CHAPTER ELEVEN

PEOPLES AND STATES IN PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA (1000-1884)

GOLDEN WORDS

"Kasar Hausa" “Abolitionists” Swahili Manikongo

Shilluk "Bila d a1-Sudan "Fulani Shaka Zulu

Mansa Kankan Musa “Saifuwa dynasty” Tuareg IbnBattutah

Abdallahibn Yasin Sofala and Kilwa IbnTumart Boers

Wangara and Bambak “click sounds” “free trade” Amara Dunqas

“The triangular trade“ the piratic slave trade” “Trans-Saharan trade

11.1. North Africa

i. Mamluk Egypt

- Φ .Mamluks (also spelled Mamelukes)
- Φ .They were a self-preserving military aristocrats.
- Φ They ruled Egypt from about 1250 to 1517 virtually and upto 1805 nominally.
- Φ .They originated from a white Turkish slaves
- Φ .And came first to Egypt as mercenaries in the late 12th century.
- Φ .They were originally Turkish slaves first brought to Egypt in the late 12th century.
- Φ .Mamluke is an Arabic word meaning "owned'' or ''slave''.
- Φ .The Mamluks were trained as soldiers
- Φ .And rose to high army and government posts before they revolted and seized control of Egypt.

The major cause for the rise of the Mamluks

- Φ .Before the Mamluk's rise to power in 1250,
- Φ .Egypt was under the rule of the Muslim dynasty called the Ayyaubid.

Φ .**The major cause for the rise of the Mamluks was the prevalence of an acute power struggle with in the Ayyubid family**.
Φ .Several provinces of Egypt were ruled by princes of Ayyubid family.
Φ .The Mamluks were such mercenaries who succeeded in establishing their rule over Egypt.
Φ .The Ayyubid Sultan who employed the regiment of Mamluks was al-Malik al-Salih.
Φ .**The immediate factor that enabled the Mamluks to seize power in Egypt was the Mongol invasion of the Middle East**.
Φ .An unruly armed band moved to Syria and Palestine where they pillaged the provinces and massacred the Christians of Jerusalem in 1244.
Φ . At the time of the invasion, the ruling Sultan, al- Malik al-Salih was dead.
Φ .His successor, Turan Shah, was in a campaign on the Euphrates.
Φ .Egypt attained greatness and prosperity under the Mamluks.

The factors for the economic prosperity of Egypt

1. First, Mamluk Egypt actively participated in the trans-Saharan trade.
2. Secondly, the rulers of West African empires passed through Cairo laden with gold on their pilgrimage to the Islamic Holy Land.
3. Thirdly, for some time, the Red Sea became the spice route and this valuable item passed to Europe through Egypt.

Φ Inevitably, all this contributed to the economic growth and prosperity of Mamluk Egypt.
Φ .This economic growth in Egypt strengthened the power of the Mamluks who launched military expansion towards the south.
Φ .In this direction, they annexed the Christian Kingdoms in Nubia in 1275.
Φ .The rulers of the Kingdoms were subsequently converted to Islam.

The end of the Mamluk Rule in Egypt

™ .The end of the Mamluk virtual rule in Egypt was caused by the revival of the Ottoman power at the beginning of the 16th century. So the Ottomans invaded Egypt in 1516.
™ .In the following year, 1517, Ottoman rule was extended to the whole of Egypt.
™ .From this time onwards, and until the rise of Mohammad Ali in Egypt in 1805, the Mamluks continued to rule in Egypt under the suzerainty of Ottoman Sultans.

ii. The Funj Sultanate

- .The Funj Sultanate emerged in 1504 in Nubia
- .The present-day territory of the Republic of Sudan.
- .Before the rise of the Sultanate, two Christian Kingdoms existed in Nubia.
- .They were called **Alwa** and **Makuria**.
- .Both of them were annexed by the Egyptian Mamluks in 1275.
- .Since 1317, Islam gradually spread into Nubia.
- .Various Arab clans also expanded to Nubia.
- .Consequently, the Arabs established their supremacy in Nubia.

