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17 Research and Writing

What was the image of slavery before 1500?

The image of slavery before the 1500s was that people had the ability to transcend the conditions that made them acceptable for slavery. This would be based on whether they learned from some more civilized masters.

What factors contributed to a new construction of slavery?

The conditions of slavery, the slave trade, and slave societies that developed in the Atlantic world after 1500, little by little, made way for a new construction of the image of slavery. A contributing factor to this was that the rising number of slave trade formed more slave populations than had existed in most places and times than they had before. And not only this, but one must consider that many slaves working on the plantation were purposely disregarded from the cultural frame of their rulers, as this justified harsher exploitation of their labor. This then led to the condition of many slaves dying, which resulted in the importation of even more slaves. And the fact that these were no means of sexual reproduction of them did not matter to their owners as they already made huge profits, especially on sugar. Furthermore, there were also legal worries and whether the slaves and owners could create an alliance based on a legal-contractual cultural ground. This scared many, especially the elites, so they constructed the concept of race as a threat to their social and economic power. This concept would allow them to construct a social class where whites would be greater than any other races, even if they one mixed with white.

Why & how were American slave populations dehumanized?

There are many ways the American slave populations were dehumanized. The first way was the amount of hardcore forced labor they needed to do, causing many of them to face death. Another way was that they were not supposedly allowed to reproduce sexually since slave owners had much profit from whom they owned already. And as to why it was because of their skin color. A slave could know the language, hold the same view, and have the same amount of knowledge of more remarkable, but for the slave owners, all they saw was their skin; they saw themselves as the superior race and them as inferiors due to their shade of skin color.

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

The new racial construct which emerged was a dominant screen image, and for some, it was even considered a frame value. Although it newly emerged, it did not interfere with the de facto structure of the Northern colonies. Furthermore, European colonists and the native tribes of the area had a significant impact with many European settlers and a much smaller population of African slaves and free people, all of which could be viewed as something in terms of racial differences. Ultimately this all explains the justification of the conditions in the Caribbean. And even in Latin America, although the racial boundaries were not as transparent, they would still be able to be seen as an impurity in a clear natural racial hierarchy.

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

In the USA, there are no longer remnants of terms of slavery. To begin with, slavery was officially abolished in 1865, and now there are laws that grant and protects all types of people

despite skin color, race, ethnicity, social class, religion, etc. Regarding race, there is racism; however, it is not only racism done to colored people but also to white people. Many colored people, due to the historical past of white people in America, hold a grudge. However, no white American today can be responsible personally for something that happened centuries ago. Many might disagree with my view on this matter. However, it only seems as if many Americans feel that slavery in some way or form exists in today's America. Looking at history, many societies had slaves. However, those living in those present societies do not seem as radical as many claim slavery remains in the USA today. Racism still exists; however, it's more as every race is racist to one another, even with people of similar color. For instance, looking at the Slavs, many slaves dislike each other such as Polish people and Russians, but it is not only with Europeans but also with South Americans. For example, when I was in Ecuador, many of my people were racist toward Venezuelans, Peruvians, and vice versa. Racism is everywhere unfortunately but thankfully slavery is not, at least in the USA

Work cited

Miles-Morillo, Lynne, and Stephen Morillo. *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume Two*. Oxford University Press, 2014.