researchers, legal scholars, and philosophers. Likewise, Christianity, Islam, sooner spread to sub-Saharan Africa, primarily through the exchange courses and migration.

Additionally, Africa consists of different ethnic groups and communities and had more than one language. As mentioned in the article, "There are an estimated 900 to 1,500 different languages, but many distinct political units share a common or similar language (as among the Yoruba, Hausa, and Swahili-speaking peoples)" (Dickson et al., Oct 30, 2020). Africa is also known as the birthplace of writing. The ancient art and clay tablets consist of pictorial writings. As mentioned, in the Journal much Archaeological research in Egypt found pictorial writings dated 3200 to 3400 B.C. that reconfirms and proves that Africa is the birthplace of written language (Bekerie, 2007).

Furthermore, before European contact, Africa was known as a dark continent as it was not too much in contact with other countries. The treasury of Africa (natural resources, art, and mineral resources) was not explored deeply by Europeans. It can also be assumed that by "dark Continent," European meant dark color people/civilizations. Many great civilizations with different ethnic groups, religions, and customs before Europe came into contact. Some of them were the Nubian kingdom, Nri kingdom, Ghana, Gao, Kanem-Bornu Empire, Songhai, and Sahelian kingdoms.

Similarly, there were many great civilizations and kingdoms before Africa came in contact with Europeans. Such as Ancient Egypt is one of the great civilizations of ancient North Africa. It is located along the Nile River. Its success rose from its ability to adapt to the Nile River's conditions that flourished their agriculture trade. According to Bowman, surplus production from single annual crop and basin irrigation formed the chief basis of Egyptian wealth that made it the greatest of any other state in the ancient Middle East (Sept 10, 2020). Its significant contribution was in arts, monumental architecture, medicine, Music, Mathematics, language, and technological advancements. Its technological advancement included musical instruments (stringed, wind, and percussion), construction projects, and simple machines. During the old kingdom, the creation of pyramids, the Great Sphinx of Giza, temples, and the texts describing the treatment of over 200 different diseases by the physician Imhotep were the significant contributions (Ancient History Encyclopedia, Mark, Sept 2009). Some other contributions were building a ship, invention of makeup and toothpaste. The world first writing the text was discovered in Egypt.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Ghana was another influential Western Africa Sudan civilization between the 6th and 13th centuries. It was located to the south of the Atlantic Ocean, between the Sahara and the Senegal and Niger river headwaters. The Ghana Empire was called "The land of Gold" because it had an abundant amount of gold. Its vast trading network included goods such as gold, ivory, salt, and copper. In the past Black article, Tesfu mentions that Ghana rulers taxed the trading goods and expanded the trading range from Soninke to northward. They taxed both local and Trans-Saharan commerce, established a structured court system, and introduced standard military organizations (Jun 29, 2008). Significantly, another great empire, Mali, had contributed a lot to the other Arica regions and the world. The Mali empire comprises three pre-colonial Sudan called Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. It was one of the wealthiest Empire, first ruled by Sundiata Keita, and later overtook and rule by the wealthiest ruler Mansa Musa. The most significant wealth sources came from gold and salt mines. It influenced Africa and the world by bringing Islam religion, language, court systems, art and music, poetry, education, and flourishing the trans-Atlantic Sahara trade. He influenced education by building a university in Sankore in Timbuktu city. Timbuktu city became a central hub of trade, education, and entertainment. Also, the use of iron to make tools and weapons was a turning point in African civilization.

Correspondingly, Benin was another West African kingdom rich in pepper, palm oil, ivory and rose to great power by trading all these goods and slaves with foreign countries from the 15th century onwards. Benin's people were known as Edo- an agricultural tribe who settled down in Benin in the 900s. A mentioned in the article, the Edo people "established their kingdom to rid themselves of the oppressive rule of the quasi-mythical kings, or ogisos, during the 13th century. Under a new king, invited from among the Ife people to rule over them, they consolidated their state and established a ruling administration; the first centralized state associated with the name "Benin" then emerged" (Ryan, 2020). It became Benin's history that emerged from the succession of the several kingdoms and, basically ruled by Dahomey, became one of the great kingdoms of Medieval Africa.

**European contacts with Africans**

Moreover, earlier to the European contact, African rulers and shippers had built up exchange links with the Mediterranean world, western Asia, and the Indian Ocean region. Europeans contact with Africa began when they reached sub-Saharan Africa in 1442 when Portuguese ships reached the Senegal stream. Between 1413 and the 1440s, the Portuguese built up a few fortified settlements and the Moroccan cost, particularly at Arzila, Mogador.