The major cause for the rise of the Funj Sultanate

- .At the beginning of the 16th century, they were challenged by cattle- breeding nomads called the Funj, who practiced their traditional religion.
- .The origin of the Funj nomads is still controversial.
  1. But various hypotheses are held. Some say they belong to the **Shilluk** people.
  2. Others associate their origin with the state of Bornu around Lake Chad. Still others locate their origin to the northern part of the Ethiopian region.
- .In Nubia, the Funj soon adopted Islam.
- .In 1504, they established the FunjSultanate with its center at Sennar.
- .Besides the Funj, a rival Arab state called Abdallabi also existed in Nubia.
- .Abdallabi contended for grazing rights in the southern Gezira as well as for political supremacy in Nubia.
- .**Amara Dunqas** was one of the renowned chiefs of Funj who fought many battles against the Abdallabi state for supremacy in Nubia.
- .Finally, victory went to the Funj, while the Abdallabi chief, got a subordinate position.
- .The Funj Sultanate ruled Nubia in partnership with Abdallabi Arabs.

The end of the Funj Sultanate

- .The Funj Sultanate Survived until the rise of Mohammed Ali in Egypt in 1805 and his conquest of the Sultanate in 1821. It was also subjected to similar attacks from the neighboring states.

❁ .The Funj Sultanate faced two rounds of attacks from the Christian Kingdom.

1. The first was the expedition of King Suseniyos in about 1620. In this expedition several villages of the Funj Sultanate were destroyed and looted by the Christian army.
2. The second expedition was launched by king Iyasu II in the 1730's which ended up in defeat for the Christian army.

iii. The Almoravids

❖ .The western half of North Africa is called the **Maghrib**, the name the Arabs gave to the region.

❖ .In the 11th century, the Maghrib region was the center of Islamic revival movement called the Almoravids.

❖ .The Almoravid movement was organized by **Sanhaja Berbers**.

❖ .The movement was a reaction to the attack they faced from the wandering Arabs who came westwards across North African.

❖ .Theywere the Berbers of northwest who lived around the present Mauritania.

❖ .The invading Arabs destroyed everything the Berbers had.

The rise of the of the Almoravids

❖ .At the beginning, the movement had a religious character.

❖ .The leader of the movement was called AbdallahibnYasin.

❖ . He was a devoted and strict Muslim.

❖ .He established his center on an island in the Senegal River

❖ And preached a jihad against non-Muslims.

❖ .Abdallah and his followers became known as the peoples of the hermitage - al Murabitun.

❖ .This was later corrupted to Almoravids.

The Almoravids and jihad

❖ The Almoravids launched their jihad in two directions.

1. One branch was led by Abdallah himself. At first, he brought the Berber communities in the far western lands under his authority. Then, he led them northwards and captured the city of Sijilmasa in 1056. Morocco and part of Spain fell under the control of the Almoravids later in the second half of the 11th century.

2. The second branch, led by Abu Bakr, headed southwards against the empire of ancient Ghana. The Almoravids made alliances with the people of Tekrur and waged a long war against Ghana. They captured the city of Audaghust in 1054.

iv. The Almohads

- ➔ .The Almohad movement also began as a religions reform movement. It was antagonistic to the Almoravids.
- ➔ .But it soon assumed political and economic dimensions.
- ➔ .The economic motive arose from a desire to control the great trans-Saharan trade routes,
- ➔ .While the political goal was aimed at building an Islamic Empire.

