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North African Slave Trade (15th c-19th c)

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Abstract

In spite of the substantial amount of historical literary works that have been produced on slavery and slave trade in Africa, investigating these practices in the northern part of Africa is needed. North African slave trade is a subject which deals with a practice which had existed in this particular location and how it had involved. This thesis traces back the geo-historical background of North Africa and tries to link the relationship between its location and its role in African and international slave trade. Moreover, the main causes and dimensions of slavery and slave trade are discussed and related to how they pushed North Africa to participate in slavery and slave trade. At last, the effects of these practices both on North Africans and sub-Saharan Africans after the abolition of slavery and slave trade are examined.

Key words: North Africa, West Africa, Slavery, Slave Trade, Trans-Saharan road.

Dedication

I dedicate this work to:

My parents, brothers: Abdelkarim, Abderrahmane, and Hicham, my charming sisters: Latifa and Saida, my parents' relatives: Abderrahmane and Bermati. Finally; all my friends and classmates that I have known throughout my life.

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Third, a lot of glad is shown for all teachers during my several levels of education; who give the background of different field through my short life. More gratitude for them for making me as I am right now.

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General Introduction

Slavery and slave trade were old and ancient practices a long with the existence of mankind. Both existed mostly in several societies with different means and under varied names. They were a profitable performance and a powerful institution in which human being were considered as just commodities; therefore, they were bought and sold as such for long decades.

In order to illustrate the ambiguity about slavery and slave trade in Africa and particularly in the northern part of the continent; this dissertation is sectioned into three chapters. These chapters are circling around three points: slavery and slave trade, the location in which they had been practiced, and the different parts which had participated in these operations.

At first, chapter one entitled geo-historical background deals with the area in which slavery and slave trade were done and practiced. It starts with tracing back the different names given to the North Africa from the ancient names to the present day ones. Furthermore, it defines the different terms which are the essential parts in the dissertation by which the task of illustrating what had happened, why, where, when, and by whom becomes easy to be discussed later on.

Next, chapter two deals with the different reasons those had led to slavery and slave trade in the African continent, and precisely in North Africa. Later on, it focuses on the varied gains from such practices and established institution. The dimensions of slavery tell to what extant North African societies had been involved in the performance and the important role that was played by the given area because of its location which contains a long coastal Mediterranean shores.

The third chapter represents the end of slavery and slave trade in North Africa and in the whole world. It shows the varied consequences which were gathered from the long period of the performance. Furthermore, the reality of abounding such practice and the extent of failure of such institution is mentioned and shown as it is in the real world and not just in papers or just as seen and discussed in worldwide conferences. In the third chapter, the new slavery is discussed and it shows new forms of modern slavery and how it is practiced as a profitable business.

Chapter One: Geo-Historical Background

Introduction

The African continent is a wide place with different raw materials. It is considered as the great supplier of goods for the whole world since the past centuries. In earlier times, the Africans had known the practice of slavery which they had performed it among them and later on with the world. Several African communities involved in slavery and instituted slave trade. The most known peoples whose were involved in slavery and slave trade were the north Africans and the west Africans. They contacted with each other through several routes and using varied means.

1 North Africa

North Africa is the northern part in the African continent which contains in present days Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, and Western Sahara. It has had different names through time. The main names which have been given to North Africa are explained in the following historical background of the area.

1.1 The Historical Background for North Africa

North Africa looks as an elusive term. As a geographical area, it has no fixed definition. Notwithstanding, geographers have tried to relate it to Europe just to have a fixed spot that they can compare it with and take it as a reference. North Africa is that space which stands far from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea – twelve point eighty seven kilometres at the Strait of Gibraltar and one hundred thirty six point seventy nine kilometres at the Strait of Sicily-. From historical point of view, and according to the ancient civilizations such as of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, North Africa was named after the native settlers. These indigenous people were Berbers. Thus, it was called the Barbary States or simply Barbary. The origin of the term Berber was Roman. It had been derived from the word “Barbara” for “barbarians”. It was Imazighan, which can be translated as “free men” or “free people” (Oliver and Fage 3).

North Africa was also known as Numidia. It had been a common name to the area. Yet, some scholars said that 'Numidia' defined just one particular area and not the whole North Africa. What is called nowadays "Algeria" is the only spot which was called by that name.

By coming forward, approximately after the decline of Berber dynasties around 15th and 16th centuries, two major powers at that time -Spain in the west, Turkey in the east.- expressed their attentions to have such important coastal area to support and strengthen themselves. The Turkish had won the spots thanks to several corsairs. The most known ones were the brothers: Khaired-Din and Ben-Abi-Youcef Babaaroudj who had "Red Beard" as nickname and he had been known to the Europeans as "Barbarossa". After that, North Africa had been considered as an Ottoman province. Morocco and Mauritania were not part of the dominant empire in the area. The two countries were independent states. The status remained as it was till the coming of European invaders.