In addition, Britain, France, Portugal, and the Netherlands merchants who started exchange along the Atlantic coast of Africa subsequently experienced a well-established trading population directed by savvy and experienced local rulers. European company rapidly created trade ties with these indigenous powers and erected fortified "factories," or warehouses, on coastal zones to store merchandise and protect their exchanging rights from remote infringement (Borlot, Oct 2003). Portuguese merchants were assimilated into African society and acted as middlemen between European and African traders. Goods such as cloth, ivory, iron, copper, and cowry shells were imported to Africa in large quantities; cowry shells were uses as currency by the local populations (Borlot, Oct 2003). However, dense population and health concerns kept most Europeans from settling in Africa; this was why they settled mostly near the coast. By the early 1600 century, the Dutch entered Africa competing with Portugal to overtake trade control with Africa. The Cape of Good hope (supply stop) was an obstacle for the Portuguese trade system, but the Dutch extensively involved in trade led to a fueling stop at the Cape. With the rapid increase in trade and profits, European and foreign countries considered Africa as a great source of opportunity for profit and commerce. This increase in trades and industrial revolution in the world changed the fate of Africa and African people. Although slavery existed in African societies before European contact, slaves were not considered inferior, not treated as mere commodities. Slaves captured in war were treated as family members, and their children or spouse were not sold. However, with the European Contact and the industrial revolution, demand for slaves increased. More evilness was being grounded in societies that led to a new form of slavery and African Diaspora. In 1657, the Dutch purchased slaves from South Africa for domestic chores and to work in plantations (Oxford reference.com).

**Types of slavery and the slave trade in Africa**

Slavery is the practice based on the ownership, dominance, and exploitation of one human being by another. Slavery is as old as ancient civilization and extended. The different forms of slavery that existed before the Europeans contact, such as slavery that existed across the Sahara Desert and along the Nile, paved a path to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Before the transatlantic slave trade, slavery was prevalent in many west and central Africa. West-central Africa was the largest supplier of enslaved African in the world. There were different forms of slavery originating in Africa, such as kinship arrangements, Pawn ship, and Chattel slavery. In Africa, before the transatlantic slave trade, slavery was not based on racial categories but diversification such as language, culture, and religion. It resulted in one ethnic community to perceive another ethnic group as outsiders. Such perspective became the reason for the emergence of violence such as kidnapping, banditry, and slaves' acquisition. In contrast, slaves that were traded across the Atlantic, such as in New World, slaves were black, and Owners were white, based on race.

Correspondingly, ancient African kingdoms and tribes used to capture the people during war and raid and enslaved them. Captives were used not only for labor needs but also to expand their kinship structure, influence and disseminate spiritual beliefs, and profit from the slave trade (LDHI, Battle). Western and Central Africa and Western European elite used the enslaved to work inland to increase production and control the profit. According to an article of LDHI, an enslaved person in the west and central Africa before the transatlantic trade had a chance to live freed life in a lifetime: legal rights were not determined by racial categories and enslaved not permanently separated from their families and homeland. (Battle). Pawn ship was another form of slavery, in which persons were held for security for debts. As mentioned in the text, in pawn ship form of slavery, slaves were redistributed in communities as a means of repaying the debt and were also closely tied to trade and marketing ((Heuman, G. and Burnard, T., 2010, p. 42). It was devastating that a person voluntarily became a slave as a means to repay the debt. Another form of chattel slavery was prevalent in the Nile River valley, much of the Sahel, and North Africa. In this form of slavery, slaves were treated as the property of the master (Boddy-Evans, 2019). Moreover, domestic and Military slavery also constituted inhumane treatment.

Despite the warfare and violence like reasons that accounted for slavery in Africa, the judicial system also acted as an essential medium in expanding slavery. Judicial punishment for crimes such as murder, theft was announced slavery in a more rigorous way, such as radically reducing slave identity (Heuman, G. and Burnard, T., 2010, p. 39). Slaveholder masters used slaves as labor, but women and young girls were treated as sexual objects. Sometimes men, too, were treated as sexual objects. Master controlled their sexual relationship with the partners, and children were also considered as property of their masters. Master's power sometimes extended to rule the death and life of the slaves. For Example, Among Igbo, slaves were sacrificed at funerals of essential individuals as a sign of wealth and offering to God (Heuman, G. and Burnard, T., 2010, p. 40).

Correspondingly, Islam religion also played a critical role in forming slavery. Slavery is not permitted in Islam, but wrongly interpretation of the Islamic law by the Islamic empires led to even harsher slavery. If a dhimmi were not able to pay the taxes, they could be made slaves, and outsiders who do not belong to Empire were also in danger of becoming slaves (Boddy-Evans, Jun 30, 2019). Slaves were used for domestic and commercial purposes. The most shocking fact was that Muslim enslavers could use his enslave women for sexual pleasure.

