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From Indentured Servants to Slaves, Daily-life Conditions and the Economic Factors Behind this Shift: Study case Virginia Colony

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Abstract

This is an inquiry of the institution of indentured servitude and slavery in the British Colony of Virginia. This study investigates the innovation of indentured servitude and describes their daily-life conditions. It provides an analysis of how the indentured servitude became a central institution in the economy and society of Virginia colony. It also investigates servitude in law providing examples of treatment and resistance of servants. This study provides an economic analysis of the decline of indentured servants and the rise of new system of labor, slavery. However, It traces the origin of the Atlantic slavery, and the first existence of slaves in Virginia. It eventually portrays their conditions and religious faith.

الملخص

هذا البحث هو عبارة عن تحقيق حول مؤسستي الرقيق والاستعباد في المستعمرة البريطانية فرجينيا، يحقق هذا البحث في نشأة نظام الاستعباد، كما يصف ظروف حياتهم اليومية، يقدم البحث تحليلا حول مؤسسة الاستعباد و كيف أصبحت مؤسسة مركزية في اقتصاد و مجتمع مستعمرة فرجينيا، بالإضافة إلى نظام العبودية في القانون؛ مقدما أمثلة حول كيفية معاملة ومقاومة الخدم، وتوفر هذه الدراسة تحليلا اقتصاديا عن تراجع الخدم الملتزمين و ظهور نظام عمل جديد الذي هو الاسترقاق، يتتبع بحثنا هذا أصل الاسترقاق الأطلسي والظهور الأول للرق في مستعمرة فرجينيا، وفي نهاية المطاف يصور ظروف حياة الرقيق و دياناتهم.

Dedication

I dedicate this modest work to my dear mother and dear father for their unlimited love, faith and support, I would not achieve all of this without you.

To my beloved brothers: Mhammed, Fathi, Marwan, Aiman, Faress, Nasr Elddine, and not to forget Many.

To my lovely sisters: Souad, Hadda, Khaoula, the cutest Farah, and our future doctor Aicha.

To all my friends and roommates who stand with me in hard times.

Ismail Mansour

Dedication

I dedicate this work
To my dear mother & father
To my brothers, sisters & relatives

To my closed friends
To whom all I love and cares about me

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General Introduction

Introduction

During the sixteenth century, Spain and Portugal played a pivotal role in exploring the world's seas whereby they opened new oceanic trade routes and thus linked the globe. An economic system based on mercantilism characterized this era of colonialism. Indeed, the mercantilist doctrine dramatically emboldened many intra-European wars and fueled European expansions.

A few years after Columbus's discovery of America, Spain was rapidly colonizing what was then inconceivably large territories in Central and South America. Britain sought to maintain its power. Accordingly, it was forced to dominate somewhere and the most available place was in North America. British colonists tended to move southwards that led to conflicts with Spain, without succeeding in establishing a permanent colony. However, by virtue of repetitive attempts, they managed to eventually found their desired colony in Jamestown, Virginia, as the mother of the later colonies. In this context, British colonization enabled Britain to be in touch with new resources which strengthened its position against its rivals Spain and France. In fact, the New World was seen as a piece of meat surrounded by a group of wild carnivores, each had to seize its part.

As a matter of fact, early settlers of Virginia were dragged by their greed to find precious metals, notably gold, and other valuable commodities. In other words, their colonization of America was purely financial, but by their arrival, they immediately realized that gold was just a novel innovation. Thus, they had to wander for their survival. Once their hope of financial success became quite impossible, they turned their interest in cultivating a lucrative crop, which was tobacco, as Virginia's nature incredibly gifted them with fertile soil.

Tobacco was entirely a labor-intensive crop to grow. Besides, its production increased dramatically. On the one hand, the need for a labor power became inevitability; on the other hand, Britain was profoundly engulfed in an enclosure. This latter led to the emergence of criminals, or scum, and landless poor, exactly during the

reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Yet, the best way to get rid of those people was to ship them to Virginia.