The movement was led by

- ➔ .The movement was led by a man called IbnTumart.
- ➔ .Who was born in the present- day Morocco about 1075.
- ➔ .Born from a Masmuda Berber family,
- ➔ .IbnTumart was a learned and pious man.
- ➔ .He had been a well - experienced administrator and community leader.
- ➔ .People were impressed and attracted to his teachings.
- ➔ .IbnTumart's reforms were mainly related to morality, theological dogma and law.
- ➔ .He criticized the Almoravids for their religious laxity. At first, the Almoravids tolerated his criticism.
- ➔ .IbnTumart gave a series of lectures that criticized the rule of the Almoravids.
- ➔ .The main purpose of the movement was the over throw of the Almoravid regime.
- ➔ .IbnTumart and his followers played an important role in the expansion of the Almohad movement.
- ➔ .IbnTumart got wide acceptance from among the Berbers.
- ➔ .He preached in the Berber language which was an important factor for attracting the Berbers.
- ➔ .His teachings about religion got approval of the Berbers.

- ➔ .His political principles of kinship organization and tribal membership in the central government were based on Berber traditions.
- ➔ .Almohads were not successful to over throw the Almoravids when IbnTumart was alive.
- ➔ .The Almohads won their first victory over the Almoravids in 1122.
- ➔ . The Almohads besieged the capital, Marrakish, in 1128, after a six-year war.

The Almohad Empire finally collapsed

Because of the following factors.

- ϖ .First, the conquest of the vast territory made efficient and centralized administrative very difficult.
- ϖ .The constant wars also drained the resources of the empire.
- ϖ .The attempt to solve the economic problem by imposing heavy taxes did not succeed, because it brought about popular dissatisfaction.
- ϖ .On the other hand, the military weakness of the Almohads was a decisive factor.
- ϖ .In 1212, the Almohad army was defeated by the combined forces of the Spanish Christian Kingdoms.

11.2. Western Africa (Western Sudan)

- ❖ .The region immediately to the south of the Sahara is part of Western Africa.
- ❖ .The Arabs called this region **"Bila d a1-Sudan",**meaning the country of the Blacks.
- ❖ .The Sudan is a vast territory that extends from the Nile Valley in the east to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in the West.
- ❖ .This vast territory is divided into western and eastern Sudan.
- ❖ .Sudan which came into being as a result of the trans- Saharan trade.

Ghana

- ★ .The oldest kingdom in western Sudan was Ghana.
- ★ .The kingdom got its name from the title of the kings known as Ghana,
- ★ .Meaning "War Chiefs".
- ★ .The 8th century Muslim Spanish writer called IbnHawkals reported that the proper name of the kingdom was Aoukar.
- ★ .Although Ghana was founded around the **4th century**,

★ .The kingdom reached the height of its power at about **1000 A.D.**
★ .**KumbiSaleh** was the most important one and the last capital of Ghana.

The main factor for the prosperity and greatness

★ .The main factor for the prosperity and greatness of Ghana was trade.
★ .Ghana was located on the **Trans Saharan trade** routes between North Africa and the forest belt.
★ .This gave the merchants of the kingdom an advantage of being middlemen in the trade between the two regions.
★ .The income obtained from the trade enabled the rulers of Ghana to set up a strong central government.
★ .Ghanaian craftsmen were skilled in iron works.
★ .Thus the rulers, of Ghana were able to build a vast empire,
★ .Which covered parts of what are now Mali and Mauritania.

The decline and fall of Ghana

★ .It was caused by the invasion of the Almoravids in the 11th century.
★ .The Almoravids controlled the city of Audaghaust in 1054.
★ .After two decades of military struggle, the Almoravids controlled the capital of
Ghana, KumbiSaleh,
★ .In 1076 and this brought an end to the kingdom of ancient Ghana.

ii. Mali

☪ .The kingdom of Mali was founded before 1000 AD
☪ .The founders were Kangaba people
☪ They were the clans of the Mandinka people.
☪ .They were traders, mainly engaged in the gold trade of the region.
☪ .They took the gold of Wangara region to the markets of ancient Ghana.
☪ . After the fall of Ghana, there was a fierce power struggle in the former territory of the kingdom.

