

York College

Africa, Africans and People of African Descent: 400 Years

After The Trans Atlantic Slavery

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Africa, Africans and People of African Descent: 400 Years After The Trans Atlantic  
Slavery

- I. Introduction
  - A. The Current Situation of Africa
  - B. Circumstance of People of African descent living outside of Africa
  - C. Thesis
- II. Was Africa Always weak or destabilized?
  - A. Example of successful African Empire: Songhai Empire
- III. The Transatlantic Trade
  - A. Explantation of Slavery in Africa vs Americas
  - B. Negative effects of Transalantic Slave Trade
- IV. Roots of Racism
- V. Economic Motives
- VI. How can we solve racism and economic inequality?
- VII. Conclusion

### *Introduction*

In order to understand the present circumstances, it is important to explore the past. Today, Africa is considered one of the poorest continents; however, the irony is that the continent with the richest resources is Africa. Today, the majority of African nations face social issues, poverty, and politics. People of African descent, living outside of Africa, such as the Caribbean/Latin America face similar issues. Also, people of African descent living in foreign countries are treated as second class citizens. The social, economical, and political issues that Africans and African descendants face have a colonial past. The Transatlantic slave trade was a major turning point in African history. This was an event that led to the downfall of Africa. In this paper, we will try to understand the connections between the transatlantic slave trade and the current conditions of Africa. One of the things that came after the Transatlantic slave trade was racism towards people of African descent. We will also try to learn the roots of this racism and how economic motives play a role in destabilizing Africa. Lastly, we will also focus on how we can solve these issues?

### *Was Africa Always weak or destabilized?*

Africa was not vulnerable or destabilized as it is today. Africa was the home to many successful empires and leaders. Because Africa possessed various desirable resources, Africa was known as the land of wealth by outsiders. Some of the most valuable resources Africa possesses are “diamonds, gold, oil, natural gas, uranium, platinum, copper, cobalt, iron, bauxite and cocoa beans” (“Natural Resources in Africa”). Outsiders would talk of Africa with admiration. A navy from China travelled to Africa, in 1418, to see the greatness of Africa for themselves. It can be seen that one point the civilizations of Africa had the upper hand and the feelings of awe from others.

One of the most prominent empires of Africa was the Songhai Empire; it “was the largest and last of the three major pre-colonial empires to emerge in West Africa” (Tesfu).

The Songhai empire was established in the 15th century, and thrived on towards the 16th century. The empire expanded west towards the Atlantic coast, and east towards Niger and Nigeria. The Songhai empire possessed Timbuktu, which was an important commercial center and area of Muslim scholarship. Foreigners, such as Arabs, Jews, and Italians would come here for trading. Another major trading center of Songhai was Djenne. One of the Songhai empire's great leaders was Askia Muhammed. He is the one that brought the Songhai empire to its peak. He was known to be a just and pious Muslim. It was under his ruling that the Songhai Empire went to its peak. He fought and ruled for the best interest of his people. His rules and governance were influenced by Islam. It was under his ruling that Songhai possessed control over the trans Sahran trade; thus gaining control over the gold and salt trade. This gave Songhai a good economy. Askia Muhammed also "strengthened political and cultural ties with the rest of the Muslim world, encouraging the immigration of scholars and skilled workers from Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and Muslim Spain" (Tesfu). He also centralized the government and built many schools. Askia Muhammed had a strong and overall positive leadership for the people of Songhai. The Songhai Empire is an example that shows that Africa also had its golden age.