2 Slavery and Slaves

Slavery and slaves were two terms attached to each other. They had been known and defined differently in several cultures.

2.1 Definitions

Slavery and slave trade had been ancient and old practices. The latter had been done by several societies in different continents. Orlando Patterson stated:

There is nothing notably peculiar about the institution of slavery. It has existed from before the dawn of human History right down to the twentieth century, in the most primitive of human societies and in the most civilized. There is no region on earth that has not at some time harboured the institution. Probably there is no group of people whose ancestors were not at one time slaves or

slave holders. Slavery was firmly established in all the great early centres of human civilization (Perbi 1).

Slavery is the condition in which a given person is owned as property by another one and s/he is under the control of the owner, especially in involuntary servitude. Whereas, a slave is a person who works for a master because of several reasons such as enslaving or the slave is taken as a prisoner.

2.2 Religious Point of View

Slavery had existed in all societies. It went hand in hand with the human activities. It had been known before the coming of Europeans to Africa . It becomes a common mistake to believe or just think that slavery began with the contact of Europeans with the Africans. The slaves were generally blacks. Notwithstanding, more slaves had been taken by the North African corsairs –for example and not exclusively- when they contacted with the Europeans. With no doubt that the enslaved Europeans were whites.

Slavery was a form of exploitation characterized by considering other human beings as property. In this kind of sense, slaves can be bought and sold. They were considered as commodities. Thus, they cannot think or act for themselves. Masters did not differentiate between them. The woman can be considered as a slaved person as the man. This conception became general or well known in almost all cultures and among societies. Yet, in the Islamic states, there was a slight difference between the two genders. The male slaves were just as the females. The only difference had been shown in matter of production. The female slave can give a birth to different young children. By doing so, the master of that slave can no more sell her. She became a concubine or what was called “harem” and treated as such for good (Perbi 3). The newborn children from free Muslim masters were considered automatically as free as their fathers. Abd (or Abeed for the plural form) was the most common name for a male slave

in Arabic and Islamic world whereas “Ama” (or Ayama for the plural) was the common name for females.

Slavery had been found in the Christian societies as well as in the Muslim world. Christian slave trade had been done clearly through the Atlantic slave trade where the western nations had involved with the Africans. The Portuguese were the first Europeans whose contacted with the Africans through the coastal shores for they had been good sea navigators in 1446(Roland and Fage 18). At first, they came to explore and trade but not in slaves. They took some Africans with them as gifts and servants to help in the journey; however, they sold the Africans and gained much more profits than the other commodities. Therefore, Portuguese and the other Europeans started slave businesses.

3 West Africa

Slave trade happened in the northern part of the continent. Yet, the source of the African slaves was really important to be shown and exactly defined. This source of slaves -in major numbers- had mainly been the western part of Africa. Many different States and Empires established themselves nearer to water. They had done that particularly around the northern upper waters of the Niger River where they had formed themselves into strong trading states. The latter had had good relations with the neighbouring regions which were primarily the Berber and Arabs in the northern side of the African continent (Davidson 34).

In order to define West Africa as a region or as a group of states, the context –time and space – should be taken in account. Different empires had been established in the area since ancient times. Before the contact of Europeans with the Africans, there had been powerful Kingdoms and Empires in West Africa such as the Kingdom of Ife in Nigeria which was important in Africa around the 12th century. The Kingdom of Benin in Nigeria had a place too in the history of West Africa which reached its golden age around the 14th century.

Numerous ancient civilizations had emerged and collapsed in West Africa. About 1350 AD, the Kingdom of Songhai emerged in West Africa. It reached its golden age under the control of the ruler Askia Muhammad the Great (1492–1529)(Thornton 35). Songhai Kingdom had conquered many and varied territories and expanded over the neighbouring places such as the Empire of Mali. The latter had existed years before Songhai Kingdom. It was known thanks to the travels of Mansa Musa (King Musa), a ruler of Mali in fourteenth-century especially to Mecca for pilgrimage (hajj) where the wealth of the Empire was known through its ruler. Since then, West Africa had had a reputation in the world. Several kingdoms and empires tried to have relations with the wealthy region. The interests differentiated the sort of relations. That was the main reason behind the cut of Songhai region to have its own Empire. Before Mali Empire, there was Ghana Empire. The latter grew rich from the trans-Saharan trade in gold and salt.

The chronological order of these ancient empires had been as the following: at first, there was Ghana Empire. It dominated the region between about 750 and 1078. Then, it was followed by the Empire of Mali. The latter dominated the area in between 1235 to 1400. Songhai Empire was the most powerful one in the region and the fastest to vanish. It lasted just from 1460s to 1591.

4 The Road of the Trade

The slave trade between North Africa and West Africa or what was called Black Africa was done thanks to different means of transportation devices such as the caravans. The Berbers and Arabs were interested on the different commodities which had been provided by various western ethnic groups. The commodities were mainly gold, salt, and later on slaves.

