

CHAPTER 20 - THE ATLANTIC SYSTEM AND AFRICA, 1550-1800

MAIN OBJECTIVES / THEMES:

1. How did participation in the Atlantic system affect Europe, Africa and the Americas?
2. How and why did European businessmen, with the help of their governments, put this trading system together?
3. How and why did the West Indies and other places in the Americas become centers of African population and culture?
4. How did sub-Saharan Africa's expanding contacts in the Atlantic compare with its contacts with the Islamic world?

KEY TERMS:

Atlantic system
plantocracy
capitalism

chartered company
manumission
mercantilism

Dutch West India Co.
maroon
Middle Passage

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. How did the participation in the Atlantic system affect the environment in the Americas?
2. How did participation in the Atlantic system affect social and political development in Africa and the Americas?
3. What factors led to the development of the African slave trade?
4. How and why did Islamic influence in sub-Saharan Africa differ from the influence of Europeans?
5. What effects did slavery have on economic life in Africa?
6. How did technological requirements of sugar production affect West Indian society?
7. What was the world historical importance of the silver trade?

"Big Picture" → when we have gained a bigger picture

1. Describe and account for the differing outcomes of European expansion in the Americas, Africa, and Asia.
2. To what extent did Europeans transform earlier patterns of commerce, and in what ways did they assimilate into those older patterns?
3. How should we distribute the moral responsibility or blame for the Atlantic slave trade? Is this a task appropriate for historians?
4. What lasting legacies of early modern globalization are evident in the early 21st century? Pay particular attention to the legacies of the slave trade.