### *Transatlantic Slave Trade*

The event that altered the African history was the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Transatlantic slave trade was the transportation of "between 10 million and 12 million" (Lewis) enslaved Africans to the New World from the late 15th century to the 19th century. The Transatlantic slave trade occurred after the Europeans saw a labor shortage in their colonies. There was a decline in their labor workers, the Native Americans because they were not immune to the Old diseases that were spread onto them from the Europeans. As a result, the Europeans looked to the already existing system of slavery in Africa as a solution to their

problem. The Transatlantic slave trade was a part of the triangular trade; the triangular trade consisted of three legs or parts. The first leg was the Europeans going to Africa to exchange guns and rums for African slaves. The second leg was transporting the African slaves to the New World, which was also known as the Middle passage. They were sent to the New World to work in the fields and produce crops; in other words, become the Europeans' laborers. Some of the popular crops that were produced were tobacco, sugar cane, and cotton. The last leg was taking these crops to the Old World, so that the Europeans can sell them and make profit out of it.

The Middle Passage was a tragic and cruel time for the Africans. The conditions of traveling to the New World in the ships, for the Africans, was very unpleasant. They were confined. As a result, this harmed them physically and mentally. Many Africans were kept under the deck of a ship and crowded there. There was no air circulation. They were not allowed to use the bathroom. If an African died he would be left in his place. This led to the spread of disease within the ships. The women were on top of the deck, and they were subjected to rape. The Africans would be brought to the deck during the day time to dance or jump, so that they get their exercise and to stay fit. Some Africans committed suicide by throwing themselves offboard, because the cruelty and harsh situation was too much to bear. Many Africans also died before reaching the Americas and the Caribbean, due to developing diseases. There is one account in how a captain ordered his crew to throw a certain amount of Africans offboard to decrease the disease that was affecting both the Africans and Europeans. This is a sad and ironic account, because the Europeans put the Africans in a harsh situation, which led to the spread of diseases.

Slavery was not something that the Europeans created. On the contrary, slavery existed in Africa prior to the Transatlantic slave trade. However, it was not like the one the Europeans practiced. It is unclear as to when it started, but it is clear that it was a part of their

culture, economy, and politics. How or why a person attained a slave was different person by person. One way a slave was attained through war. A prisoner of war would be captured, and then used to perform services for his opponent. Another way a slave would be attained was by debt bondage. If a person was supposed to owe or pay another individual back something, but did not, or did not have the means to, then he/she would become enslaved to his/her lender. He/she would have to do services for his/her lender. In Africa it was possible for a slave to become an extended family of the master's family, if the master wished. On the other hand, the Europeans practiced chattel enslavement upon the African slaves. In this type of slavery, the master considers a slave their property. Whatever was the slave's, was the master's; hence, the child of slave, was also the master's property.

The Europeans' trade for millions of slaves from Africa eventually affected the African continent. The lack of economic activity, specifically slave trading, between "warlords and tribes... promoted an atmosphere of lawlessness and violence" (Lewis 1). The agricultural labor was mostly done by slaves in Africa. With a lack of slave population, there was fear of being kidnapped or becoming a captive. When taking the slaves, the Europeans would usually leave behind those people that they felt would not be useful for them, or those that would potentially not really get their job done such as "elderly, disabled, or otherwise dependent" (Lewis 1). In all the slave trade impacted Africa by creating disorder, animosity between different groups of Africa, and a demographic change.

### *Roots of Racism*

One of the issue that became a byproduct of the transatlantic slave trade was the racism. Racism is when one person feels prejudice or discriminates against another racial group. Throughout history there have been prejudices against others for different reasons; it

can be due to ethnic differences, religious differences, economic reasons, or political reasons. The European saw their laborers as less than humans. We will start to focus on what causes one group to belittle another group.

The first encounters of racism in Western Europe was between the European themselves. For instance, the “Ancient Greeks described ‘other’ European groups, such as Scythians and Celts, as barbarians and savages” (Battle and College of Charleston). Most of the times each group would show “their prejudices based on physical preferences for certain bodily and facial features, including lighter skin, and discouraged intermarriage” (Battle and College of Charleston). During the Middle Ages, the European Christians stigmatized the color black, and linked it with “sin and death” (Battle and College of Charleston). Also, there was this thought that European who labored outside would have darker skin for being in the sunlight all day. As a result, the darker one’s skin was, he or she was assumed to be a laborer; this is how the Europeans thought way before they started practicing slavery in the New World.