Besides the form of slavery, different slave trade also impacted the growth and stability of Africa. Slaves were also traded to Asia and the Mediterranean from Africa. As a result of wars, conflict, raid, punishment, and economic gain, captive slaves were transported to the Nile, across the Sahara to the Mediterranean, and transported over the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean to Asia. Egypt transported slaves from the Red Sea region and the African horn (punt) (Collins, p.326). Between 800 and 1600, significant numbers of slaves from African societies marched across Sahara to be transported over the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean to Asia for military service and labor. Like the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the estimated number of slaves transported to Asia was 12,580,000 from 800 to 1900 (Collins, p.327). The trans-Atlantic huge estimation number varied compared to Asian trade because of the timespan in which both types of the slave trade took place. Sub-Saharan African became the most critical slaves by the Arabs to transport across the Sahara and Red sea Ocean.

Correspondingly, these all forms of slavery and slave trade negatively impacted the African societies and culture. It led to the long-term impoverishment of West Africa. It led European to grab the opportunity from the internal conflicts of African societies that lead to colonization. It attracted more foreign colonies to settle in Africa and exploit natural resources.

**Origin and Growth of Transatlantic slave trade**

Transatlantic slave trade took place from the 16th to19th century across the Atlantic Ocean when the trade contacts between the old world (Europe, Asia, and Africa) and New World developed. As slavery was prevalent in Africa from the very beginning and slave trade existed among the different kingdoms and tribes, there were two dimensions to slavery and slave trade: external and internal. External referred to the Sahara slave trade, the Mediterranean slave trade, The red sea slave trade, the Arabic, and the Indian Ocean slave trade. These were external slave trade that existed long before the transatlantic slave trade and paved the path to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The Internal slave trade was one that existed in Africa. The warfare, market supply, raiding and kidnapping, tribute, and pawning were the five powerful means by which slaves were captured in Africa for both external demand and internal use (Perbi 2001 p. 4). The initial source for slaves for the transatlantic slave trade was Senegambia and the windward coast. Later in 1650, it moved to west-central Africa. West-central Africa was the largest supplier of enslaved African in the world. The transatlantic slave trade originated out of innate evilness and hatred among African countries to expand global capitalism. Besides the slave trade transportation to the New World, Brazil imported more slaves than the New World across the Atlantic trade.

Additionally, it all started when the Portuguese who were settled along the west coast of Africa shifted their focus from trading gold to trading enslaved as the increased demand for slave labor in the New World. African slaves were captured and held in the dungeon of the fort “Elmina Castle”, where they would live for weeks or months until ships arrived at transport to Europe or the Americas (khan academy, The Atlantic slave trade). Elmina Castle used to be the last sight of their home continent for Enslaved Africans. With the rapid increase in the demand of slave- labor for the plantation that required to grow labor-intensive crops such as tobacco, sugar, cotton, and rice, Spanish, Dutch, and English also got involved in transporting enslaved people across the Atlantic Ocean. It became the transatlantic slave trade, a segment of the global slave trade, estimated to transport 10million to 12million enslaved Africans through the Middle-passage-across Atlantic to fulfill labor demand in the New World (Lewis, April 6, 2020). The transatlantic slave was also referred to as ‘triangular trade” because it used three-sided triangular route voyages from Europe to Africa, Africa to the Americas, and from America to Europe. The first leg of triangular trade (Outward passage) traded goods from Britain, such as guns, metal, and cloth, and provided them slaves in exchange. The second/middle Passage (Africa to America) was used to transport the slaves from Africa to the West Indies and America.

Furthermore, the third leg (home passage) involved returning the voyage to Europe that traded goods such as cotton, sugar, and coffee to exchange slaves. The Middle passage was one of the horrific experiences for enslaved Africans as the journey through this voyage was inhumane and unjust. African slaves during the voyage were kept naked, squeezed, sexes were separated, and the men were chained for long periods. About 12 percent of African slaved who were transferred through this type of voyage did not survive (Mintz, 2020). Another fact through the article, Visualizing the Middle passage provides us an insight of captives’ condition in the voyages that “the area for the slaves’ increases from 1,495 square feet to 1,734 square feet, allotting each captive an average of 8 feet, 5 inches, square (1,734 feet square/206 captives).35 (Radburn and Eltis, 2019). When the slave reached the New World, forms of slavery varied according to regions and colonies. Slaves were primarily treated as commodities.

