

Name: _____

EUROPE IN AFRICA

In Africa, economic and political influence was based on the slave trade which began as a result of the need for more labor on the plantations in the Americas. To acquire the slaves, the Europeans engaged in trade with African tribes, often exchanging goods the African tribal leaders wanted such as weapons, iron, cloth, and horses in return for the slaves. As the demand for slaves increased, tribal warfare in Africa increased as tribes began capturing other tribes in order to participate in this trade. Some tribes became very powerful through this process while most African societies suffered from the loss of workers being taken and traded to the Europeans. Families and communities were separated, and the major population decrease and loss of workers led to economic problems in Africa. Some Africans began resistance movements to try to stop the European slave trade, either by attacking European slave traders in Africa or by revolting on the slave ships. Like in Asia, there was no significant colonization or political takeover like there was in the Americas.

The growing need for labor in the New World due to the development of the plantation system by the Europeans led to the growth of the slave trade. African slave labor was seen as the answer to this colonial problem of labor shortage to work the plantations. The desire for slave labor led to a system of trade known as the triangular trade. Ships loaded with sugar from the West Indies (off the coast of Central America) traveled to Europe where they picked up furniture, cloth and guns and returned to West Africa to trade these goods for slaves. The ships carrying slaves then traveled to the West Indies and the English colonies where the slaves were sold. The routes between Europe, Africa, and North America formed a triangle.

1. Why did African nations participate in the slave trade?

2. List the impacts of the slave trade on African nations:

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