**Final Exam Paper**

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HIST 374: African and the Atlantic Slave Trade

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December 15, 2020

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Africa is the world’s second-largest continent. Africa holds many histories from many years ago. Those histories still affect today’s society. During the past, before 1500 Africa had well-established empires. Many empires did many trading with many other nations outside of Africa. In Africa, the Niger River was very important to Africans because it provided food, water, and transportation. One of the empires that were well established and had a good economy was the great zimbabwe. Great Zimbabwe had a global trading network. They were well-established people who had cattle and build circular buildings. Africa was overlooked by the Europeans before the 1500s. Africans were looked upon as slaves by the Europeans. Before they were seen as slaves they saw that Africans were wealthy and well built. The Europeans called Africa the “Dark Continent.” The narrow-minded perception of the Europeans has, lead them to enslave them and start a slave trade. The Europeans came to the African soil for 3 centuries and captured them and put them in ships to sail them out. As that happened slavery eventually stopped. Great Zimbabwe has left an impact on Africa. There was a country named after Great Zimbabwe which is called Zimbabwe. There are also cultural people that live there and follow the beliefs from the past and live by those rules. It is a country in southern Africa. This country still holds many values from the past however many things have changed. As of today, the country is known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife. The main religion in Zimbabwe is Christianity with traditional beliefs in rural areas and there are different ethnic groups. Zimbabwe is a country that is going through an economic crisis and healthcare crisis as of today. It is a beautiful country and a place to know from Africa.

To know about Ancient Civilizations in Africa is very important to learn about in today’s history. The continent of Africa was very rich with gold and natural resources. Africa contains an enormous wealth of mineral resources. Including the world’s largest reserves of fossil fuels, metallic ores, gem, and precious metals. The richness of this continent comes from its great diversity of biological resources that includes the rainforest of central Africa and the population of wildlife of the east and the south portion of the continent. The Niger River was very important to Africans because it provided food, water, and transportation. Three kingdoms settled near the niger river were Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. They settled there because of the trade that they could do with other kingdoms like Ghana traded gold, ivory, and salt in exchange for manufactured goods from North Africa, the middle east, and Europe. After many years of African Civilizations, the Europeans at first didn’t show any interest in colonizing Africa. Then they started showing interest in colonizing Africa because of its trades and how rich the continent was. Before the Europeans colonized Africa, Islam has spread its way through North Africa and West Africa. It was influenced by the Muslim Arabs in the 7th century CE, Islam spread throughout West Africa through merchants, traders, scholars, and missionaries, that is largely through peaceful means whereby African rulers either tolerated the religion or converted to it themselves.

Great Zimbabwe was once a medieval African city known for its large stone structure. This kingdom was part of a large wealthy global trading network that controlled the majority of East African. Great Zimbabwe began around 1100 C.E and in the 15th century, it was abandoned. The people that lived there were the Shona people and they migrated themselves elsewhere and left the kingdom. As it states in National Geographic, that the reason for the people to migrate was unknown, but it was most likely of overpopulation. As of today, Great Zimbabwe is located in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. This empire was known for its thriving trades with China, India, and other empires. The language that was spoken in Great Zimbabwe was Shona and Ndebele. However, Shona was spread geographically in the northern and central parts of the county. The people of Great Zimbabwe managed to have their own cattle and that was where their food came from. In the 1800s, European travelers and English colonizers stopped by Great Zimbabwe’s and took their cunning workmanship because of the architectural powers that those men had. This happened because Great Zimbabwe is well known for its stone house. The word Zimbabwe means “stone houses” in Shona. The people of Zimbabwe worshiped Mwari, it is the supreme god in the Shona religion. The god had the power of rainmaking, agricultural fertility and illness, and everything. This communication with god was through a chosen person.