When Europe was going through problems and division, the soldiers “continued to claim physical and mental superiority over their opponents to justify military and labor subjugation” (Battle and College of Charleston). For instance, when the British were taking over Ireland in the 16th century, the British Crown claimed that they were superior to the Gaelic Irish. Their prejudice was also seen when they would point out how dark the Gaelic Irish were compared to them. Similarly when it came to the conquest of the New World and slavery, the European “combined religious prejudices [or differences] and stereotypes of physical and mental inferiority to justify subjugation as a civilizing force” (Battle and College of Charleston), and to use it as a way to pursue their economic motives.

When the demand for slaves increased for the European economy, so did the racist remarks and stereotypes towards the Africans. A historian named Ira Berlin said that during

the European conquest of the New World, the Europeans at first described the “West and Central Africans as ”sly, cunning, deceptive . . . perhaps too clever” (Battle and College of Charleston). This is an unusual statement, because it was not like the stereotypes Europeans had on Africans after enslaving them, or like the prejudice or superiority complex the Europeans had against each other. It was only after enslaving Africans did the Europeans started to characterize them as “animalistic, servile, unintelligent, and sexually promiscuous” (Battle and College of Charleston). The statement that Berlin revealed is an interesting one because it shows that Europeans feel a sense of threat or competition with the Africans; their characterization of the Africans make them look competent and skillful. One can conclude that after the conquest of the New World, the aristocrats of Europe would make up stereotypes of the Africans to influence the common people into believing them, and to be a way to carry on the title of power in the world.

Prior to the European colonization, the color of one’s skin was not a major concern in ancient civilizations or in Africa to the point where segregation or violence would occur. In ancient Rome, Egypt, and Greece, there was a code of conduct between the slaves and their master. This shows that there was mutual respect between two parties. The Ottoman would train their slaves to become a strong army. Also, the slaves of Egypt and India eventually at one point grew to become the rulers of the lands; they were called the Mamluks.

Due to racism, European would mistreat and dehumanize the African slaves in the New World. The Africans were in general belittled and seen as inferior. For instance, in Saint Domingue the masters lived in well mansions that were surrounded by shabby, often bloody, rough shacks. However, the slaves lived in those shacks. They were deprived of even basic necessities. Colorism has also stemmed off from racism, and became an issue for the Africans. Majority of the time, European masters would favor a slave with a light skin tone than the one with a dark skin tone. This had psychological effects on the Africans. It made



the people with darker skin feel worthless. Today, many people in the Caribbean use bleaching creams to whiten their skin. This is an example of colonial effects on the Caribbean. Those people with lighter skin usually have more status in the society.

Edward Long was a slave owner, and his father was also one. His family started living in Jamaica from the midst of the 17th century. He is widely known for writing his controversial book, *The History of Jamaica*, which was published in 1774. In this book, he disrespect and demonizes the African race and continent. He thought “Africans as irredeemably inferior and perhaps not even human” (Olusoga). Although he has never been to Africa, “he dismissed the continent as backwards, concluding that it was the source of “every thing that is monstrous in nature” (Olusoga). He was responsible for affecting the mindset of many people that read his book. Many Europeans who would sail to Africa, had Long’s ideas in thought or this preconceived notion that Africans were barbaric and monstrous. In his book, Long also goes onto justifying slavery and colonialism. He said that since Africans are uncivilized, they would be “better off as slaves, since slavery saved them from the worse fates that, he claimed, would otherwise have consumed them in their homelands” (Olusoga). His work influenced many Europeans to justify their act of enslaving and mistreating slaves. Through his book, he made a mass believe in something that was not true.