- .Eventually, a powerful chief called Sumanguru emerged as a strong ruler. Sumanguru controlled the ancient capital of Ghana, KumbiSaleh, and the trade routes of the region.
- .According to tradition, the name of the kingdom was initially Kangaba. Later on it was changed to Mali, which means "where the king resides"
- .Sundiata ruled Mali from 1230 to 1255.
- . He was succeeded by **Mansa Uli (r. 1255-1270)** who continued the conquests began by Sundiata. During the reign of these two rulers, Mali regained the control of the gold- bearing lands of **Wangara** and **Bambak**.

Mansa Kankan Musa (1312 to 1337)

- .Mali attained greatness under Mansa Kankan Musa, commonly known as
- .Mansa Musa. Mansa Musa ruled Mali from 1312 to 1337.
- .During his reign, not only Islam made a big progress
- .But Mali also became one of the largest and powerful empires of the world.
- .The first person to be converted to Islam in Mali was Mansa Musa.
- .His Empire was visited by a number of Arabs and Egyptians.
- .In 1324, Mansa Musa himself made a magnificent pilgrimage to Mecca.
- .The Muslim world was so impressed that **IbnBattutah**, the Arab historian who heard about the reputation of Mansa Musa and his empire, wrote that "***Musa was the most powerful, the richest, the most fortunate, the most feared by enemies and the most able to do good to those around him.***"

The decline and fall of Mali

- .It was the result of the over extension of the territory of the empire. The limitless expansion of the territory created difficulty in maintaining effective communication and organized defense system.
- .The rulers of Mali exercised nominal power until 1550, when the empire of Mali finally came to an end.

Songhai

- .Songhai was centered on the largest bend of the Niger River,
- .They reached its zenith in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- .Having come into contact with Muslims from the North, the Songhai accepted Islam, at least nominally, shortly after 1000.

- .In the late 13 th century, power in Songhai was consolidated in the **Sunni dynasty**, which gradually gained independence from Mali and thereafter began to encroach upon the weakening Mali power.
- .Songhai expansion was most aggressively advanced by Sunni Ali,
- .Who incorporated the eastern part of Mali into his empire, subjugating Djenne in 1471.
- .He was followed by Mohammed Ture, of the **Askia dynasty**, who further extended Songhai's influence and made Tumbuktu again a thriving cultural center.
- .An assault by Moroccan forces equipped with firearms in 1591 was the final blow, from which the Songhai state never recovers.

Kanem - Bornu Empire

- .It was an African state in the Lake Chad region.
- .It lasted for a thousand years, from the 9th to the 19th century.
- .Kanem- Bornu state was founded by the Kanuri, a mixed Negroid
- .And Berber people living east of Lake Chad.
- .It was ruled by mais or sultans of the **Saifuwa dynasty**
- .which came to power in about 850 AD. The capital city was called **Njimi**.
- .The economy of the state was based on trans-Saharan trade.
- .The state was subject to the influence of Islam,
- .which in the 11th century became the accepted religion.
- .under Ali Ghaji, founded a new capital at Ngazargamu.
- .The Empire declined again in the 18th century, due in part to infiltration by the **Fulani** from the west.
- .Barely withstanding an onslaught by UsumandanFodio in 1808 -1809.
- .The Empire was finally absorbed by Wadai in 1846.

The Hausa City- States

- .Originally, the Hausa people lived in a small region in the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.
- .Several non-Hausa people, such as the **Tuareg and the Fulani** entered the region and settled there.