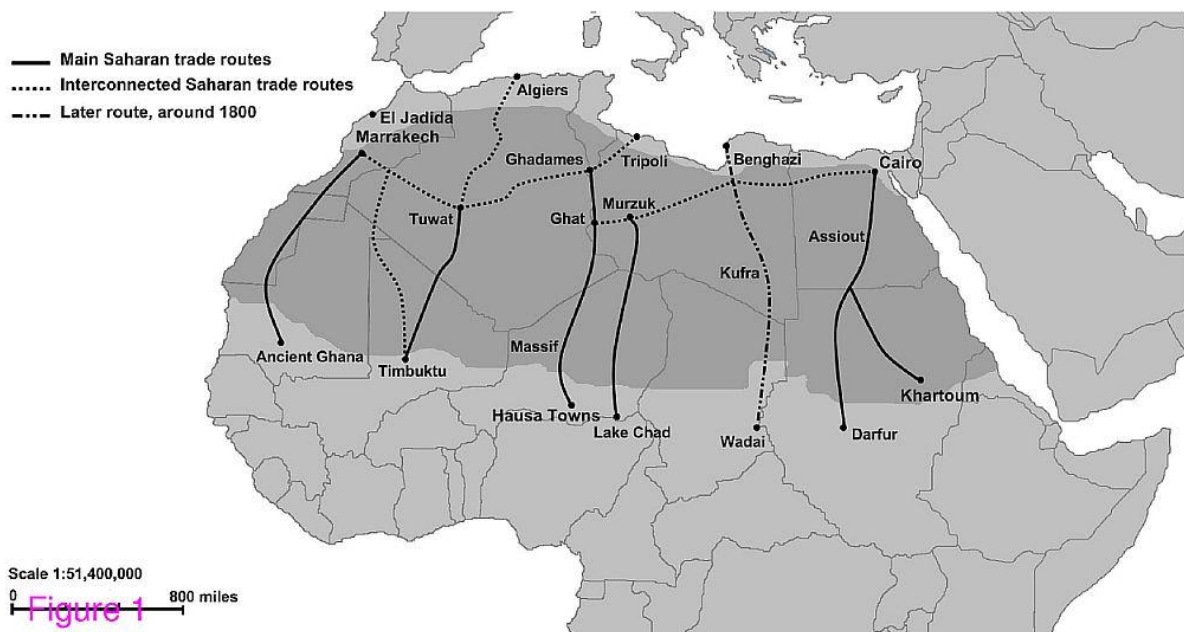
The trade between West Africa and North Africa was done through sub-Saharan road. The latter was a desert path and was difficult to travel in with different commodities. The

main obstacles were the weather(Wright 10, 83)and the region itself and when talking about the route of the trade between North and West Africa, the role of the sub-Saharan trade cannot be ignored in which the real contact between the two regions had been done in a great scale.