To justify their cruel and inhumane treatment towards the African slaves, the “Europeans needed an ideology. Enslaving human beings is upsetting, but making animals work for human benefit is eminently justifiable” (Shad). Their (the Europeans) excuse or justification for colonizing can be demonstrated in Rudyard Kipling’s poem, “The White Man’s Burden.” Although the poem was written to allude to the Americans trying to take over the Philippines, the moral or message of “The White Man’s Burden” can also be used for the European colonization and slavery. The poem conveys how it is the white man’s

responsibility to civilize and teach the non whites, because they (the non whites) are supposedly primitive and uncivilized, so therefore they do not know any better. However, this poem had an underlying motive to justify and allow slavery.

On the 24th of November, in 1859, Charles Darwin published his work, *Origins of the Species*; he talks about evolution, survival of the fittest, and natural selection. According to the article, “A History: The Construction of Race and Racism,” social scientists and philosophers would use Darwin’s theory “in pseudoscientific ways to justify genocide and racism.” In 1866, a man named Frederick Farrar classified or generalized people into three groups, based on their race. The first group he described was the “savage.” He associated Africans, Native Americans, and all people of color with this term; he excluded the Chinese from this term. The second group he mentioned was the “semi-civilized.” Under this group, he considered the Chinese. The last group he classified were the “civilized.” He believed that the Europeans, Aryan, and the Semitic people were civilized.

#### *Economic Motives*

Eric Williams, former prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago and historian, brought a new perspective to the European enslaving the Africans. According to the article, “Economics + Transatlantic Slave Trade = Racism,” he said that ““The reason was economic, not racial; it had to do not with the color of the laborer, but the cheapness of the labor.”” Williams was implying that the Europeans chose to enslave the Africans because they felt that it would be cheaper and easier.

One person who was a big advocate for substituting the African for the Native Americans, because of economics pursuits was Bartolomé de las Casas, a Spanish missionary, brought wide attention to the mistreatment of the indigenous people. To some people, he is known as ““the apostle of the Indies”” (Aimes 7). He demanded that there should be an inspection on the conditions of the Native Americans in the Spanish colonies; he

was aware of the Natives circumstance. Although this looks like an act of justice or a take on human rights, he supported substitution of African slaves as labourers. In reality, Casas “advocated the use of African slaves instead of indigenous Americans because Spaniards considered them to be hardier than natives (Anthony).” Also, since Africans have had previous contact with the Europeans, they were prone to the diseases spread by the Europeans. Casas’s intentions were for the best interest of the economy.

There are two factors that ruined Africa’s economy in the second half of the 20th century; they were slavery and colonialism. The slave trade with the Europeans had negative effects on Africa. The slave trade became “an atmosphere of lawlessness and violence” (Lewis). Africa saw a decline in population. There was also a fear of being kidnapped, which made the people feel unsafe and unsecure. As a result, this brought a massive decline in economic and agricultural activity. The people most likely to be taken captive were females in their fertile years, and “men who normally would have been starting families” (Lewis). The Europeans would leave the “elderly, disabled, or otherwise dependent” (Lewis) behind because they felt that those individuals “were least able to contribute to the economic health of their societies” (Lewis). This created another problem in certain places in Africa; disabled people or people with less energy were composing the majority of the population. The Europeans were using the African slaves to their benefit; and, it was causing a dilemma to Africa.

Haiti used to be considered the richest colony in the Americas; however, now, it is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Series of events from history shows how Haiti came to this point. Haiti was the first colony to gain independence in the Carribean from the French in 1804. However this did not stop foreign powers from intervening. After gaining independence, Haiti “agreed to pay reparations that would be worth \$22 billion today. Over the next 120 years, as much as 80 percent of Haiti’s revenues

went to paying off this debt” (Labrador). As Brian Concannon put it, ““for an entire century, Haiti geared its economy to paying back the French debt and missed out on industrialization, education, and development of its government and democratic institutions”” (Labrador). By using most of its energy on paying back their debt, Concannon (the founder and executive director of the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti), conveys that Haiti did not really get a chance to work on developing their country. When there was a worry of the Germans trying to influence the Caribbean, President Woodrow Wilson decided to send U.S. marines to Haiti; the U.S. occupied Haiti for around 20 years, taking over their security and economy. The U.S. also “imposed racial segregation, forced labor, and press censorship, and deposed presidents and legislatures that opposed the U.S. presence” (Labrador). The Haitians eventually rebelled against the U.S; and, 15 thousand Haitians died in the event. After the U.S. troops left, Haiti underwent political instability and corruption in government. The issue is that the U.S. entered Haiti, created problems, and then left the problems to Haiti to deal with by themselves.