- .Different people with different ethnic identity were assimilated into the Hausa culture and language.
- .Before the advent of colonial era, the territory occupied by the Hausa language speakers had no particular name.
- .It was simply called "Kasar Hausa." In the Hausa language, **"Kasar Hausa"** means the country of the Hausa language.
- .Because of this, the early Europeans also called the region Hausa land.
- .The most important Hausa city- states were **Kano, Katsina, Zazzu (Zaria), Gobir, Kebbi, Rano and Zamfara.**

Several factors were responsible for the prosperityHausa city-states

1. Firstly, Hausa land had rich deposits of iron ore, most of which were located close to wooded land, where a large quantity of firewood and charcoal could be obtained for smelting the ore.
2. Secondly, the region was endowed with rich and fertile soil. Because of this agriculture had become the most important economic activity in all Hausa states. Crops like millet, sorghum, rice and other food crops were abundantly cultivated in Hausa land. Commercial crops such as cotton and indigo were also grown in some of the states.
3. Finally, Hausa land was located between the Sahel and the Sahara in the north and the tropical forests in the south. This location gave the Hausa cities the advantage of being intermediaries in the trade between the two regions.

The cause of the decline of the empire came from the rise of the **Fulani Jihad**. By 1811 the Fulani had become the masters of Hausa land as a whole.

11.3. Equatorial, Eastern and South Eastern Africa

i. The Kingdom of Congo

- .The Kingdom of Kongo was founded in the late 14th century
- .By a Bantu people called **Bakongo**and their King was called **Manikongo**.
- .When the Portuguese reached the west African coast around the equator in 1483, the capital of the Kingdom of Kongo was situated at Mbanzakongo,

- .The Bakongo people were clever smiths.
- .The kingdom was densely populated with a strong administrative structure.
- .Its administration was divided into six provinces.
- .Agriculture and trade were the bases of economy in the kingdom.
- .The Portuguese had some contact with the kingdom of Kongo since around 1482, when navigator Diogo Cam visited the mouth of the Congo River and claimed the surrounding region as Portuguese territory.
- . In 1489, a Kongolese embassy was sent to the Portuguese King, and in 1491, Portuguese missionaries and crafts men (masons, carpenters, etc.) visited the Kingdom.
- .Portuguese, making Kongo a significant supplier to the Atlantic slave trade.

Zimbabwe

- .Archaeologists excavated a large site with ruins of stone buildings.
- .It was found out that the ruins were the remains of the civilization of the Great Zimbabwe.
- . It is believed that the Bantu people called the Shona had built the civilization of Great Zimbabwe.
- They built many shrines. One of the shrines named **Dzimbadzemabwe** which means houses of stones was built on a hill called **Mbanwa**.
- .At its height in the 14th century, the capital city of Great Zimbabwe housed up to 11, 000 residents.
- .The remains of trade articles and coins of Syrian, Persian and Chinese origin excavated from the site of Great Zimbabwe, indicate that the state of Great Zimbabwe maintained trading contacts with the peoples of faraway countries.
- .The state also maintained trade relations with the ports of East Africa such as **Sofala** and **Kilwa** who benefited from the gold of the Great Zimbabwe.
- .The greatness of Zimbabwe came to an end towards the close of the 15th century. Succeeded by a state that came to be known as MweneMutapa.

MweneMutapa

- .Mutota belonged to the powerful Rozwi clan of the Shona people.
- .Originally, MweneMutapa was a title of the Rozwi Kings.

- .The capital of the new state also moved northewards from the former center of the Great Zimbabwe
- .In the 15th and 16th centuries, MweneMutapa dominated the gold trade between the plateau and the Zambezi River valley, notably with Swahili trading posts at **Sena**and **Tete.**
- .In the 16th century, the Portuguese established bases at both posts in an attempt to seize control of the trade and conquer Mutapa and the plateau.
- .In the 1670's a new power arose on the plateau of western Zimbabwe led by a Shona military ruler called Changamire. His army of followers, known as the Rozwi, seized control of the region, drove the Portuguese from the plateau in 1693, and established the **Rozwi Empire (also called Changamire).**

11.4. Southern Africa

- .The dominant people of the region were the Bantu.
- .The other two groups were the Khoi-Khoi and San peoples.
- .The European colonizers called these people Hottentots and Bushmen respectively.
- .The languages of the two peoples are grouped under the language super family of Khoisan.