4.1 The Trans-Saharan Route

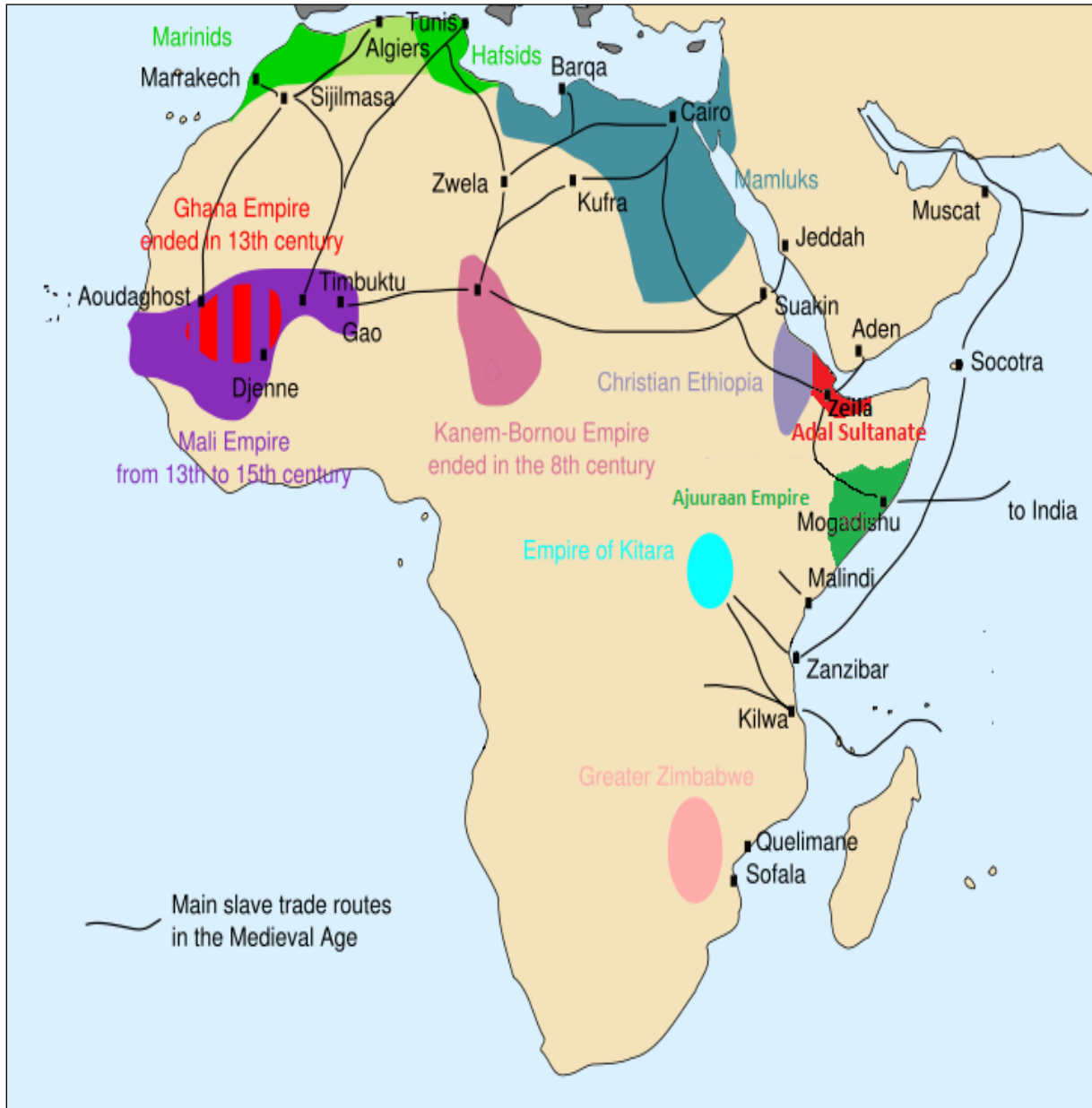
The expression “Trans-Saharan” refers to the link between north and southern west of Africa. Camels were important means by which the contact between peoples had done across the Sahara. The Arab-Berber merchants constituted caravans and travelled in desert mainly between oases carrying manufactured goods such as silk and cotton clothes, mirrors, as well as dates. These goods were exchanged for different commodities of west African people like ivory, gold, and slaves. The trade was done along with the road which contained several slave trade centres such as: Sijilmasa in Morocco, the region known as Taghaza or Tuat in Algeria, and, Murzuk and Benghazi in Libya(Wright 16).(see map 1and map 2).

Map 1: The main Trans-Saharan Routes



Source: <http://dienekes.blogspot.com/2010/05/mtdna-and-trans-saharan-slave-trade.html>

Map 2: The Main Slave Trade Routes in the Medieval Age(6th c-17th c)



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/African_slave_trade.png

Conclusion

The geographical location has an importance in giving the main features to a given area and its activities. Therefore, North Africa is considered as the entrance of African continent. It connects two worlds and had played a role in slave trade. Slavery had existed for a long time. West Africa was seen as the provider of slaves to the North Africans. Slaves went through a rough journey in order to reach their final destination which is north Africa and later on Europe and other places.

Chapter Two:

Causes, Dimensions, and North African Participation in Slave Trade

Introduction

At the earlier times, Man lived peacefully and just for daily needs, i.e. s/he spent each day apart from the other. Then, people started to socialize and domesticate other beings such as animals and birds. Therefore, important questions like why had people enslaved the others? And how had such performance been done? These questions need to be investigated. Slave trade was done for a long period, through numerous known ways, and by different means such as Trans-Saharan slave trade, Trans-Atlantic slave trade and triangle slave trade. North Africa was merely present in most of these practices because of its location which helped a lot in linking the interior Africa with the coming outside traders.

The position of the area across the Mediterranean coast made North Africa an important spot for both sellers and buyers of slaves and had the main hand of control over the different businesses. Notwithstanding, North Africans were not immune against their own way of dealing with the locals or the Europeans. As most settlers of the near Mediterranean shores, they were attacked and enslaved whether by their countrymen or by European pirates. Yet, the real wonder is about the origin of the practice of slavery in the continent and which facts led to the existence of slave trade in North Africa in particular. Besides the different causes and reasons that led to slavery in the world and the African slavery in particular; there were several dimensions of the performance. These factors discuss slavery in matter of the geographical aspects and in matter of the economic effects especially upon the African communities.

1 The Main Causes of Slavery in Africa

Before European intervention, the slave trade had been practiced in Africa but on a small scale. It was devised chiefly as a mean of reintegrating into society individuals who had been taken from their families after a war. Isolation and individualism were two criteria which

were not encouraged by African society. The ideals of the latter were that a community existence consisted from powerful families tied with a view to a well ordered, and secure life. People only counted in so far as they were part of a harmonious, consistent group. In these conditions, Man -on his own in earlier times- had no chance of survival. Enslaving peoples was a useful mean of providing them with a social framework relevant to their expectations in life. Those who purchased them gave them a new identity. The slaves would give up their own identities for that of their new masters. This type of integration did not jeopardize the group and could not disturb the original balance of the community because it concerned only a small minority of persons.

