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Research & Writing

Before 1500, the image of slavery was a regular part of hierarchical complexity varying from different types of slavery such as agricultural/ domestic, paying a debt to society, war captives, or playing the role of social slavery by tutoring. Out of all the types of slavery, agricultural enslaved people prior to 1500 were looked upon as stupid and lazy by their masters, which rarely bothered the enslaved people because it lessened the workload. Enslaved people also were not of the same culture or race either. Celts who were enslaved held the features of red hair and blue eyes, but after 900 AD, darker skin tones were under the Roman stereotype, while those Islamic stereotypes were darker skin tones since more were of African descent. Slavery was also characterized for people who were not strong enough for the military and others who were defined as having a lack of culture and being barbaric.

Factors that contributed to the new construction of slavery was the rise of the slave trade which created more slave populations compared to what had existed already, slaves being intentionally left out of from the cultural frame of their rulers, and the racial composition of the slaves being that coincidence was that almost all were from Africa. American slave populations were dehumanized due to harsher treatment of their work as slaves. Dehumanization caused

more enslaved people to be sent from abroad when many died from the labor instead of allowing reproduction to take place within the slaves.

The new racial construct formed in the southern British colonies of America and the Caribbean to force social control. Race was used to imply that darker skin tones were inferior to those who were of a lighter skin tone and that if you were darker, then you would be naturally a slave and not be treated as “real people.”