

What was the image of slavery before 1500?

The image of slavery before 1500 varied depending on several factors such as skin color, hair color, social role or status of the slave, war captives. Domestic slaves were commonly associated by skin color because they were usually of African descent where, as agricultural slaves were identified with their red hair color because of vast majority were Celts. The agricultural slaves were also considered to be lazy and stupid by their masters. Another image of slavery is those captured in war, the uncivilized and educated. The Greek slaves that were educated tutored Roman children and Islamic slave soldiers had better images. The image of slavery before 1500 was not static, the slaves were able to rise above this station in life by learning from civilized masters.

What factors contributed to a new construction of slavery?

There were several factors that contributed to a new construction of slavery, the first being the rise in the slave population which made up a significant percentage of the population. Another factor is that the Atlantic world plantation slaves were not included in the cultural frame of their rulers. They rulers worked them harder which led to higher death rates and the need to bring in more slaves. A vicious cycle that benefited the plantation owners because of high profit it yielded, especially on sugar. And the last factor to contribute to the new construction of slavery was race/skin color, the majority of slaves were African.

Why and how were American slave populations dehumanized?

American slave populations were dehumanized through increased harsh labor for the benefit of their European masters. Their masters used brute force to control them, not considering them as humans but as mules. Working them to death and then replacing them and repeating the cycle.

Define the new racial construct which emerged, especially in colonial southern society and the Caribbean, and the justification behind it.

The new racial construct which emerged was that blacks were inferior to whites. The Southern colonial elites invented a new notion of “whiteness”, this paired skin color with the idea that some races were by nature were inferior to others. To be clear it stated the African races were inferior to European races. Africans or black people being considered less than human and therefore regardless of any efforts to adopt the culture of their master, learn the language or convert to the religion they are inferior to white people.

Do you see remnants of this in 21st century America? Explain.

Yes, remnants of this are evident in this 21st century America. It is seen through racial profiling, every time a person of color is pulled over in their car because of the color their skin. When

blacks go into a store and either the store security or an employee follows them to make sure they aren't stealing. Blacks being passed over for positions even when they are more qualified for the position than their white counterparts. The justice system, a white person commits a crime and receives slap on the wrist and a black person commits the same crime and receives a harsh jail sentence. The great Martin Luther King Jr, I had a dream speech spoke to this very thing. Rosa Parks being told to seat in the back of the bus because of her skin color. Although it seems have been progress made racial inequality still exists and we have a long way to go before we see when all men are treated as equal.