Today, economic motives from powerful countries have caused the exploitation of Africa. West Africa, specifically, has been a subject of “foreign investors... (who) intend to exploit them” (“Independence to Long-term Stability”) since they have rich natural resources such as diamonds, gold, oil, and cocoa. For instance, in the Ivory Coast of West Africa, it has been said for more than 20 years that child labor would be banned. However, a reporter found and revealed that child labor still exists in cocoa farms. The Ivory Coast and Ghana have been known "for producing one-third of the world’s cocoa" (Cherneva). Big brands such as Mars and Nestle and Hershey "could not guarantee that any of their chocolates were produced without child labour" (Cherneva). Another example is Ethiopia's coffee, "Arabica," which is the greatest export. However, the coffee farm workers of Ethiopia make \$4 for a kilogram of coffee, while the big companies that sell Ethiopia's coffee make \$200 per

kilogram of coffee. This reveals that there is injustice in business. African resources are used, but they are not credited or paid enough.

*How can we solve these issues?*

As Nelson Mandela said, “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” We must change our mentality. We must change this notion that a certain race is superior or a certain race is inferior. Everything starts from home, from the way we talk, to the way we think, and to the way we behave. People need to educate themselves, their children, siblings, friends, and anyone else is in close contact, to become people that are good for society in whole. Today, we have social media which we can use to spread news and information which will reach the public in an instant. Africans and people of African descent can also use social media to reveal issues of their community.

Everyone is different in how much power or influence they have in a society. Some people are respected because of their occupation. Some people have influence because they have wealth, such as politicians. Others can have influence because of fame. The point is that each person should recognize the privileges that they have; and, to also recognize how much is in their reach. One should use their influence in the right way. For instance, if a wealthy politician should allocate his/her money in a way that would benefit the society instead of only one group.

To start solving the problems of Africa, it would be ideal for different African nations or groups to come together and unite for a cause. One of the effects of colonization was divide and rule. Animosity grew amongst different African groups, such as religious/ethnic tensions. It would be good for them to put aside the animosity because first it will never end

(which will make them weaker and weaker, and second because both sides are going through the same problems. A goal can be achieved with a big team. Unity is better than animosity

The African need a good leader. One of the problems that some African face is corrupted leaders. The people work so hard, and get little pay. This is because the elites/wealthy and powerful corporations hold the resources and make a lot of money from it. African nations who are suffering from poverty need genuine leaders. They need someone who understands the problems they are going through; and is willing to put his/her time and effort to make sure their needs are met. Another thing the Africans need is education. Through education, the economy can grow. As of March 2018, Africa's enrollment rate in primary schools has been "80% on average" (Musau), which is a good sign. However, another issue has been noticed, which is that "most of Africa's education and training programs suffer from low-quality teaching and learning, as well as inequalities and exclusion at all levels. Even with a substantial increase in the number of children with access to basic education, a large number still remain out of school" (Musau). This is something that needs to be addressed. This is because the kids need to go to school to make sure their minds are being stimulated.

Another way to solve the issues that the Africans faced and are facing is by the European and US government apologizing to them; and making sure that the people of African descent (living in those lands) have better lives. Mark Medish and Daniel Lucich talk about this in their article, "Congress Should Atone for Slavery." Concerning the United States, the Congress should apologize for slavery An apology "is not just about making the wronged party feel better or whole. It is an act of self-correction: The apologizer is declaring that in spite of what was done, they are no longer that type of person — or nation" (Medish and Daniel).