**Impacts of Transatlantic slave trade on Africa**

        Correspondingly, the transatlantic slave started with the European and other foreign countries’ focus being shifted from trading goods to trading slaves across the Atlantic to earn more profit. It was first Portuguese during the 15th century that engaged in buying slaves from African elites and making them captives in the fort to ship them across the Atlantic to many other parts of the world. Nearly about 10 million to 12 million slaves have been traded during the trans-Atlantic slave trade era.

As a result of European competitions, the tans-Atlantic slave trade flourished. The main methods of capturing slaves were wars, raids, and kidnapping that took place between the same communities in Africa; individuals were captured to make slaves even by their friends, relatives, and acquaintances. It created an atmosphere of mistrust among individuals due to uncertainty and insecurity within communities, and hostile relation relations between villages weakened community’s cohesion and ethnic identity. These subsequent social, institutional, and economic outcomes affected the contemporary civil conflict (Zhang & Kibriya, 2016, p. 4). Before 1400, African kingdoms were very established and growing in terms of economic development. However, internal conflict impacted the long-term development of Africa until now. According to Boddy-Evans, the internal conflict led to the disintegration of the kingdoms and replacements by warlords that further became hard to establish stable states impacting their economic growth despite so many resistance and revolt against slavery (2020). Men were captured and enslaved more significantly because of their muscular physique and capability to work longer in the plantations. It disproportionately affected the population of many African societies and changed the marital and family structure. Zhang and Kibriya (2016) also cited in their journal “that males were disproportionately enslaved, which led to prolonged abnormal sex ratios and finally high Polygyny rates.”

Furthermore, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade negatively impacted Africa, contrary to the New World that bolstered its economy based on the Slave-labor. The transatlantic slave trades affected the family and societal structure of African societies. Families got separated; women were raped and molested. Transatlantic slave trade dehumanized slaves and treated like animals, which affected their mental, physical, and emotional well-being. It led to an increase in warfare, destroyed the African culture, and led to more foreign colonies. Depopulation in Africa negatively impacted the economy and Agriculture that further led to famine. It led to the long-term impoverishment of Africa. These were few but most adverse impacts of the transatlantic slave trade.

**Abolition of the slave trade**

Moreover, the British played a critical role in expanding slavery from Africa to India, North America, China, and other Asian countries. With the industrial revolution, such as cotton textile factories, sugar, and cotton plantations, slave colonies of the Caribbean were central. At the same time, the systematic slavery abolishment movement was initiated by many British abolitionists. The abolitionist of slavery includes reasons such as political, economic, resistance, and religion.

Correspondingly, in economic terms, since profit were the main reasons for the slave trade in Britain, but with the development of larger plantation economies in Cuba and Brazil, the British no longer could compete with them. As mentioned in the article by Henry (2020), “Merchants began to demand an end to the monopolies on the British market held by the Caribbean colonies and pushed instead for free trade”. It shows that the slave trade and keeping slaves ceased to be profitable. Because sugar that was mostly traded commodities become available at a lower cost without the use of slavery from other colonies and countries.

In addition, Politically, the anti-abolitionary movement started in Britain in the 17th century. The nationalism played a critical role in Britain and the American abolishment of slavery. Various petitions were organized, which spread anti-slavery views to upper Canada, further influencing the 1793 act to limit slavery, which was the first such legislation in the British (Henry, July 25, 2020). Britain was the center for colonial decision-making and west indies living in Britain, which led to the West indies lobby. The association consists of members such as British and colonial merchants responsible for forming the legislation. It played a significant role in resisting the abolition of the slave trade and slave. According to Kaye (2012), slavery sustained in British and American empires through arguments to resist slavery abolishment by the West India Lobby and southern planters to represent the national interest. West India lobby members were plantation owners who hold power to influence the policies for slave-trade abolishment. It caused abolitionists to engage in the politics of nationalism and shifted to proslavery terrain. Again, the proslavery lobby thought that the abolishment of slavery could result in the insurrection. So, they began to favor nationalism over the abolition of the slave trade and slavery.

Also, the relation Between Britain and its colonies in North America conflicted. The sugar act of 1764 adversely impacted the colonies. It increased the enforcement of smuggling, significantly disrupting the economy of American colonies. Further increasing the cost of import goods, it resulted reduce in the export to non-British markets. It also led America to ban the import of the slave trade in 1807 on March 2.