The government had chartered joint-stock companies to transport these people, but they had to pay for their passage to Virginia through the so-called the servant's contract. From that time on, they would be known as indentured servants. The rise of this institution gave birth to unpredictable events, especially in the New World. Indentured servants left their mother country, possibly forever, to their uncertain fate seeking sanctuary to better their conditions. In contrast, following their arrival, they hoped to return to their homeland. They wished they had been in England, landless and poor, and not in Virginia. Naturally, they heavily suffered each and every moment being somewhere far from their families working on plantation fields of their brutal masters from the sun rise to the sun set, or more rigorously from dark to dark. Furthermore, to a larger extent, they got severely frustrated by their landowners' hostile mistreatments that instigated them to escape such wild life in which Man is considered as possession and livestock.

However, after hearing about new cheap labor which already confirmed its capacity in the Spanish colonies, the landholders became eager to satisfy their avarice at the expense of human being. Now, one can anticipate what would be occurring with the African descent of slaves, if Europeans did not have mercy on one another. This institution of workers paved the way and foreshadowed later events for the next institution of workers. Nonetheless, in terms of religion, unlike indentured servants who were Christians altogether, slaves believed in several faiths, such as Islam.

Indentured servants, as opposed to slaves, virtually enjoyed some rights, such as the freedom dues or to complain in a court of mistreatment which slaves were deprived of. Yet, masters often nullified those rights as they dominated Virginia's House of Burgesses.

Indentured servitude appeared in use in Virginia by 1620, little more than a decade after the initial British settlement of North America at Jamestown. Servitude became a central institution in the economy of colonial Virginia. During the 1660s, however, gradual transition of status from indentured servants to lifelong slaves took place. Thus, this study attempts to shed light on both institutions and highlights the reasons of this historical transition.

This study will be carried out to answer the following questions:

- 1- Under which circumstances had the indentured servants emerged?
- 2- To what extent economy contributed to the replacement of white servants by black slaves?
- 3- How did slaves come into their first existence in Virginia?
- 4- To what extent did slaveholders intentionally interfere in the life of indentured servants and slaves?

The importance of This study lies in the fact that it substantially tackles one of the most marked incidents in the United States history. It provides better understanding to readers and enables them to distinguish easily between the two different categories of workers. Apparently, novelists often tend to depict historical events into literary works, such as Harriet Ann Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* ; thus, this study gives students background about several events to conduct researches in literature.

More interestingly, This study shows the brutality of landowners so as to extract work from their servants and slaves. Likewise, it shows the development of "opportunistic behavior" during the seventeenth century and its aftermaths. However, some political and cultural issues that are problematic for the United States today cannot be understood unless their roots in American slavery are also to be understood.

The discovery of the New World was veritably a gift came where the adoption of mercantilism was widespread. This economic system, of course, motivated the colonial expansion. In short, Virginia was a victim of such expansion, and became a British colony along with other twelve colonies. The practise of "mercantile system"

was applied through the actions of the Virginia Company. The role of the company was to establish colonies of which trade was to be a result. Thus, the importance of this research lies in the fact that it illuminates some issues of the seventeenth century economy and its impact on the life of Virginia.

As far as the economy of Virginia was based on tobacco, planters became gradually unsatisfied with their indentured servants. Consequently, the primary purpose of This study is to ascertain a historical transition from indentured servitude to slavery in the first permanent colony, Virginia.

Naturally, many historians have dramatically contributed to this subject inspite of being exposed to criticism. Surely, in his book *Give ME Liberty: An American Freedom* (2007) , Foner evokes the American history from the earliest days of European exploration and conquest of the New World to the late twenty-first century. He offers a clear and concise narrative about the major historical events of the United States. His study was helpful in giving information about both male, and female servants in which he explains the growth of population in Virginia. However, his book lacks detailed information, as he closes too quickly and focuses only on the beginning. Moreover, he often refers to anonymous sources for his quotations through the use of “one historian” which virtually may run the risk of the lack of objectivity, and authenticity.

Compared to Foner, Edmund S. Morgan, in his book *American Slavery American Freedom* (1975), sinks deeper in almost his narrative in such a way that he makes the reader fatigue to reach the crux. “American Slavery-American Freedom” was useful in describing some aspects of indentured servants, such as runaways, and the issue of extended terms. Yet, this book gives much attention to slaves with little regard to servants.