Before the Europeans invaded Africa, the Africans and the Europeans had a good relationship with one another by importing and exporting goods with each other. The Europeans saw that the people of Africa had many good trades with other countries and their trade route was the main purpose of the Europeans invading them. The Europeans also saw Africa as a place to get resources for their own beneficial purposes. The Europeans described the Africans as healthy and well built; they were surprised by how well-armed and organized the Africans were. The Europeans compared the Africans in south Sahara to the Africans by the river on how different they were as it looked. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to invade Africa. The Portuguese were the first to take the Niominka people to Africa. The Niominka warriors were protecting the borders of their island with bows and poisoned tipped arrows and they were in a boat in the Gambia river borders. That’s where the Portuguese found the Niominka warrior. The Portuguese somehow managed to overtake the Niominkas and captured them and took them to Portugal. This was the first direct time the Portuguese did this. By the 18th century, about 70,000 slaves were shipped to Europe every year. The Europeans refused to acknowledge the accomplishment that African civilization had made and created the myth of “Darkest Africa” and “white man’s grave”. For over 300 years people of Africa were transported in the slave trade to Europe. What Europeans did to the Africans wasn’t right, people of Africa didn’t deserve to be mistreated like this by the Europeans.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is the most disastrous event that happened to African history. The Transatlantic slave trade was a European slave trade that involved capturing Africans and transporting them to America and Europe. This slave trade is also called the triangular slave trade because of its triangular trade route and its middle passage that existed from the 16th to 19th centuries.

The Transatlantic slave trade started with the Portuguese. Then other European countries started doing the same thing. The Portuguese were first to kidnap people west coast of Africa and ship them back to Europe. This was the beginning of the disaster that Africans had to face. From the 16th century to the 19th country overall, those years it took over 12 million African men, women, and even children to America and Europe to enslave those people. About 11 million people survived in the middle passage. If anyone got sick or anything they would through over their body into the water.

These people were taken from their lives and freedom and forced to work elsewhere. This slave trade captured people from the west and central Africa from Angola. These Africans were forced into the Middle Passage under rough conditions. After the slaves arrived in America they were sold in public auctions or trading venues to people like plantation owners, farmers, merchants, and other slave traders. Then the slave traders would ship the slaves to the Caribbean islands and South America. The Transatlantic Slave Trade is also known as the “triangular trade” because from Africa to America slaves were traded, then America to Europe sugar, cotton, tobacco was traded.

The slave trade had left many devastating effects on Africa. The slave trade had left Africa an atmosphere of lawlessness and violence. The trade has left Africa fear of captivity and depopulation. West Africa was left impossible for agricultural development and economic improvement. The majority of people that were taken were women in their childbearing years and young men who would start families. The Europeans left behind the elderly and disabled people who couldn’t help with their economic health of societies.

As the slave trade grew by the Portuguese. Portuguese began to enter Africa even more and forcibly capture the Africans. As well as the other Europeans who were involved in the slave trade they had their captivities from the coast of Africa and purchased the captivities from Africans who have transported them from the interior. The Africans from the interior marched to the coast a journey that was long as 300 miles. Those Africans were chained together by their ankle and were tied together by ropes around their necks being treated like dogs and less of a human. They were barely fed and barely had water to drink. The Europeans didn’t care about saving their lives. An estimate of 10 to 15 percent of the captives died on their way to the coast and after the coast came to the Middle Passage. This was a horrifying event in African history.

Transatlantic Slave Trade was the main slave trade that people focus on. People usually focus on this type of slave trade because it was the largest slave trade that took place in history. People are focused on this slave trade because of the number of people who were shipped from Africa to America. For this slave trade, many African have lost their loved ones and they were forcefully taken from their homeland to work for people who they didn’t know. These Africans felt betrayed and scared when they arrived in America. They were beaten and hung by the trees by the Americans when they didn’t follow the rules. This was the most terrifying part of African history.