Next, the continuous war between Britain and America caused a wave of nationalism that brought the American Revolution. In reaction to all this event, Kaye mentions in his article that, The Circumlocution of Stephen’s (brother in law of Wilberforce), an attack on the slave trade via defense of British rights as a belligerent, underscores another aspect of the nationalist dynamic” (2012, p. 143). In response to this, abolitionists cutback their interest in abolishing the slave trade and supported nationalism. The abolitionist petition campaign got more support despite the other causes (nationalism) and spread exponentially. As stated in the article, “from more than 500 petitions with some 400,000 signatures in the campaign against the slave trade in 1792 to over 5000 petitions with 1.5 million signatures to abolish slavery in the west indies in 1833, including 187,000 signatures by women on the so-called “ladies coil”, and 500,000 women’s signatures on a petition urging the abolition of the apprenticeship” ( Kaye, 2012, p. 143). Therefore, Britain’s war with its colonies in America and the spread of nationalism in Britain and America shaped the anti-slavery trade.

Furthermore, religion also played a critical role in the abolition of the slave trade. Early opponents of slavery came from the conformist congregations such as Quakers, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Quakers were nine of its 12 original members of the society for the abolition of the slave trade (1787). The wave of abolition of slavery rose among Christian from the evangelical revival of the 18th century. As mentioned in the article by Coffey, Society for the abolition of the slave trade that recruited members such as Yorkshire MP, Wilberforce, leads the campaign in the House of Commons, were fired with godly zeal for a righteous cause and bolstered by enormous support from across the British isles by promoting their cause through publications: sermons, pamphlets, treatises, poems, articles, reports, and petitions. (Jun 2006, p. 1). The ideas set forth by the Christian Missourians during the religious movement is also known as the second great awakening. It motivated many abolitionists to protest slavery. As mentioned in the article of History.com, “the Protestant revival encouraged the concept of adopting renewed morals, which centered around the idea that all men are created equal in the eyes of God” (History.com editors, 2019). In America also, it started from New York and Massachusetts and spread to Northern states. Similarly, Quakers and other Christian Missouri used bible text that all men are equal in the eye of God in American colonies to strengthen the anti-slavery movement. Some of the famous Abolitionist were William Llyod Garrison, Frederick Douglas, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Correspondingly resistance was also constituted towards the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Revolt of Saint Domingue was crucial in igniting the anti-slavery movement. French revolution gave birth to an idea of the right to liberty and equality. Some revolts even got successful, for example, Toussaint Louverture, who made the Haitian revolt most successful. And other revolts such as Barbados (1816), Demerara (1822), and Jamaica (1831-132). These revolts caused to decrease in the profitability of keeping slaves and indulging in the slave trade. It indicated that now no more slaved people will tolerate enslavement and ill-treatment. The British government found it too expensive to keep up with the slave trade in the West indies as it caused more loss and became dangerous. Jamaican plantation owner also feared keeping slaves and faced their rage. They favored the abolition of slavery.

Finally, after passing the 1807 act, the British banned the slave trade. Through his political and Philanthropic effort, the principal advocate William Wilberforce successfully persuaded the British parliament to abolish the slave trade (Stubbs, 2020). However, slavery abolishment occurred at different times. However, abolitionists’ tactics to put the slave trade to an end by all the countries can be understood as their plan to abolish slavery eventually. Even though the slave trade was abolished, but the smuggling of the slave trade continued. In Britain before the 1807 act, the Foreign slave act 1806 was enacted to prohibit the supply of slaves to conquered territories and foreign colonies. However, the robust and rigorous law came with 1807, and later in 1811, the slave trade engagement was made felony (Stubbs, 2020). In America also almost the same reasons constituted the abolishment of the slave trade. As mentioned in the article, “The abolitionist movement of colonial and revolutionary British North America invoked religious, political, and humanitarian rhetoric in their plight to end the transatlantic slave trade, similar to simultaneous developments in Great Britain” (Seeyle, 2020). Following Britain’s footprints, with the help of many congress members and the abolitionist leader slave trade was formally abolished from America in Jan 1808.

**Impacts of Abolition of slave trade**

After the 1808 act in America, the abolition of the slave trade mainly drastically impacted the African and African descent people. However, it abolished the slave trade but not slavery. As mentioned in the article, “this act did not presage the end of slavery. Rather, it spurred the growth of the domestic trade of enslaved peoples in the United States, especially a source of labor for the new cotton lands in the Southern interior” (Lynch, Aug 17, 2020). The new path was adopted to supply more slaves such as “slave breeding”. In this process, women slaves were raped at a very young age and forced to give birth to keep up with the demand of slaves in the New World.