Meanwhile, Ballagh’s *White Servitude in the Colony of Virginia* (1895) is the most appropriate study in terms of the sufficiency of the information about indentured servitude. It extremely depicts the servants’ experience in Virginia. Ballagh, via his study, focuses on the practise of indentured servitude in the colony of Virginia, and

examines the whole process from contract to one becoming a freedman. He broadly divided his study into three general periods. Apparently, his study does not examine the details of the indentured servants decline. He only mentioned the decline in the second chapter, where he was distinguishing the three periods that servants went through; while ignoring it in later clarifications. To illustrate, even though his study tackles the decline, but he interprets it directly to the rise of slavery. Ballagh states “Third, 1726-1788, the period of decline of the system [indentured servitude] in consequence of the rising institution of negro slavery,”. In this vein, he does not take into consideration fundamental factors, such as Bacon Rebellion.

Otherwise, current review is a remedy to what is missed in the previous works. First, it paves the way to the reader in order to begin reading from a background. This literally enables the reader to comprehend the surroundings of events before getting right to the subject matter.

Second, the foci of This study cover a whole succession of events starting from the rise of indentured servants up to their decline, and then to slavery with much regard to its origin due to the Atlantic trade, and the Age of Discovery whereby Spain had been the leader of exploitations. Tracing the origin of Atlantic slavery before the discovery of the New World helps the reader to link between the events, and not gets confused when moving straightly from indentured servants to slavery without knowing about the concept of slavery. In addition, this study provides the reader with a depiction of both indentured servants’ and slaves’ life in Virginia, particularly, under the authority of their masters. Through this order, too, the reader will be able to distinguish between their lives easily.

In order to successfully achieve the research’s entailed objectives, throughout the research inquiry, we depended on multiple credible information resources so as to have solid information to support the investigation. This research describes the aspects of geography of the thirteen colonies through adopting the descriptive method with much focus on Virginia. It analyses the economic reasons of the transition from indentured servants to slaves as well. Nonetheless, the descriptive method is applied to describe both indentured servants and Blacks lives, especially at work and their

relations with their masters. Another procedure adopted to reveal similarities and differences between the two institutions is the comparative and contrastive method.

To successfully apply these methods, this work is divided into three chapters: the first chapter is devoted to background of the study in which it traces back the attempts of the British to establish a colony in North America. It also tackles the geography of the thirteen colonies which much focus on Virginia Colony. However, the second chapter sheds light on the rise of indentured servants and their daily-life conditions, and it ends with their decline. Finally, the third chapter deals with the origin of the Atlantic slavery and the involvement of the British on slave trade, it describes the daily-life conditions of the slaves.

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Introduction

The New World had been a virgin land which was seen as an opportunity that must be seized. Consequently, Its geographical regions were divided by later colonial powers. For instance, England first settled Virginia, particularly, at Jamestown and then expanded to colonize all the thirteen colonies: Northern , Middle, and Southern colonies. Each of which was featured with its rich climate and nature. More importantly, five distinctive small regions naturally characterized Virginia providing diverse landforms to settlers.

1.1.Geography of the Thirteen Colonies

The thirteen colonies were located between the Atlantic ocean and the Appalachian mountains. They can be separated into three regions: New England colonies, Middle colonies, and Southern colonies (see annex 01). Each of the three regions had been characterized with its own boundaries stretching from New England to the northern border of the Floridas.

1.1.1.New England Colonies:

New England colonies, namely Northern colonies, included Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Mainly, these colonies were originally established on the bases of religious reasons. However, New England's land was shaped by glaciers. New England colonies were basically characterized with worst soil fertility, coolest climate, and shortest cold winters, as they were the farthest north regions. These features naturally coupled with geography, mostly hills with rocky soil, which consisted of mountains, rivers and poor soil (The Independence Hall Association).

Accordingly, New England colonies land was difficult for farming and unsuitable for growing crops. This Latter resulted in importing agricultural products from other colonies. Yet, Colonists took the advantages of the available natural resources such as fishing, whaling, and notably forests which is the most plentiful

natural resource in New England. Once wood had been available, New England settlers developed ship building business. They set up an economy based on trade, fishing (ibid).