The Khoi – Khoi

- .The KhoiKhoi were a pastoral people who inhabited what is now Southern and Western South Africa,
- .When this region was colonized by European settlers in the 17th century.
- .The KhoiKhoihave also been called Hottentots, and name given them by whites in South Africa.
- .In their own language, KhoiKhoi means "men of men".
- .The majority of the remaining KhoiKhoi live in the southern part of Namibia,
- .The KhoiKhoi were related to the two neighboring people, the San (Bushmen) and the Bantu.
- .True KhoiKhoi closely resembled the San and average a little more than 1.5m (5ft) in height. Originally, the KhoiKhoiwere hunters.

The San

❁ .The San have lived in Southern Africa for thousands of years.
❁ .Their territory, once extensive, was constricted by white settlers after the early 1700's.
❁ .In the past, the San have been called Bushmen by Southern African whites.
❁ .The San spoke Khoisan languages characterized by click sounds.
❁ .They have short height, yellow and copper skin colour and kinky hair.

The Bantus

❁ .The Bantus are a linguistically related group of about 60 million people living in equatorial and southern Africa.
❁ .The Bantu probably originated in the border land of what is now Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, migrated from where they downward into Southern Africa.
❁ .Up to 1000, the Bantu migration was one of the largest in human history.
❁ . The cause of the movement is uncertain, but many anthropologists believe that it was caused by increase in population.
❁ .The Bantu split into two major linguistic branches, the Eastern and Western Bantu.
❁ .The Eastern Bantu migrated through present-day Zimbabwe and Mozambique, down to South Africa.
❁ .The Western Bantu moved in to what is now Angola, Namibia, and North western Botswana.
❁ .Tribal groups descended from the Bantu include the Shona, the Xhosa, the Kikuyu, and the Zulu, of the Eastern Bantu language branch, and the Herero and Tonga peoples, of the western Bantu languages branch.
❁ .The Bantu of Southern Africa constitute five major linguistic groups. They are Venda, Sotho, Tsongo, Nguni and Inhambane.
❁ .The Southern Bantu continued to lead an undisturbed life until the 1780's, when they encountered the Dutch farmers known as **Boers** for the first time.

The Boers

❁ The Boers came to South Africa after the establishment of a small post for Dutch ships in 1652.
❁ .The post grew to a settlement,
❁ .Which later became Cape Colony.

- .From the Cape Colony, the Dutch settlers, many of whom were farmers,
- .gradually expanded northwards to the center of Southern Bantus in the last two decades of the 18th century.
- .Subsequently, a century- long war was conducted between the Bantu and the Boers. In response to this struggle,
- .Several Bantu states emerged in Southern Africa.

Shaka Zulu (1818-1828)

- One of them was the Zulu Kingdom which attained dominance in the region particularly during the reign of Shaka Zulu (1818-1828).
- .Shaka successfully defended the kingdom from the neighboring Bantu clans as well as the Dutch farmers.
- .However, after his death, the Kingdom was weakened
- .And became a prey to the neighboring rival clans as well as to the British colonizers.
- .In the 1860's the Zulu Kingdom and many other Bantu clans, were conquered by the British.

11.5. The Trans – Atlantic Slave Trade

INTRODUCTION

- .The background to the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade had been set up by the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the new continent, America in 1492.
- .Soon afterwards, the Spanish conquerors and other adventurers entered the territory of North, Central and South America.
- . In these areas, very large plantations were established by the Europeans.
- .The Native Americans, the American Indians, called Red Indians by Europeans in the past, had been brutally exterminated by the Europeans.
- .Those Red Indians who escaped the brutal extermination were forced to work in the European plantations and mine fields under dreadful conditions.
- .Most of the American Indians died from European diseases and harsh treatment.
- .The Europeans tried to solve the problem by transporting the indentured white slaves from Europe.

❖ .However, the white slaves were unable to resist the hardships. Therefore, the idea of transporting the natives of West Africa originated at this critical point.