Furthermore, Slaves were also brought from West Africa and the West Indies by way of smuggling. The American colonies like South Carolina, Louisiana, and Georgia were still involved in many slave imports. Slaves were still living a miserable life, and no justice was brought to their existence. With the formation of slave codes, black codes, slaves started resisting slavery, and many revolts were formed due to the cruel practice of slavery. Some of the famous revolts by African American were: the revolt of 1739 South Carolina, led by Cato in Stono that took the lives of 30 whites, 1741 New York city revolt that caused massive property damage, 1822 Denmark Vesey (Charleston, South Carolina) revolt and the most frightening slave revolt was one that led by Nat Turner in Virginia in 1831 that took lives of 60 whites ( Lynch, Aug17, 2020). Mothers took some individual resistance, killed their newborn babies to save them from slavery, some poisoned slave owners, and even destroyed plantation and runaway machinery.

 During the antebellum, the free black population originated with former indentured servants and their descendants, and slave owners freed some. All the revolts led to the anti-slavery movement started by the freed African Americans (Free Blacks), Who were among the first abolitionists of slavery. As mentioned in the article, In 1830, Some African American started organizing meetings in state and regular convention to come up best strategies against slavery: such as David Walker and Henry Highland Garnet called on the slaves to carry on the revolt against their masters and others such as Russwurm and Paul Cuffe, proposed that a significant black country be established in Africa ( Lynch, Aug 17, 2020). This proposal was accepted by the American Colonization society (mostly white members). In response to this, Liberia was found in West Africa in 1822. As mentioned in the article, “these leaders’ ideas foreshadowed the development of Pan-African nationalism under the leadership of AME Bishop Henry M. Turner, a half-century later” (Lynch, Aug 17, 2020).

Correspondingly, back to the home movement to Liberia and Leoneans drastically Transformed the African societies. It negatively impacted African societies, mostly causing West Africa to long-term impoverishment. It divided and changed the culture, traditional family structure, and living style of African societies. Religious underpinnings movements led to political and economic warfare among different African societies. In 1822 when Liberia was chosen as the colony for Africans’ resettlement by the American colonization society (ACS), it dramatically transformed the Liberia’s fate. Until 1862 the United States refused to acknowledge the independence of Liberia. Liberia’s independence was misleading because indigenous African society had little political and economic power in the Republic. The power was concentrated in the hands of African American settlers and their descendants. It divided the society’s culture as African and their identity to Pan-African/African American. The re-settled former slaves settled as entirely different in the living style, language, and culture compared to the indigenous Liberians and S. Leoneans. From the day the first African re-settlers practiced American culture, spoke English, followed Christianity, and ate American food, it was like the Americans being settled in Africa. It transformed the dress-up style and learning style of re-settlers compared to the indigenous Liberian and S. Leoneans. As mentioned in the article, “From the day they arrived, they set about establishing an American rather than African culture. They spoke English, dressed like Americans, built Southern plantation-style homes, ate American foods, practiced Christianity, and lived in monogamous relationships”. (Longley, Oct 22, 2020).

**Injustice and Racism after the abolition of the slave trade**

        Even after abolishing the slave trade, slavery existed, and it became a barrier in providing equality and justice to African Americans. The back to Africa movement was also evidence that indicated that white couldn’t bear to see Black progressing and taking their place in society. As mentioned in the article, During the Revolutionary War, the Founding Fathers espoused the ideals of equality and the protection of individual rights. However, the institution of slavery in the new nation appeared to go against these values” (Lee, 2020). Free Black was technically free in America. People of African descent have to suffer injustice and Racism in many ways. According to the article, in the South, slaves posed a threat to plantation Owner and Whites. Many restrictions were imposed in the form of law and customs. In the North, free blacks were discriminated against for voting rights, property ownership, freedom of movement, and access to education (Lynch, Aug17, 2020). Eventually, the anti-slavery movement, resistance, and revolt by slaves, discrimination, and restriction ignited the spark to abolish slavery. Even after abolishing slavery by president Lincoln in 1865, Emancipation Proclamation that issued the three ratified amendments couldn’t provide justice and equality to people of Africa and African descendants. The Racism was justified through the concepts of “Scientific racism”. The spike of Racism and discrimination in the 19th century provoked debate over slavery and tore the nation apart in the bloody civil war. Racism and injustice after abolishing the slave trade existed among African and African descendants in many forms. Some examples are lynching, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination in education and employment. These events are evidence of Racism and injustice to Black.

 Moreover, in the present day, discrimination and racial injustice are still prevalent. Some examples are the recent George Floyd incident, African Americans over presentation as a minority, and criminal justice systems. As mentioned in the article, Zuriff (2002), based on the research “The three new forms of racism have identified: “modern racism ,” “aversive racism ,” and “implicit stereotypes,” all depart from traditional understandings of Racism, finding it not in overt actions or expressions but in political opinion, social evaluations, word associations, and minute gestures” (p.116).