The people in Africa from the past have gone through a lot as a whole continent. People were captured and shipped and kill. Africa had many diverse ethnic groups of people and had many resources. Even though Africa had many natural resources it is still considered the poorest continent in the world. The people in Africa lack in shelter, limited access to clean water, government corruption, and much more. Africa hasn’t been always poor. Africa had great empires before the Europeans arrived to colonize. That’s when the Europeans were interested in them and wanted to invade Africa.

African history is very important because it is the oldest continent and many people don’t know much about African history. Before the Europeans invaded Africa there was a civilization called Great Zimbabwe. This civilization was known for its stone houses. The word Zimbabwe means “stones houses” in Bantu which was the language they spoke during that time named by the Shona people. Great Zimbabwe began around 1100 C.E and ended in the 15th century, it was abandoned we know. The people that lived there were the Shona people and they migrated themselves elsewhere and left the kingdom. Great Zimbabwe was part of a wealthy global trading network. They have traded with China, West Africa, East Africa, India, and the Middle East. This civilization was rich and had done many trading with other nations. After this civilization was abundant by its own people the archaeologist found Persian bowls and other inventions from China. This civilization proves that Africa wasn’t always a poor continent and that it was once rich and well established.

Great Zimbabwe had circular stone houses and walls. Some of those stone houses still stand as of today. When the Europeans arrived in the land of Great Zimbabwe the Europeans believed that the devil builds this place because they saw Africa as a Dark Continent and believed that it was forbidden to have such architecture in such a place. During the European colonization of Africa, the racist Europeans didn’t want to believe that it was the Africans that built this kingdom. The British wanted to believe that it was built by the Ancient Greeks. Then in the early 20th century, the archaeologists found evidence that it was actually built by Africans that has lived there centuries ago. Today Great Zimbabwe is a World Heritage Site and it is considered a national symbol for the modern-day country of Zimbabwe. As of today, Great Zimbabwe is located in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. The name “Zimbabwe” was given by the people of Shona that is still used today. The flag of Zimbabwe is a bird sitting on a pedestal and this represents the type of artifact that was found at Great Zimbabwe.

The people of Great Zimbabwe worshipped Mwari. The supreme god in the Shona religion. The god had the power of rainmaking, agricultural fertility, illness, and everything. The city had grown strong by 1200 B.E because of its religion and its trading center. Some people believed that religion was the main reason for its power and the tall towers that were built were built for worship. From being a global trading network, archaeologists found many interesting things that were left behind by the Shona people. There was a 14th-century C.E Arab coin, 13th-century C.E Persian pottery, and porcelain and glass beads from China’s Ming Dynasty. The discoveries of these artifacts prove that this kingdom had a strong global trading network and that it was a wealthy kingdom for having many artifacts around the world.

Zimbabwe today is a landlocked country in southern Africa and it is known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife. The country shares a 125-mile border on the south with the Republic of South Africa and on the northeast and east by Mozambique. Zimbabwe lies entirely over 1,000 ft. The broad ridge is running 400 miles from southwest to northeast across the entire country from Plumtree through Gweru and Marondera to the Inyanga Mountains, which separate Zimbabwe from Mozambique. The highest point in Zimbabwe is Mount Inyangani in the eastern highlands the ridge is known as Highveld and this compromise about 25% of the country. On the northside, there is Zambezi River and on the southside is the Limpopo River which lies a wider plateau of Middleveld which makes up roughly about 40% of Zimbabwe. Mostly in the south, there are Sabi, Lundi, and Nuanetsi rivers drain from the plateau into the Limpopo that’s where the Lowveld lies, which approximates about 23 percent of the country’s total area.

The religion in Zimbabwe is Christianity with traditional beliefs in rural areas. The minorities are Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish. The culture today in Zimbabwe is influenced by western culture and so is education. In some rural areas, traditional values and crafts continue. The native Zimbabwean culture heavily believes in the spirit world. They have festivals making death anniversaries they also reverence their ancestors and offer prayers that help from the spirit world. When Zimbabwe had the fight for its Independence all of Zimbabwe’s cultural groups called upon their own protector spirits to aid in the war.