Which European country first began the slave trade in Africa?

® .Portugal was the first European country that began the slave trade in Africa.
® .Then Spain followed.
® .The Portuguese and the Spanish had already transported a limited number of West African slaves to their own countries before the demand for free labor arose in the American plantations.
® .In Africa, the slave trade was conducted for over 300 years.

The Atlantic slave trade passed through three distinct phases

1. The first phase was commonly known as "**the piratic slave trade"**.
   - ® .The traders were individual merchants, adventurers, navigators or sea robbers.
   - ® .European governments did not take part in the slave trade nor did they give official support to their citizens engaged in this evil business.
   - ® .The slave trade which began in this manner in the 15th century continued upto the last quarter of the 16th century.
2. The second phase was known as "**the monopolistic slave trade"**.
   - ® .which began in the 1580's.
   - ® .In this phase the trade was conducted by monopolistic slave trading companies,
   - ® .Which was officially chartered by their respective governments.
   - ® .These companies operated in a highly organized system
   - ® .This was assisted by regular armed forces.
   - ® .The price of a slave in Africa was 100-200 francs.
   - ® .But in America the market price of the same slave was 1000-2000 frames.

- ® .The second phase is also known as **the triangular trade**, because the route of this trade tied, in somewhat a triangular shape three continents-the Americas, Europe and Africa. From western European parts, goods such as cotton, alcoholic beverages, metal wares and firearms were transported to West Africa, where they were exchanged for slaves
- ® .These accumulated wealth helped the industrialization of Western Europe starting from the 18th century.

3. The third phase was called **free trade**.

- ® .Which began in the second half of the 17th century
- ® .In 1689, the British government took a legal action by instituting free trade.
- ® .The law provided for every individual of the British Empire
- ® .Several men joined the slave trade on an individual bases.
- ® .The increasing number of slave dealers incited a fierce competition between the companies as well as among the individual traders.

The Horrors of the Salve Trade

- ψ .First, slaves were captured like beasts.
- ψ .Then they were chained and hurried, often bearing heavy burden of ivory, to the coastal ports which might be located hundreds of miles from places of origin.
- ψ .The African slaves underwent a bitter hardship in the voyage across the Atlantic.
- ψ .The following description given by one scholar seems to give us some idea about the hardship.

----- ***They were stripped, branded and pushed into airless under decks, crushed together, often chained by hand and foot. Like this, they crossed the Atlantic in harsh weeks of sailing. Perhaps as many as one in every six captives died on their voyage across the ocean***

- ψ .They toiled daily from dawn to dusk, often in chains.
- ψ .During this lifelong torture, their owners provided them only with basic necessities barely enough to keep them alive and work.

- .Death was preferable to living and working in the plantations.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade

- .Religious people and humanitarians who had read the accounts of travelers on the evil trade put pressure on their governments for the abolition of the civil business.
- .One of the leading European nations to champion the abolitionist movement was Great Britain.
- .In 1807, Britain abolished the trade in slaves in her empire and put pressure on other European nations to follow suit.
- .This change in the British policy was the result of industrialization.
- .The profit of the slave trade had helped Britain to build modern industries.
- .British economic interest shifted from slave trade to the search for cheap labor power, raw materials and markets, for industrial products.
- .Their economic interest could be served only with the abolition of the salve trade.

Consequences of the Slave Trade

- .In the whole course of the slave trade, more than 15 million young Africans were exported to the Americas. As a result, Africa lost its most valuable human resource.
- .The political consequences of the slave trade were equally fatal for the continent.
- .African chiefs and kings acquired a large amount of firearms.
- .The possession of these large quantities of firearms intensified war and conflict in Africa.
- .On the eve of European colonial expansion, there was severe divisions among peoples and states of Africa.
- .As a result, the Africans could not put up a united resistance against the European colonizers.
- .In this way, the Atlantic slave trade helped to open the way for the colonization of Africa.