**Recommendations**

Racism, discrimination, and injustice are ingrained in the thoughts of the American community. It has been tried to be justified in many ways but providing justice to the suffering of African Diaspora is only possible by providing them equality in all aspects such as human rights, cultural, civil, and political rights. Providing them equal opportunity in education and workplaces can uplift their socio-economic background and help eliminate the inferiority label for their race. Educational programs and awareness campaigns should be organized and conducted mostly in areas where Racism and discrimination are prevalent. As mentioned in the United nations article, “Organize national conferences and other events aimed at triggering an open debate and raising awareness on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including government, civil society representatives and individuals or groups of individuals who are victims”. Conducting more research and surveys will help provide the causes of discrimination and determine the measures that can eliminate discrimination and injustice from society. Rewriting the African history will prove insight of authentic African history superiority. It can be recorded or documented in many ways such as reanalyzing the monasteries, sculpture, portraits, writing boards in Museums and much more. As mentioned in the article, “Monasteries throughout Christian Ethiopia produced illuminated manuscripts of great refinement and beauty written in Ge’ez, the indigenous written language of the royal court. Literate individuals also produced autobiographical accounts and other writings of a secular nature” (Bortolot, 2003)

Furthermore, instead of building malls and living style infrastructure, it will be appropriate to provide due recognition to all the Africans and African Americans who sacrificed their lives for equality. Establishing a statue or monument on a human burial ground or human remains place in Africa. It will pay due respect to their efforts during slavery and encourage Black and African American descendent to educate more in the literature and history that can help them document their history. Also, with the help of organizations and articles such as Durban Review conference, IHRC, and CCLP the fight against racism, social injustice, criminal injustice, and discrimination can be carried out through strong narratives and activities. While fighting against all such injustices and discriminations these organizations addresses in combating the poverty, strengthening the education and protecting the human rights.

Similarly, becoming an active member of the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) will provide us a platform where the racial injustices and discrimination issues can be presented, and measures can be formulated based on empirical evidence and investigations. People can also become aware of Human Rights and spread awareness, as most people lack the knowledge for human rights and do not exercise them. It is also the reason for the increased racial injustices in the community. Let say, as a New Yorker, how much we are aware of “Human Rights,” we are indeed not acquainted with all our rights. For example, As mentioned in the Laws of NYC Human Rights, “The New York City Human Rights Law protects against discriminatory lending practices, retaliation, discriminatory harassment, and biased-based profiling by law enforcement.”

Also, as per the proposal mentioned in the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the Afro-Americans Act mentions that apology should be provided, addressing different issues of the institution slavery that had negatively impacted the African American well beings in all aspects. It proposes the various ways of how and in what form an apology can be accepted. Apology not in written statements but should be in the form of systematic, practical, and unbiased measures and their applications. Such an apology can justify the 400 years of African American contributions to the United States and be an essential step in correcting the past mistakes, even though it will not reverse history. For example, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the African American Act proposes the establishments and duties that should be taken into accounts, such as in 3rd paragraph “The Federal and State laws that discriminated against formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the present. Another in the 4th paragraph “The other forms of discrimination in public and private sectors against freed African slaves and their descendants who were deemed United States citizens from 1868 to the present, including redlining, educational funding discrepancies, and predatory financial practices” (H.R. 40-116th congress). Thus, IHRC and different H.R. Reparation proposal can act as a catalyst to eradicate racial issues from roots.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, Africa and African people do not belong to minority populations and must not be labeled as inferior compared to other races and ethnicity. The history of Africa before 1500, the contribution and accomplishments of great kingdom and civilization provides us a lens to examine that if the world has been able to move towards development, that is only due to African and its descendants. The African diaspora is how vital the African population was in creating New World and other Foreign countries. European contact history enlightens us with Europeans’ motive to colonize Africa and expand the slavery institution. Although slavery existed early in Africa before the Europeans, it was not harsh and inhumane. The African people have not separated from families, and their offspring were not slaves. However, with the origin of the transatlantic slave trade, African dignity was eroded and overlooked. It negatively impacted Africa’s natural resources and became detrimental to its economic, social, political, and cultural growth. However, as the inhumane treatment of slavery institution was intolerable, it abolished the slave trade and slavery through resistance, revolt, and anti-slavery movements. Many renowned abolitionists like Fredrick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, and David Walker became part of the anti-slavery movement.