The slavery term was attached to mankind evolution. It had been an ancient experience a long with the existence of human race. Yet, it did not come from nothing or come at once, i.e. it had its background and reasons. The latter had been discussed and traced back to several ones. The main famous causes of slavery in the African communities are:

1.1 War

As psychologists said that humans are innately evil, they may not be able to live in harmony and peace. They are driven to conflicts and wars by their own nature. They gave different interpretations and several reasons to enter and begin warfare even if these causes were not well justified or seen as silly ones. Wars became an important provider of slaves to the slave markets (Angeles 4). For instance, the people of Lemlem were continuously being invaded by their neighbours, who took them as slaves and carried them to their own lands to sell them to merchants. Every year, great numbers of Lemlem were sent off to the Western Maghreb (Ibn Khaldoun 101).

1.2 Tribute

It was a situation where the most powerful and dominant power in the area or in the community asked for some return for its protection, services or as fees. Tribute had been a common practice in Africa especially in the pre-colonial era. After war, the defeated people gave money, goods, or partial group of subjects as slaves for the victorious powers. As samples; Yoruba people of Nigeria had obtained some of their slaves through these means. The Sokoto Caliphate (West Africa; or what was known in Arab world as Bilad As-Sudan) demanded tributes from subjected communities. There was a doctrine among African societies in which the defeated army had to pay annual tribute to the victorious by giving some of their people as slaves. For instances, the state of Gonja paid 1000 slaves; Salaga paid 600 slaves; Akwapim paid 1000 slaves, and the small Ewe chiefships sent 12 slaves annually to Kumasi the Asante capital(Perbi 5). For those who could pay ransoms were generally sent free in exchange of two other slaves (Unesco 151).

1.3 Poverty and Debts

In the ancient times, human beings did not know what is known nowadays poverty or debts. The term was established with the beginning of introducing exchanging goods or currency. Millions of years earlier, humans had depended on hunting, house holding animals, and agriculture. Therefore, no one considered him/herself as a poor person (Atermanini 40).

When civilizations emerged and human beings had started to live in communities, the social classes had a part in the new mankind social life. Poverty forced itself upon societies. A new law was established which was known as “the city law” (Atermanini 16). The latter, allowed persons to sell and buy persons, or the oneself for certain reasons such as deficiency to pay back the debts, and poverty. The new law allowed the father to sell his kids to have better life whether for himself or for his kids own sake. Furthermore, it allowed who had a

debt over the loaned person to enslave him\her while the debted could not pay back. This act can be considered as Pawning which became a pledge, mortgage or security for what a person owed. At the beginning, the pawn had only to work for the creditor and did whatever the master needed and wanted. Yet, the situation had changed by time when the paying back could not be achieved by the loaned persons. Therefore, slavery was forced on them (Atermanini 42). Pawning was practiced in several places in Africa such as Ghana. The Sena of Mozambique and the Igbo of Nigeria also had practiced pawning.

1.4 Kidnapping and Piracy

War was not the only direct source of enslaving people. There was something more dangerous and effective in the psychology of slaves than conflicts and wars. It was kidnapping and piracy. The main piracy spots were the Mediterranean Sea. It had happened between the Southern Europeans and the Northern Africans. They belonged to two main different religions-Christianity and Islam-. Pirates were doing that as a revenge for their people whether Christians or Muslims (Hershenzon 15).

In addition, the slave trade resulted because of the break-down of law and order within existing states, causing political fragmentation. The best example of this came from the Congo state of west-central Africa. The Congo Kingdom, with no standing army in the early decades of European contact, was not capable to prevent an internal crash of law and order, and as a result, the kidnapping of local Congo people for sale to the Portuguese became widespread. This break-down of law and order led to the eventual fall of the once powerful state (Inikori 182–183). The only states that were able to preserve the interior law and order during the slave trade were Oyo, Dahomey and Asante, all these states located in Western Africa. However, these three states were the exception rather than the rule. Furthermore, there was an activity called “gun–slave cycle” or the “iron–slave cycle”. The consequence of this vicious cycle was not only those communities attacked others for slaves, but also that

members of a community raided and kidnapped others within the same society. Well - documented examples come from the Balanta, of modern day Guinea-Bissau, the Minyanka, of modern day Mali and the Makua, Chikunda, and Yao of East Central Africa.

The most dramatic example may be the Congo kingdom of West-Central Africa, the kidnapping of local Congo citizens for sale to the Portuguese had become out of control, threatening social order and the King's authority. Affonso, king of Congo, wrote to Portugal complaining: "there are many traders in all corners of the country. They bring ruin to the country. Every day people are enslaved and kidnapped, even nobles, even members of the king's own family" (Hochschild 13).

