

# The impact of Transatlantic slave trade on economies

Name:

The impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade was immense. Although we can only imagine the negative impact it had on Africa, it also had an immense impact on the Americas and Europe.

Not only did it effect individuals, their families and chiefdoms, but also effected the entire continent. The continent of Africa was effected negatively by the slave trade as able bodied individuals were captured and transported to another continent. Their skills were no longer being used as an asset to their homeland of Africa, but were now being used to help build the riches of foreigners in a foreign land. This left a negative economic, political and social impact on Africa.

Whatever the effect of slavery was on Africa, slavery played a crucial part in the economic development of the New World. The long-term economic exploitation of millions of black slaves was to have a profound effect on the New World's history.

Most importantly, it produced deep social divides between the rich white and poor black communities, the consequences of which still haunt American societies now, many years after emancipation.

Undoubtedly the slave trade affected the British economy in a number of ways. The British cotton mills, which became the emblem of the "Industrial Revolution", depended on cheap slave-produced cotton from the New World; cotton would have been more costly to obtain elsewhere. British consumers also benefited from other cheap and plentiful slave-produced goods such as sugar. The profits gained from the slave trade gave the British economy an extra source of capital. Both the Americas and Africa, whose economies depended on slavery, became useful additional export markets for British manufacturers. Certain British individuals, businesses, and ports prospered on the basis of the slave trade.

The slave trade was important to Europe's economic development at a certain stage in the 18th century. This

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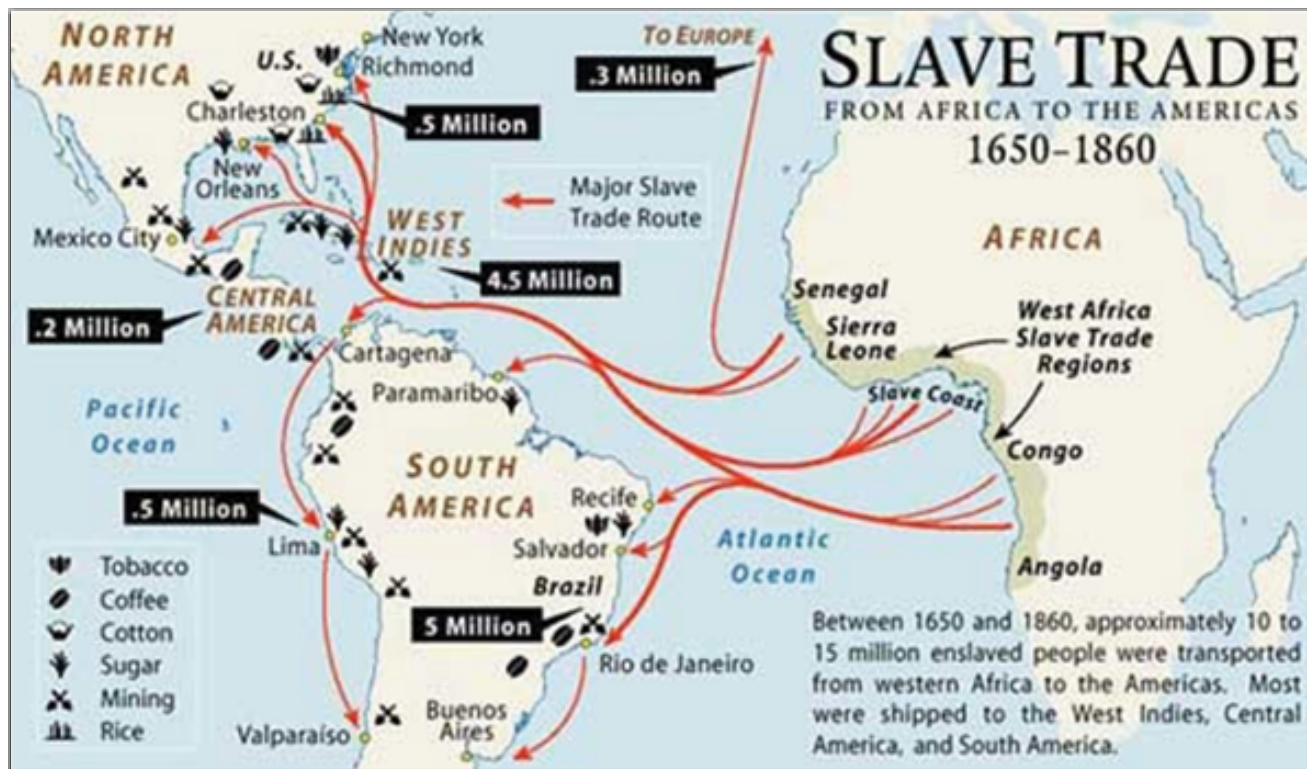
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6504141.stm>

The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, improved efficiency of water power, the increasing use of steam power, and the development of machine tools. It also included the change from wood and other bio-fuels to coal. Textiles were the dominant industry of the Industrial Revolution in terms of employment, value of output and capital invested; the textile industry was also the first to use modern production methods.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial\\_Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution)

importance must have been on the wane by the time that the trade was abolished in the mid-19th century, because abolition seemed to have little negative impact on Europe's economic advance. Instead, in the decades that followed, industrialisation marched on, spreading to new parts of Europe, and experiencing new waves of technological progress.

The map below, shows how the slaves were taken from Africa to develop the resources of the Americas. <http://macquirelatory.com/Slave%20Trade/slave%20trade%20map.jpg>



**ACTIVITY:**

Write a letter to the American parliament in the 18th century, convincing them to abolish the Slave Trade. Your letter must include the discrepancy the impact of the slave trade had on both the African people and Americans.

(10)

**WATCH THIS YOUTUBE CLIP ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE SLAVE TRADE:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q\\_4JVg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NXC4Q_4JVg)

