

World Civilization II (OA)

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Research and Writing Week 3

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What was the image of Slavery before 1500?

The image of slavery before 1500 was projected by both slaveholders and slaves themselves due to slavery appearing as a regular part of complex hierarchies. This varied depending on if they were domestic or agricultural, the source of slaves and (whether they were war captives or debt bondage) and factors such as their gender or social role. Agricultural slaves were thought to be lazy and stupid according to their masters. At some point Stereotypes of slaves included red hair.

What factors contributed to a new construction of slavery?

The factors that contributed to a new construction of slavery was the conditions of slavery, the slave trade and slave societies that were developed in the Atlantic world after 1500. In addition, the rising scale of slave trade made it possible for more slave population than had existed previously that existed previously. In some of the Caribbean Islands and parts of Portuguese Brazil, a huge portion of the population were slaves.

Why and how were American slave populations dehumanized?

Because slavery was seen as a key to plantation agriculture, which led to harsh exploitation of labor. Slaves were dehumanized by constantly being imported into the workforce when they did not reproduce, which led to high death rates.

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

The racial divide became a factor as opposed to a cultural image. This idea stated that race was defined by skin color, and some races were inferior to others. The idea of race and racial hierarchy spread as screen images. By stating the idea of race, less opposition would be encountered.

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

In my opinion, I see remnants in the 21st Century America today as people are still treated unfairly due to their race, skin color or gender. For instance, in some countries, women are treated as less than. And not allowed to read or learn. In some states when a person of color is arrested, they are thrown into jail without receiving an explanation of why. In addition, we are now living in times where many people of color do not receive the same justice as others.

Works Cited:

Morillo, Stephen and Lynne. 2014. Sources for Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture. Volume One: to 1550 (pp. 461-462) Oxford University Press.