In Zimbabwe they follow the European culture and the majority of the times like returning invitations are appreciated, giving a token of appreciation is optional. It is offensive to make insulting comments about President Mugabe. A friendly wave may be interpreted as a provocative political gesture. People for the majority of the time wear casually suitable for daytime and men are only expected to wear suits and ties for business meetings. In restaurants and hotel bars males are required to wear a jacket and a tie. There is a law against indecency which equals homosexual activity being illegal.

Zimbabwe has a diverse culture and different ethnic groups so therefore this makes the nation rich in languages. There are about 16 official languages and they are Chewa, chibarwe, English, Kalanga, koi-san, nambya, Venda, and Xhosa. However, the languages that are spoken more often than the others are English, Shona, and Ndebele. As a former British colony, the English language is generally used for official business and serves as a kind of lingua franca for Zimbabweans of different language groups. About 70% of the population speaks Shona and chishona as their first language. When the Zimbabweans go to school, Ndebele, Shona, and English will be used. The native language usually is used until the students are in the third grade. Then English will be used. Shona is considered to be the largest ethnic group. They are known for their creations of carving idols and sculptures. The traditional arts of these local people also include jewelry, textiles, basketry, and pottery. The combination of Shona art comes from European and African folklore.

During the Colonial era, Zimbabwe was part of Rhodesia. It was settled by the whites. The whites were running the country declared independence from Britain in 1965 and then the next 15 years the civil war ensued between them and a black independence movement. Even though the government is populated by Zimbabwe the land interest remains controlled by the whites and there remains a large economic disparity between blacks and whites.

In Zimbabwe, its food is similar to South African food. Their food is simple, their main food is corn. They have food like cornmeal. People in Zimbabwe also eat many dried fish known as kapenta or lightly curdled milk that is known as mukaka wakaora. Since Zimbabwe is a socially structured country the wealthier eat more meat and rice and for special occasions, they may eat cow or goat and barbecued it.

Present-day Zimbabwe still trades with other countries. Their major exports are tobacco, gold, ferroalloys, nickel, and asbestos. They trade with Great Britain, South Africa, and Germany. From my resource, South Africa is the largest source of imports, and machinery and transport equipment manufactured goods, chemicals, petroleum products, and electricity are the largest imports. In Zimbabwe, jobs are assigned to people with education, skills, and having knowledge or experience in a field. In the informal economy, most people work for themselves and pay workers on a cash basis. In Zimbabwe, manufacturing is the largest sector of their economy which is about 23% followed by agriculture which is about 14%, hotels and restaurants are about 11% and public administration is about 10%.

The Zimbabwe government is a parliamentary democracy and led by a president. The president is elected by direct vote in advance of party elections and for that term, they would be in office for 10 years and the term during which a party can control the government is five years. The Representative party consists of a House of Assembly and a cabinet appointed by the president and then there are elected councils at the rural level. Then each district is made of a number of wards and the wards are subdivided into villages. Then each ward and village has a development committee that is responsible for promoting and supporting local initiatives. The traditional representatives are elected by their peers. The representatives are the civil service like the police, military, secretaries, and other staff.

As of today, Zimbabwe is going through an economic crisis and a healthcare crisis. Zimbabwe's economic crisis is blamed on its former ruler, Robert Mugabe. A person who led the nation for four decades, until 2017. Emmerson Mnangagwa, the former president of Zimbabwe as of today, has blamed the U.S sanction for Zimbabwe’s economic crisis. The national government of Zimbabwe has increased the money supply which led to going into the national debt. Throughout the crisis, there have been significant declines in the economic output and exports which has also led to political corruption and leading to a weak economy. Since Zimbabwe is going through hyperinflation the government printing more money has devalued the local currency in foreign exchange markets as the prices of goods. In Zimbabwe, hyperinflation has caused the domestic economy to switch to a barter economy. This has destroyed the financial system as banks and becomes unwilling to lend money. The Zimbabwean dollar is no longer actively used in the country. It is officially suspended by the government due to rampant hyperinflation.

