

UNIT FIVE: AFRICA AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO 1900 (MT5)

5.1. Genesis, Development and Consequence of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

- Slave trade is **illegal** and **immoral** human merchandize in history.
- It emerged following exploration and discoveries.
- The “New World” (Americas) was discovered in 1492.
- Europeans established **plantation and mine fields** in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- They used the labor of **Amerindians** (Native Americans) on those fields.
- However, most of Amerindians died from harsh treatment and unfamiliar European disease.

- Thus, **white slaves** including political prisoners and convicts from Europe were transported to the Americas.
- However, these slaves did not long survive the hardship and tropical diseases.
- Finally, Europeans turned to **Africa for slave labor**.
- Africans had better degree of immunity to tropical diseases.
- In 16th century, **Portugal** was first European nation that began the slave trade in Africa.
- Later, Spaniard, English, French, and other Europeans established slave trading posts on the West African coasts.
- Africans were transported across Atlantic Ocean to the Americas and the Caribbean.

The Phases of Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

The First Phase-Piratic Slave Trade.

-carried out by individual merchants, navigators and sea robbers.

-European governments were not involved.

-lasted from the 15th c to 1580s.

The Second Phase-Monopolistic Slave Trade.

-carried out by companies and supported by government.

-lasted from the 1580s to 1690s.

-the speed of slave trade reached enormous proportion.

- The second phase is also known as **Triangular Trade** because the trade connected **three** regions: Europe, Africa and the Americas.

- A single ship setting out from Europe completed three main stages.
- The first stage carried manufactured goods including firearms to Africa.
- These goods were exchanged for slaves on the coast of West Africa.
- In the second stage, African slaves were shipped across Atlantic to be sold in the Americas.
- Finally, plantations (sugarcane, rum, cotton, tobacco etc.) were bought and transported to Europe.

The Third Phase-Free Slave Trade.

- carried out by the competing individual traders and the former trade companies.
- lasted from the 1690s to the 19th century.

Effects of the Atlantic Slave Trade

- ✚ Europeans accumulated huge wealth out of the trade.
- ✚ The livelihood of African remain poor.
- ✚ Africa lost at least 12 million productive work forces.
- ✚ Great human suffering and horrors of African slaves both on their journey and in the Americas.
- ✚ Africa, become the home conflict because, the African chiefs exchanged by slave large amount of firearms.

5.2. Scramble for Africa

- Scramble for Africa refers to historic rush for colonial territories in Africa.
- The emergence of **Germany and Italy** as united Nation-States changed the balance of power in Europe.
- These states were eager to establish themselves as a Great Power.
- This catalyzed international competition for **overseas colonies**.
- European nations wanted more resources **to fuel their industrial production**.
- They were very keen to have large colonies and some of them were successful.
- For instance, by the end of the 19th c, British were able to build a large empire in the world.

- The opening of **Suez Canal** in 1869 made Egypt & the nearby countries center of colonial rivalries b/n Britain & France.
- In 1882 while the French were quelling resistance in **Tunisia**, the British occupied Egypt. Thus, the French felt cheated.
- The two nations became bitter rivals in the rest of Africa.
- The British intended to build a colonial empire that run from Cairo in Egypt to Cape Town in South Africa.
- Similarly, the French were ambitious to have a vast colony extending from Djibouti in the East to Senegal in the West.
- Unfortunately, the British and French colonial interest overlapped.

- In **1898**, these two powers were very near to war at Fashoda, in the Sudan.
- The event was known as the **Fashoda Incident**.
- Nonetheless, the two powers came to understanding and there was no more fighting.
- The French withdrew leaving the British to establish their ascendancy over the vital waterway, the Nile.
- For this, they were left free to claim part of **Morocco**.
- The personal involvement of King **Leopold II** (r. 1865-1909) of Belgium in imperial affairs aggravated the ongoing colonial rivalries very well.

- In the Horn of Africa Britain, France and Italy were involved.
- **France** controlled Djibouti, formerly **Obock**.
- In order to blockade French advance beyond Djibouti, the British secretly invited **Italians** to occupy **Massawa** in 1885.
- The competition was so fierce that colonial powers feared war among themselves.
- Thus, they came to a common understanding.
- Otto Von Bismarck arranged **the Berlin Conference** (1884/85).
- The Berlin Conference was a meeting of **14** European nations that laid down rules to partition Africa without going to war.
- From among others, it concluded that **any European country could claim lands in Africa** by notifying other nations of its claims and showing it could control the area.

5.3. Colonial Rule

- The Europe colonial rule fundamentally shaped the contemporary international structures of **society, politics and economic systems of the world.**
- This is because it had Political, Economic and Socio-Cultural Legacies.
- European colonial rule varied in forms.
- British met shortage of the administrative staff for it has vast colonies.
- **British Colonial Rule-Indirect and decentralized**
- Britain and other nations preferred indirect control.
- The **indirect** rule was an administrative style designed by the British Frederick **Lugard.**
- By this rule, each colony has a **local legislative council.**
- Colonial officials and local chiefs staffed the council.

- Local chiefs were instructed by the colonial governors and made obey the European wishes.
- **Native governors are accountable to the colonial officers in Africa. And the colonial secretary also responsible to London colony minister in London.**
- In addition, British applied “**divide and rule policy**”, to weaken the anti-colonial efforts.
- **French Colonial Rule-Direct and Centralized**
- **France** and most other European nations imposed more direct rule on their colonies.
- The direct rule was architecture by the French **Albert Sarout**.
- Accordingly, local chiefs were no more important in the colonial administration.
- **The French viceroy governed colonies.**

- French colonial governors were responsible to the **minister of colony in Paris**.
- The French also enforced a policy of **assimilation**.
- The assimilation strategy was applied through representation the black Africans in the French colonial council to fulfill the French **‘civilizing mission of Africans.’**
- Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Spain followed direct rule.

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