Finally, with the American Revolution, civil war, and reconstruction era, slavery institutions were eliminated, and African descendants were sent back to their native land. All events conclude that although slavery was abolished long before, it still exists in many forms in the community; more strict legislation and policies must be formed to eliminate the custom of slavery ingrained in communities. The apology in form of act and laws and Human right commission can play critical role in providing justices to African race and racial injustices in community.

**Voice thread for presentations:**

**<https://voicethread.com/share/16409344/>**

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African societies and the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade:

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Boddy-Evans, Alistair. (2020, August 26). A Short History of the African Slave Trade. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/african-slavery-101-44535>

The article, by Alistair Boddy-Evans, summarizes the short history of enslavement in Africa, provides the timelines about trading operations, the role of religion in enslavement, the origin of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and its impact on African slaves. The process helps the researcher evaluate what gave rise to the slave trade and how the transatlantic slave trade flourished through different routes. This article content is indispensable because of its proper context from history and other researches. It can be a useful source to cite the origin of the slave trade and types of different slave trades rather than the transatlantic slave trade and its impact. It provides pieces of evidence to support the claim.

Zhang, Y., & Kibriya, S. (2016). The Impact of Slave Trade on Current Civil Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa. Retrieved from on Nov 7: <https://ideas.repec.org/p/ags/aaea16/236202.html>

This article includes a discussion of the slave trade impacts on regional economic development. It discusses the community cohesion, degree of trust of individual and ethnic identity that had led to civil conflict in Africa. It helps evaluate what led to internal conflict in Africa and how the internal conflict led to the spread of the slave trade and caused foreigners to take advantage of it. It is helpful to research to support the claim that internal conflict and evilness within Africa were among the principal reasons for the transatlantic slave trade.

Henry, N. L. (2020, July 25). *Slavery Abolition Act | History Impact*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved from: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Slavery-Abolition-Act> on Oct31,2020.

This article discusses the several factors that led to the act’s passage and about international slave trade commerce. It discusses sugar plantation and its competition with another more extensive plantation. It examines how different acts resisted the abolishment of the slave trade and later led to abolishing slavery. It helps to examine how slave demand declined and the impact of the Act on African slaves. As this article is enriched with much important information, it is a helpful source support claims about the plantation in the New World, and Cuba and Brazil increased the slave trade and resisted the anti-slavery.

Kaye, A. (2012). Nationalism and Abolitionist Politics in Great Britain and the United States. *Review (Fernand Braudel Center),* *35*(2), 135-167. Retrieved October 31, 2020, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43551698>.

This article provides information about nationalism that played an essential role in resisting and abolishing slavery. This article helps in evaluating how nationalism emerged and how it was used to resist the anti-slavery campaign. It is a valuable source that explains how politics used nationalism to resist abolishing the slave trade. However, again it was only nationalism that became one reason for abolishing the slave trade.

Coffey, J. (2006). The abolition of the slave trade: Christian conscience and political action. Cambridge papers, 15-2 (ISSN 1361-7710), 1-6. Retrieved from on Nov 6 <https://www.jubilee-centre.org/cambridge-papers/the-abolition-of-the-slave-trade-christian-conscience-and-political-action-by-john-coffey>

This article summarizes information about the role of religion in the abolishment of slavery. It evaluates how Christianity Missionaries use bible text to justify the cruelty of the slave trade that was eroding the humanities. It helped reflect on religion as one reason for abolishing the slave trade and slavery.

Stubbs, Tristan. (2020). Abolition of the Slave Trade, Great Britain. *The American Mosaic: The African American Experience*. Retrieved November 6, 2020, from <https://africanamerican2-abc-clio-com.york.ezproxy.cuny.edu/Search/Display/1406466>

This article provides information about the factors that led to abolition in Great Britain. It examined the Napoleonic wars, seasoning of slavery to support the author’s claim. It evaluates how Britain inspired other colonies to abolish the slave trade. It is a valuable source to reflect on how the slave trade was abolished in Great Britain.

Seelye, James E., Jr. (2020). Abolition of the Slave Trade, United States. *The American Mosaic: The African American Experience*. Retrieved November 6, 2020, from:<https://africanamerican2-abc-clio-com.york.ezproxy.cuny.edu/Search/Display/1406468>

This article provides information about abolishing the slave trade in the United States and the emancipation movement. It also provides some critical abolitionists that helped in the abolition of the slave trade. This article examines how different abolitionists carried a campaign in the forms of poems, sermons, and pamphlets. It examines the factor that paved the way to abolish the slave trade and slavery. It provided evidence that can help reflect the abolition of the slave trade in the United States.