2 Dimensions of Slavery

Slavery in all over the world was considered as an awful practice, but it had several benefits for both African and the outsider-Europeans or later on Americans-. These profits could be clearly shown in the following dimensions:

2.1 The Internal Dimension

Like most other regions of the world, slavery existed in ancient kingdoms and societies of Africa for thousands of years. Precise evidence on slavery or the political and economic institutions of slavery before contact with the Arabs or Atlantic slave trade is not available.

2.1.1 The Economic Dimension

Africa was known as the main source of cheap forced labours. North Africans in particular controlled the business and gained a powerful status in across the Mediterranean Sea. Afterwards, when Europe knew the industrial revolution, the need for more inexpensive labours had increased. Therefore, Europeans had a sight on Africa and its human

commodities. They traded a lot with the locals. For that the income of the latter rose. Yet, there were fears of emptying the African continent from its people if Europeans continued taking Africans as slaves.

2.1.2 The Social Dimension

Since slavery flourished with the external demands for slaves, the status of African – even if not for all of them- had become better. They became able to constitute extra families and share resource in a form of alliances when they could buy new developed war materials such as machine guns rifles and so on (perbi 4).

2.2 The External Dimension

Slavery existed in Africa before the coming of Europeans; yet, it extended when they arrived and involved with the local traders. Because of the amount of slaves who were bought and the cheap price of them, the external demand had become more and more valuable. This demand had been shown in the following dimensions:

2.2.1 The Agricultural Dimension

Between 1441 and the middle of the nineteenth century, the expanding slave trade ultimately became Black Africa's only link with Europe and America. The establishment in the New World of European sugar, cotton and tobacco plantations, as well as mining for precious metals, gave rise to a demand for an abundant, cheap manpower force which could not be met by either the Amerindians or the European workers. The answer was the Black Africans, who were regarded as good farmers. What was more; they would have no difficulty in adapting to the tropical climate. Once they had been enslaved and transported to America, they would find it easy to work the settlers' estates.

2.2.2 Industrial Dimension

The African slaves were known with their patient and capability to work in several climates and severe circumstances. Therefore, after the European industrial revolution and the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period from about 1760 to 1840, slaves became valuable and more wanted to work in the industries with low prices if not for free (Perbi 3).

3 The Role of North African Trade

North African trade was important in the continental trade history. It played a well role in the area. North Africa was the major participant in the Africa exchanges for it had been seen as a link between two different worlds which were separated by kilometres. These different worlds were Africa, Europe and later on America. Desert separated the African continent because of the climate and environment difficulties. Notwithstanding, North African traders could break that and linked the regions with one another. They used camels which could travel much more the other means at that time and sustain thirst more than any other animal in such harsh circumstances.

3.1 Within the Continent

By the coming of Arab Muslims to Africa and settling in the northern areas, new goods were known and new transportation devices were introduced even if they had already existed in the region. Camels were the most preferable animal as transportation to the Arabs because of their features. The contact between Arab Muslims and the internal Africa was done through what was called as the Trans-Saharan trade. The traders used caravans to exchange goods between the different peoples (Curtin 207).

The beginning of the eighteenth century, the first Ashanti and then Dahomey resolved to put an end to their inland position and open up a window to the coast in order to trade

directly with the Europeans. They did away with all the merchants who had previously passed through their territories to take their slaves to the coast to sell them to the European slave-traders. Since then, they became involved in slave-dealing on a large scale. Periodically they would send troops into the neighbouring territories to capture slaves whom they would then sell in order to secure arms and other European goods. In Ashanti and Dahomey the slave trade became a State monopoly. Most of the slaves were now sold by the State and no longer by private individuals.

3.2 Out of the Continent

The existence of slavery in Africa and the pre-existing trade in people allowed Europeans to mobilize the commerce in slaves relatively quickly by tapping existing routes and supplies. In this venture, they were aided by the rulers of certain African states who were anxious to acquire more slaves for themselves and to supply slaves to the Europeans in exchange for aid and commodities

4 Mediterranean Slave Trade

North Africa was an active area concerning slave trade. It had a hand in linking the internal African slave markets with the external ones. It played a major role as a middle man between the African slave suppliers and the European buyers. North African traders did not stop just in supplying outsiders-Europeans and Americans- with slaves, but they went beyond that and enslaved the settlers of the other side of the Mediterranean Sea.

Mediterranean slave trade was a practice, in which both Africans and Europeans were involved, i.e., they could be slaves as long with they could be masters. North Africans traded in slaves whose were brought mainly from interior Africa through Trans-Saharan routes. This kind of business flourished with the coming of Arab Muslims who used camels as transportation means and could challenge the harsh climate of the area which was mainly a

desert. In other hand; anyone travelling in the Mediterranean faced the real prospect of being captured by North African pirates and taken to the Barbary coastal cities (as it was called by Europeans; in what is now Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya) and being sold as slaves (Flaherty and Carlisle 35). However, not content with attacking ships and sailors, the pirates raided coastal settlements in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, England, Ireland, and even as far away as the Netherlands and Iceland. They landed on unguarded beaches, and crept up on villages in the dark to capture their victims.

