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Why did the abolition of the slave trade have such ironic results?

The struggle to end the transatlantic slave trade and slavery was achieved by African resistance and economic factors as well as through humanitarian campaigns. The ending of the Trans- Atlantic slave trade was suppose to allow Africa to have the potential to be a up and running state both financially and socially; however that did not occur matters got worst. There were three iconic results to the abolition of the slave trade: (a) the abolition of the slave trade led to increased slavery within Africa, (b) it led to the European conquest of Africa, and (c) it led to continued slavery under colonial rule in spite of European opposition to slavery. There were many factors that led to these three paradoxes; Otto von Bismarck, Berlin Conference Trekboers, Griquas, and the industrial revolutions occurring in the Western hemisphere.

The trans-Atlantic slave trade was the largest involuntary migration of human; however this slave trade was not created over night. Sugar production was a large labor task and the Portuguese knew how to sail to Africa and back in the 1420's. In 1455 the Portuguese began to create plantations in new areas such as Madeira. The Portuguese continued to expand their sugar cane plantations and in 1485 they took over Sao Tome because not only were they producing sugar for themselves but for Europe. The sugar cane plantation complexes continued to get bigger and bigger and mover further and further away from Europe; now they were in Brazil. During the sixteenth century 2000 Africans a year were cargo to the New World. The final destination for the captured slaves of Africa in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the New World. Once in the New World slaves were placed on plantations and had harsh living conditions. The slaves were not educated and if they tried to escape of did not follow their owners' rules they

would be whipped numerous amounts of times or simply killed. The owners own the slaves and they were treated like property; brought and sold amongst different owners. Not only did the owners only own the slaves but they also owned the slaves' off springs. However the Trans - Atlantic slave eventually began to decline steadily from 1801-51 after the governments of Britain, France and the United States demanded it.

Even though the Trans-Atlantic slave trade became illegal slavery of Africans in Africa was still occurring. The Indian Ocean slave trade was still occurring; The Indian Ocean Slave trade evolved around the Indian Ocean basin. Slaves were taken from mainland East Africa and sold in markets in On the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf. In contrast to the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the Indian Ocean Slave Trade was much older dating back from at least the second century C.E. until the early twentieth century[1]. Slavery in Africa after the Trans-Atlantic slave trade played a huge role in the economy of Africa. One example of the importance of slavery in Africa was: Africa became a leading distributor in cocoa beans in which later would be turned into chocolate. The Ivory Coast is the main African distributor of the cocoa bean. Young boys whose ages range from 12 to 16 have been sold into slave labor and were forced to work in cocoa farms in order to harvest the beans, from which chocolate is made, under inhumane conditions and extreme abuse. This West African country was the leading exporter of cocoa beans to the world market. Thus, the existence of slave labor is relevant to the entire international economic community. Through trade relations, many actors are inevitably implicated in this problem, whether it is the Ivorian government, the farmers, the American or

[1] http://lrrc3.sas.upenn.edu/indianocean/group1/ioslv4.html

European chocolate manufacturers, or consumers who unknowingly buy chocolate[2]. Even though the Trans Atlantic slave trade came to end slavery on the continent of Africa was inevitable because of the continents economic problems; slavery was one of the few solutions that would help boost the economy.

While Africa was struggling and relying on child labor to help boost its economy the western hemisphere superpowers were holding a conference deciding what to do with the continent of Africa; however there were no representatives of Africa present. Otto von Bismarck the first chancellor (1871–90) of the German Empire (Between 1870 and 1890 Bismarck earned the respect of European leaders for his earnest efforts in behalf of peace). In an effort to keep peace in Europe he held the Berlin Conference; at the Berlin residence of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1884, the foreign ministers of fourteen European powers and the United States established ground rules for the exploitation of the continent of Africa. Africans were not invited or made privy to their decisions. These western superpowers were dividing up a continent because of personal greed and did not even take in consideration what affects this would have on the continent. Each attending country at the Berlin conference was given a chunk of Africa. The Africans have traditional ties to each land they occupied and each ethnic group had different languages and traditions. At the Berlin Conference the Western hemisphere superpowers were not just diving a continent; they were dividing people and ethnic groups whose ancestors had ties to specific regions from hundreds of generations ago[3].

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[2] http://www.american.edu/ted/chocolate-slave.htm

[3] Gordon, April A. and Donald L. Gordon. *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Lynne Rienner Publishers 2007

At the conclusion of the Berlin Conference every country in Africa except for Ethiopia[4] were colonized. The Europeans began to establish themselves within the areas they colonize and this led to the emergence of mix people of both European and African descent. Two Such groups were created: (a) Trekboers and the (b) Griquas. The Trekboers were nomadic pastoral descendants of Dutch settlers and smaller numbers of French Huguenot refugees, German Protestants, Frisians and Scots, due to absorption into the nascent Boer nation. The Trekboers began migrating from the areas near Cape Town during the 1690s and into the expanding Eastern Cape frontier throughout the 1700s. Griquas were19th-century people; of Khoekhoe and European ancestry, who occupied the region of central South Africa; just north of the Orange River. In 1848 they were guaranteed some degree of autonomy by a treaty with the British governor of South Africa. Under the leadership of Adam Kok III, the Griquas sided with the British in a war against the Boers. Their tendency to favor the British over the Boers took on greater significance and led to the creation of the Orange Free State in 1854. These two groups kept fighting amongst each other and there were always prisoners of war that were later converted to slaves. Even though the Europeans were against slavery they could not end it on the continent because these were civil war amongst the "native" people and every war had prisoners of war.

Once the Trans-Atlantic slave trade came to an end many thought that would be the end of slavery. They were wrong the conditions of Africa just got worst. Slavery in Africa grew due to the fact that the economy was terribly bad and the only way to produce profit without loss was

[4] The Italians tried to invade Ethiopia; however Ethiopia traded with the French and received new technological weapons. With the new weapons and Italy's impatience the Ethiopians were able to fight of colonization.

have free labor and slavery allowed that especially with the cocoa bean farmers. The end of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade also allowed the Europeans to come in and take over the entire continent except Ethiopia, and slavery within Africa continued to grow despite the Europeans' opposition. Many did not see these results coming at the conclusion of the Trans Atlantic slave; however these results has crippled sub-Saharan Africa for several decades and now in the twenty-first century these results still affects the economy, social conditions and political structure in sub-Saharan Africa. The conclusion of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade seemed to have made matters worse.