*Conclusion*

Racism was a byproduct of the transatlantic slave trade. The elites of the Europeans were aware in the beginning that the Africans were powerful due to the resources they had and the way they handled their societies. It was after the Europeans practiced slavery that they started to look down upon them, to keep power in the top. Slavery became a big part of the European's economy. The slaves were the ones that would produce the goods for the Europeans, in which the Europeans would send back to their lands and sell. Colonialism took toll on the lands they colonized. For instance, after gaining independence, Haiti did not really have room to improve their country. They spent most of their time paying off their debt to France. They also experienced foreign intervention. Events from the past affect the present.

Concerning how the social and economic social issues can be solved, everyone must educate themselves and make sure they are working in the best interest of the society. People who have the biggest influence on the society (such as the government and the wealthy) need to work for the society, not for themselves or their own group. The people of African descent need education and a good leader to grow.

## Annotated Bibliography

Olusoga, David. "The Roots of European Racism Lie in the Slave Trade, Colonialism – and Edward Long." *The Guardian*, 10 May 2016, [www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/08/european-racism-africa-slavery](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/08/european-racism-africa-slavery).

The writer, David Olusoga, highlights how the image of Africans have been distorted, which led to racism and mistreatment towards them throughout history. He uses Edward Long as an example to showcase how a person can influence a mass into believing something which is not true. His book, *The History of Jamaica*, he demonizes the African race, and justifies slavery and European colonization.

Shad, Muhammad Aslam. "The Transatlantic Slave Trade Led to the Birth of Racism." *Fair Observer*, 24 July 2020, [www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/muhammad-aslam-shad-transatlantic-slave-trade-slavery-world-history-europeans-slavery-americas-68184](http://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/muhammad-aslam-shad-transatlantic-slave-trade-slavery-world-history-europeans-slavery-americas-68184).

In this article, Muhammad Aslam Shad talks about the history of Europeans, before and when they became a power, to give readers a whole insight into how slavery played a role in their narrative. He also compares the slavery of the Europeans to the slavery of the past and other civilizations. He explains how Europeans needed to find an excuse to justify slavery and treatment towards slaves; thus they said that they needed to teach them how to be civilized.

Battle, Mary and College of Charleston. "New World Racism · African Passages, Lowcountry Adaptations · Lowcountry Digital History Initiative." *LDHI*, [ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld/new\\_world\\_racism](http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld/new_world_racism). Accessed 17 Nov. 2020.



In the article, “New World Racism,” the writers talk about the early existence of racism between European, and what it was based on. The writers also show how skin color played a role in defining what a person’s status was in the past European society. The racism in the past talked about how it affected Europeans to think and act. Religion, physical, and the mental aspects of the Europeans were used to show their superiority to the Africans.

“A History: The Construction of Race and Racism.” *HistoryDR*,

[www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/Western%20States%20-%20Construction%20of%20Race.pdf](http://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/Western%20States%20-%20Construction%20of%20Race.pdf).

In the article, “A History: The Construction of Race and Racism,” the writer points out how social theories have influenced many people into believing that their race is the “best” or “superior,” which has no objective or scientific proof. Some people would enact eugenics, by pairing two specific people, with specific race or physical appearance, so that they produce the “best” children. The author also talks about the history of the term “white” and the “people of color.”

2016E483. “Economics + Transatlantic Slave Trade = Racism.” *Chocolate Class*, 14 Mar. 2016,

[chocolateclass.wordpress.com/2016/03/13/economics-transatlantic-slave-trade-racism](http://chocolateclass.wordpress.com/2016/03/13/economics-transatlantic-slave-trade-racism).

In the article, “Economics + Transatlantic Slave Trade = Racism,” the writer talks about how the Europeans used Africans as slaves for economic purposes. The writer shows a comparison between the encomienda system and the feudal system from Europe. The writer also explains how the Africans replaced the Native Americans as laborers, because the Native Americans were not immune to the Old World diseases.

