

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK TEN (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS3

TOPIC: TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE (2)

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE TRANS-SAHARAN SLAVE TRADE

- A. It led to the depopulation of West Africa and the loss of valuable man power.
- B. The inhumane treatment meted out by the European masters left serious physical and emotional scars on the African slaves. It debased the humanity of blacks.
- C. It affected the orderly progress and cultural growth of the people.
- D. It contributed greatly to the collapse of Nigerian empires and kingdoms like the Oyo and Benin empires.
- E. It resulted in the separation of different families.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE:

Though the slave trade was dehumanizing, cruel and insensitive, it brought some economic benefits to Nigeria. These include:

- 1. The introduction of new crops such as cassava, maize, rice and citric fruits from the New World.
- 2. The slave trade also brought about the theory of the "gospel and the plough" which was introduced by the Christian missionaries as a means of eradicating slave trade in Nigeria.

ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The abolition of the slave trade did not happen in a moment but took the combined efforts of some humanitarians, Christian missionaries as well as the British government.

These groups vehemently opposed the trade as they considered it as evil, heinous and dehumanizing. They were in strong support of its abolition and were referred to as abolitionists. Some of the notable abolitionists were: William Wilberforce, Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson and Thomas Buxton.

Wilberforce introduced two bills in 1789 and 1791 calling for the abolition of the slave trade. Eventually, the bill which abolished slave trade was the abolition bill of March 1807. It banned the British subjects from trading in slaves after January 1st, 1808. In 1833, a law was passed which abolished slavery throughout the British Empire.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE

- 1. The British government stationed warships on the West African coasts to stop the shipment of slaves from the region.
- 2. It signed treaties with the nations that participated in the slave trade and paid compensation to them. e.g. the treaties signed with Portugal and Spain.
- 3. It also signed treaties with Spain and Portugal for a license to search ships smuggling slaves to America.
- 4. The British also signed treaties with the various African chiefs engaged in the slave trade. e.g. the treaty with King Pele of Bonny which paid him the equivalent of 2,000 dollars annually as compensation for five years.
- 5. The Industrial Revolution in England helped facilitate the abolition of slave trade.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA

Just like in Europe, slave trade thrived in the US from the late 18th and the 19th century. When slavery was abolished in Britain in 1807, the US also abolished slavery internationally through the **Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves** in the same year. However, slavery thrived domestically in the United States, particularly in the Southern States (Confederate states).

Several abolitionists in abolitionist fought against slavery in the United States including Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, John Quincy Adams, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, The Underground Railroad Movement and Elijah Lovejoy.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Act and gave the famous Gettysburg speech which ordered that liberation of all slaves in the US. By the end of the American Civil War in 1865, slavery was abolished nationwide in the US through the ratification of the 13th amendment.

HOMEWORK

1. State 3 negative effects of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.
2. Mention four abolitionists who contributed to the termination of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the abolition of slave trade.
3. State two contributions of the British government to the abolition of the slave trade.