Zimbabwe is also going through a healthcare crisis. Many of the doctors in Zimbabwe have been on strike for the past three months, protesting for their poor salaries and deteriorating conditions of service. The doctors have been accusing the government of failing to provide for the country with basic stuff like bandages, syringes, and gloves and they have been describing this situation as the “silent genocide.” In the hospitals of Zimbabwe, there has been a lot of deaths, and the authorities are not saying or doing anything. The patients shouldn’t die if the doctors are there to help.

As of the healthcare crisis, I believe the government should really get equipment for the hospitals. This should be essential for the authorities to follow to save the citizen's lives. Even though the country is going through an economic crisis they should look out for its people and provide for them or come out with another solution to save the lives in the hospital. I believe the country should do a trade with another country for only hospital equipment then that way they get the tools that they need and get to save more people and the death rate will go down.

As for hyperinflation, the government has been printing too much money. The money has been losing its value because of all the prints and it has caused to lead them to the national debt. The solution to that would be to print less money. Since printing money is the majority problem here they should try to not print money and work with what they have. From not printing I believe this will solve many things like not devaluing the currency and going through national debt. From not printing the money it will help with the economy however the government won’t get many things they want to. In that place, I believe they should do trades with other countries with items and not buy them off with money that will help them recover from the economy and grow slowly but surely. They need to limit their currency growth to match their production growth. They also need to maintain an environment in which production is stable and growing. If production falls, the government has to allow a recession rather than trying to cover it up by overprinting currency.

In conclusion, Africa holds many histories from many many years ago. Before 1500, Africa had well-established empires. Many empires did many trading with many other nations outside of Africa. In Africa, the Niger River was very important to Africans because it provided food, water, and transportation. One of the empires that were well established and had a good economy was Great Zimbabwe. Great Zimbabwe had a global trading network. They were well-established people who had cattle and build circular buildings. Africa was overlooked by the Europeans before the 1500s. Africans were looked upon as slaves by the Europeans. Before they were seen as slaves they saw that Africans were wealthy and well built. The Europeans called Africa the “Dark Continent.” The narrow-minded perception of the Europeans has, lead them to enslave them and start a slave trade. The Europeans came to the African soil for 3 centuries and captured them and put them in ships to sail them out. As that happened after 3 centuries slavery eventually stopped. Great Zimbabwe has left an impact on Africa. There was a country named after Great Zimbabwe which is called Zimbabwe. There are also cultural people that live there and follow the beliefs from the past and live and believe in their god Marwari. It is a country in southern Africa. This country still holds many values from the past however many things have changed. As of today, the country is known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife. Zimbabwe is a country that is going through an economic crisis and healthcare crisis as of today. They are having a hard time staying as a country and falling apart. However, there are still many lives and hopes for Zimbabwe. It is a beautiful country and a place to know from Africa.

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**Annotated Bibliographies**