As a result of this threat, numerous coastal towns in the Mediterranean were abandoned by their inhabitants. Thus, Europeans were not only slaveholders in the early modern period; they were also slaves. Thousands of Europeans were captured by North African pirates on or along the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. Some them converted to Islam and made new lives for themselves; others were ransomed by their relatives, escaped, or died in captivity (Mossensohn 330).

Conclusion

Slavery was not European creation. It did not start with the intercourse between them and the local settlers of the African continent. It did exist years before, but it became more famous and known because of the great amount of slaves who were involved in the trade. Furthermore, the methods in which they were gathered and shipped to Europe were facts that led to make African slavery more noticeable to the whole world. The reasons which led to such practice were investigated and numbered above; besides that the benefits of slave trade for both Africans and Europeans were stated in as dimensions of the slavery which could be summarized into two: external ones-include the relationship between Africans and Europeans-, and internal dimension which include just the locals and their intercourse with each other. Without forgetting the Mediterranean trade in which North Africa played a main role in linking and facilitating the task for both interior continent and Europe.

In whatever way slaves became free, the position of the freedom deserved a separate consideration. Were they equal with free-born men? Or did they form a new distinct social class? Did their new born grandsons gradually become integrated in their masters' societies? These questions and more emerged and asked to be investigated as consequences of slavery in the African continent are going to be discussed in the following chapter.

Chapter Three:

The Abolition of the Slave Trade, Its Effects, and the New Global Slave

Introduction

North African societies exchanged commodities and slaves with the neighbouring people. North Africa had known slavery and slave trade as well as the rest of the world. The European contact with the North African flourished the trade. Later on slavery and slave trade vanished. Thus, important questions were asked for where there any effects of the trade on North Africa and Africa in general? What led to the abolition of slave trade if it was profitable business? And did slavery and slave trade really stop?

1. The Main Results of Slavery and Slave Trade in North Africa

The African continent was bled of its human resources by all possible routes like the Trans-Saharan road. This practice had had and still has consequences upon the African communities in several fields. The most noticeable ones are going to be discussed in the following points in as simple and illustrated manner as possible.

North Africa has been considered as a bridge between two different worlds. Its strategic location has given it an interesting position across the Mediterranean Sea. During slave trade periods, North Africans played an important role in trading in slaves. They were participants in human business as slave traders as well as slaves. Notwithstanding, they gained profitable amount of money and reputation; yet, there had been several outcomes of slave trade which influenced and changed North Africa for decades. The main consequences are:

1.1. Colonialism

African historian Patrick Manning stated in his writing: "Slavery was corruption: it involved theft, bribery, and exercise of brute force as well as ruses. Slavery; thus, may be seen as one source of pre-colonial origins for modern corruption" (124).

Slave trade between North African and Europeans arose greed in the part of the Europeans. The latter wanted most of the profits. They planned to invade Africa starting from the northern part of it. This came to fact in the scramble for Africa and the conference of Berlin in 1884 (Koponen 131).

1.2. Ethnic Fractionalization

Slave trade was spread among the North Africans which resulted in bad consequences in the societies. The detrimental results of the slave trade had arisen because of the capture of slaves occurred by Africans raiding their countrymen. This manner was the most common one in which slaves were taken from villages or other communities. When the demand of Europeans for African slaves had increased, it gave a value for people as slaves more than as African citizens who could produce and be taxed for their productions (Whatley and Gillezeau 3). Consequently, it increased the motivation to raid for slaves.

Slaves were not only taken through conflicts between communities, during raids and wars, but they were also taken in large numbers as a result of conflicts within communities, where individuals were kidnapped or sold into slavery by acquaintances, friends, or families. The most extreme example of this manner

1.3. Retardation of Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development is a product of development. It is the process of social and economic transformation in a given society. Socio-economic development embraces changes taking place in the social sphere mostly of an economic nature. If these changes applied on the North African societies during the period of slavery and slave trade, North Africans started to avoid contact with the outsiders and strangers with no matter who they were –Europeans or even other Africans-. Numerous communities did so, they neglected their

lands and their own ancient practices spots. Therefore, they ought to start over from the beginning and re-established new practices as agricultural ones. They had been pushed to go backward; their economies were harmed if not collapsed. In fact, this led to poverty among the society and even starvation

Joseph Inikori writes:

The European demand for more and more captives soon gave rise to the formation of groups of bandits all over western Africa. In places where the foundations already laid had not yet given rise to firmly established large political organization, the process was hijacked by these bandits . . . Overall, the conditions created by the large-scale European demand for captives over a period of more than three hundred years severely retarded the long-term process of socio-economic development in western Africa. (393–394)

