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 minster 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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