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  + This website descript informations about the houses in Great Zimbabwe and how the houses were made. The website also talks about the Shona settlement and how they were the first ones to settle down in Great Zimbabwe. It also talks about the lifestyle of the rich and the poor of Great Zimbabwe. Overall it was a good article it helped me out a lot and have a better understanding of how Great Zimbabwe was like.
* Cartwright, Mark. “Great Zimbabwe.” *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, Ancient History Encyclopedia, 10 Nov. 2020, [www.ancient.eu/Great\_Zimbabwe/](http://www.ancient.eu/Great_Zimbabwe/).
  + This is a wonderful article that helped me have a better understanding of Great Zimbabwe. In the article, it talked about the Zimbabwe plateau. The region of the Zimbabwe plateau, located between the Limpopo River in the south and the Zambezi River in the north, is composed of temperate grasslands that are free of the tsetse fly. It also talks about the Architectural Features and the government and society along with how trades were made and art.
* National Geographic Society. “Great Zimbabwe.” *National Geographic Society*, 4 Mar. 2020, www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-zimbabwe/.
  + The National Geographic article was a great source that talked about the Great Zimbabwe enclosure and trades and how they were a wealthy nation for trading with other nations like China and etc. “Archaeologists have found pottery from China and Persia, as well as Arab coins in the ruins there. The elite of the Zimbabwe Empire controlled trade up and down the east African coast. However, the city was largely abandoned by the 15th century as the Shona people migrated elsewhere.”
* “Learn about the Captivating History, Language, and Culture in Zimbabwe.” *World Travel Guide*, 26 May 2019, [www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/africa/zimbabwe/history-language-culture/](http://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/africa/zimbabwe/history-language-culture/).
  + This article was about zimbabwe’s history, language, and culture. It talked about the religion in Zimbabwe like how the majority is Christianity and minorities are Hindu, Muslims, and Jews. It also spoke about the social conventions of Zimbabwe and how the urban culture was influenced by western culture. It also talked about the languages that they speak in zimbabwe.
* “Zimbabwe.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 6 Oct. 2020, [www.britannica.com/place/Zimbabwe](http://www.britannica.com/place/Zimbabwe).
  + This article mostly stated the geographic location of Zimbabwe and what is in the north, east, west, and south of Zimbabwe. It also stated the measures and what percentage of the land is what.
* “Zimbabwe.” *Countries and Their Cultures*, www.everyculture.com/To-Z/Zimbabwe.html.
  + This was a great website especially because it had great information about Zimbabwe. This article spoke about Identification, location and geography, demography, and linguistic affiliation. It also spoke about the history and the ethnic relationship. This article also states the food and economy of Zimbabwe and what they ate in their daily lives. This article also has some great information about political life and how everything is structured over there. It also states the gender role and status in Zimbabwe.
* “Languages of Zimbabwe.” *DeVere Zimbabwe*, [www.devere-zimbabwe.co.zw/news/zimbabwe-official-languages](http://www.devere-zimbabwe.co.zw/news/zimbabwe-official-languages).
  + This source had great details about the languages that were spoken in Zimbabwe and what the native languages are. There are a total of 16 official languages spoken in Zimbabwe, the most popular of which are English, Shona and Ndebele. The other 14 official languages of Zimbabwe include; Chewa, Chibarwe, Kalanga, Nambya, Ndau, Shangani, Zimbabwean sign language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, and Xhosa.
* Mutsaka, Farai. “Zimbabweans Mend Shabby Dollar Notes amid Economic Crisis.” *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 13 Nov. 2020, apnews.com/article/international-news-business-harare-financial-markets-zimbabwe-ea4d32541a42e16f330e3b2bc930fba0.
  + In this article, it talks about the economic crisis that’s going on in Zimbabwe. At the moment Zimbabwe is a very poor country. They can’t pay the workers on time and they are going through a lot of inflation.
* “10 Interesting Facts about Zimbabwe Culture.” *Interesting World Facts*, www.interestingworldfacts.com/10-interesting-facts-about-zimbabwe-culture/#:~:text=Shona is considered as the interesting facts about Zimbabwe culture.
  + This was a great article for me to use because it had interesting facts about Zimbabwe’s culture and I learned a lot from this article. About the Shona sculpture and then their education system and many more.
* McGuigan, Brendan. “Culture & People in Zimbabwe.” *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 15 Jan. 2019, traveltips.usatoday.com/culture-people-zimbabwe-16294.html.
  + This was another article that has helped me learn more about the culture in Zimbabwe and their cultural beliefs. It states the religion and how 85% of the people are Christians and most Zimbabweans identify themselves as being very religious, attending services regularly.