1.4. Deterioration of Legal Institution

The African community was established upon ancient and fixed standards which were mostly: the group bandage and the power of chiefs, i.e., the African society was composed from one governing power which was in hand of the chief of the tribe, and the common people. This situation did not last for long. The human greed and the thought for expansion led the Africans to wage wars against one another. Because of that, wars began and deteriorated the harmony of families (Angeles 4). The captured soldiers and those who could not escape had been taken as prisoners and later on sold as slaves. In many cases, the consequence of internal conflict was political instability and the collapse of pre-existing forms of rule. Pre-existing ruling structures were often replaced by small bands of slave raiders, controlled by an established ruler or warlord. However, these bands were unable to develop into large, stable states. The states that were able to emerge during this period tended to be as

dictatorship or military aristocracies. The main features of these kinds of ruling systems were the small size of those who were in power the control of the masses by fear which led after on to the absence of stability(Beckles 150).

1.5. Persistence of Predatory Behaviour

The Africans had known slavery for decades and had practiced slave trade years before the contact with the Europeans. Thus, the Africans had known the sense of being a slave. When slave trade reached its golden period, slave traders began to raid other societies for slaves, even more; they started to kidnap their own people (Nunn and Wantchekon 3226). Africans feared kidnapping and enslaving, for that they trusted no one and tried to enslave others before they could be enslaved. Mistrust was spread on the societies.

2. The Abolition of Slave Trade

The European claimed that the Africans were barbaric savages, without laws or religions, and without even a language; therefore Europeans were enslaving and invading the Africans in order to civilize them and teach them manners(boon and Eyong 7). Abolition of slave trade is the campaign to bring the slave trade and the practice of slavery to an end by making it illegal. The first abolitionist legislation was passed in Britain in 1807. The main reasons which led to abolition were:

2.1. The Existence of New Free Legal Working Hand Power

When Great Britain enacted the law of prohibiting slave trade in 1807, the European major powers were colonizers. They established different colonies in varied continents. For instance, India and Japan in Asia. The European could make contracts with the locals in order to work for them and for low prices. That led to the emergence of new class of workers who

no one can accuse the Europeans of exploiting the humankind because they made lawful contract with the workers (Delpiano 223).

2.2. The Appearance of New European Elites

There were movements emerged in 18th century mostly in Britain to put an end for buying and selling of human beings. These movements developed alongside with several international events such as the French Revolution from 1789 to 1799, as well as individual acts of resistance from enslaved people in the different colonies (Schmidt11). The church had involved in and considered having or trading in slaves was a sin which cannot be forgiven unless the slave holder release his\her own slaves (Unesco 36).

3. The new slavery

Slavery and slave trade have continued to flourish up to date. In fact, it is likely that more people are being trafficked across borders against their will now than at any point in the past. Furthermore, the ancient traditional way of practicing slavery and slave trade has gone to be diminished that is to say new ways have existed. Modern slavery is not limited to any single race, gender, or age group. It affects men, women, and children in almost all over the world.

Modern slavery generates substantial illegal profits for traffickers and slave drivers. It can be found and practiced in different ways such as in housekeeping. Illegal new shape of slavery is a major problem in lots of countries today; many are sold into the sex industry or into forced labour often against their will (Atermanini200). Racism and Apartheid are forms of new slavery in which people still have unfair and severe treatment in their own countries because of their coloured skins or their languages (Atermanini191, 196).

Conclusion

The African continent had known slavery and slave trade for decades. The coming of Europeans had absolutely flourished the practice of slavery and established the institution of slave trade. Yet, this performance accelerated the operation in which the end of such slave trade came faster and faster by enacting laws that prohibited slave trade and abolished it. The abolition of trade in North Africa and in Africa in general did not immune the area from the impacts of such prohibition. The impacts continued to the present days. This continuity appears in the new category of slavery which probably no one can avoid it or claim that he or she is free from any kind of slavery and s\he is fully independent.

General conclusion

North Africa contacts the world mainly through its shores which have long distance across the Mediterranean Sea. This feature is considered as good one in part of the geographical side. Yet, it suffered a lot from the outsiders especially Europeans after industrial revolution which demanded more and more slaves. Notwithstanding, there were several activist who spent their lives in order to help mankind and abolish slavery.

In addition, European powers intervened in the political process to prevent the rise of the African centralized states that would have hampered their operations. the slave trade left the whole continent and north Africa in particular underdeveloped, disorganized, and vulnerable to the next phase of European hegemony: colonialism in no matter it is called ancient traditional one or Globalization.

In spite of what the area is called and how it interacts with the neighboring societies, if there is greed or own self interests, there will be no real authentic wills to live in harmony; and that had been shown in the past and still has. That is shown through time from the early civilizations till nowadays. Under these circumstances, places are going always to keep changing names, and Man is going to be involved in slavery and slave trade in one way or another.

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