Aimes, Hubert Hillary Suffern. *A History of Slavery in Cuba, 1511 to 1868*. GP Putnam's sons, 1907.

Aimes talks about the history of slavery in Cuba and the impact it had on the land. Cuba was not very popular in the beginning, as the other colonies in the New World. Getting Africa slaves to labor was not something that happened easily. The government opposed it in the beginning. Bartolomo de las Casas helped in trying to influence the government.

Anthony, Dani. "July 2015: Bartolomé de Las Casas and 500 Years of Racial Injustice | Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective." *OSU.EDU*, 10 July 2015, [origins.osu.edu/milestones/july-2015-bartolom-de-las-casas-and-500-years-racial-injustice](https://origins.osu.edu/milestones/july-2015-bartolom-de-las-casas-and-500-years-racial-injustice)

Anthony unmaskes Bartolomo de las Casas true intentions. He was a Spanish missionary, who was against the mistreatment of Native Americans, and the forcing of them to do labor. Because of this he was known as the "Apostle of the Indies." Anthony shows readers Casas was after economic motives rather than human rights. Although he spoke against the mistreatment of the idigenous people, he advocated for the idea of African slaves becoming laborer for the Europeans.

Lewis, Thomas. "Transatlantic Slave Trade | History & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 6 Apr. 2020, [www.britannica.com/topic/transatlantic-slave-trade](https://www.britannica.com/topic/transatlantic-slave-trade).

Thomas Lewis talks about the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This was an event in which thousand upon thousands of Africans were transferred to the New World to labor for the Europeans. Lewis also talks about how this event affected Africa.

Labrador, Rocio Cara. "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 12 Mar. 2018, [www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development](http://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development).

In the article, "Haiti's Troubled Path to Development," Labrador provides important historical events of Haiti. Labrador shows how Haiti went from a wealthy colony to becoming a poor country. Labrador also shows how foreign intervention has caused problems for Haiti.

Cherneva, Rosa. "Neocolonialism: How Western Corporations Are Exploiting Africa."

*Medium*, 29 June 2020,

[medium.com/illumination/neocolonialism-how-western-corporations-are-exploiting-africa-d0e197af1950](https://medium.com/illumination/neocolonialism-how-western-corporations-are-exploiting-africa-d0e197af1950).

Cherneva talks about how Africa, specifically West African countries are being exploited. This is because it is full of rich resources. Corporations from powerful countries make a lot of money from African resources. Africans work hard as laborers, and yet do not even a quarter as much as the corporations do. The corporations use them as laborers.

Musau, Zipporah. "Africa Grapples with Huge Disparities in Education." *Africa Renewal*, 18 Feb. 2019,

[www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/africa-grapples-huge-disparities-education#:~:text=It%20is%20widely%20accepted%20that,still%20remain%20out%20of%20school](http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/africa-grapples-huge-disparities-education#:~:text=It%20is%20widely%20accepted%20that,still%20remain%20out%20of%20school).

Education is a tool that can be used to boost the economy. Africa has about 80% enrollment of kids in primary schools. However, they have experienced low quality teaching.

Medish, Mark and Lucich, Daniel. "Congress Must Officially Apologize for Slavery before

America Can Think about Reparations." *NBC News*, 30 Aug. 2019,

[www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/congress-must-officially-apologize-slavery-america-can-think-about-reparations-ncna1047561?fbclid=IwAR2fc0YGf8k0ix7\\_9BSXX4tF4K KAG4wwSY6IT2TuJ\\_tz7oxTzyoHIQQ2010](http://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/congress-must-officially-apologize-slavery-america-can-think-about-reparations-ncna1047561?fbclid=IwAR2fc0YGf8k0ix7_9BSXX4tF4K KAG4wwSY6IT2TuJ_tz7oxTzyoHIQQ2010).

The writers talk about how the Congress should apologize about slavery. Slavery was something that existed on the land of the U.S. An apology would create amends.