1.1.2.Middle Colonies:

Middle colonies composed of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. Middle colonies' geography had a mix of New England and Southern colonies' features but had fertile soil and land that was suited to farming (Nussbaum Education Network). Their Geography naturally consisted of mountains farther in land, piedmont (rolling hills), coastal plains along the coastline. They have had good coastal harbors for shipping such in Philadelphia and New York.

However, glaciers pushed the soil into the Middle and Southern colonies, and made rich in deep. The growing season was longer than in New England. The Southern Colonies' soil was good for growing different kinds of crops such as wheat, grains, and oats (Alchin). Though, the geography of the middle colonies had few rivers, the famous ones are the Hudson and the Delaware. They ran in the middle of the colonies, Where they made the soil more fertile and better for planting.

1.1.3.Southern Colonies:

The Southern Colonies comprised of Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia. They are bordered by the Atlantic ocean from the East and by the Appalachian mountains from the West. The West of the Southern colonies is mostly mountainous while the East is flat land (The Independence Hall Association). The soil was considered as the most fertile and suitable for growing crops including tobacco, corn, indigo, and sugar. The fertility of the land was due to the rivers that ran within the colonies such as The James and York Rivers. Large plantations were formed along the rivers and coastal areas.

1.2.Settling of Virginia

During the Elizabethan era, many people were interested in taking the risk of ventures to exploit what Columbus had accidentally discovered around a century earlier. The ventures attracted Queen Elizabeth's attention to expand England's territories overseas. Yet, even though the attempts unexpectedly encountered frequent failure, but such ambitious adventures struggled till they achieved their desired stray thanks to the support of king James I.

1.2.1.Unsuccessful Attempts to Establish a Colony

England's interest in America did not begin until the reign of Elizabeth I (Foner 1: 90). In fact, it was Sir Francis Drake's¹ and the slave trader John Hawkings'² voyages which veritably triggered Queen Elizabeth to foster further exploitation of the new world. In this context, in 1578, the queen granted privilege to Sir Humphrey Gilbert to explore and settle any part of America in such a way that it was not claimed by a Christian prince. Besides, he was permitted to claim such discoveries for himself and his heirs (Markham 1: 21), but at his own expense. Thus, in 1582, Humphrey temporarily founded a settlement on Newfoundland; nevertheless, it did not last long (Foner 1: 90). On the contrary, he did not live enough to see later explorers, undoubtedly his relatives, establishing colonies, because he vanished after a voyage to the New world in 1583 (Markham 1: 22).

As such, his half brother, Walter Raleigh³, carried on Humphrey's interest in America to settle a successful colony (Markham 1: 22). In this way, two years after Humphrey's disappearance, Raleigh shipped some hundred settlers to establish the Roanoke colony (Foner 1: 90), currently North Carolina. This latter was primarily established to attack Spanish treasure ships in the mid-Atlantic (Gray 30). In the same year, Raleigh named England's recently claimed region Virginia after the Queen Elizabeth, famously known as the "Virgin Queen" (Morgan 15; Gray 27). The colonists, however, left the venture and went back to England in 1586 (Foner 1: 90).

Eventually, Raleigh sent a third group of settlers to sustain the Roanoke colony in 1587. This group consisted of 115 people with 17 women and 11 children. Yet, by reason of the breaking out of heavy Spanish assault, the so-called Spanish Armada, on England in 1588, the arrival of supplies which were planned by Raleigh to be shipped to the colony were postponed (Gray 30-31). Finally, when ships barely arrived, settlers had anonymously vanished without a trace except one single clue carved on tree indicated their fate were the letters CRO. According to John White, who had been appointed the governor of Roanoke by Walter Raleigh and the only survivor, it might have meant Croatoan island (Gray 30). Otherwise, they could be disappeared into the Native Americans of the southern Chesapeake (Vickers 55). To this end, this was the lost colony (Markham 1: 23; Morgan 15). Here, Raleigh lost the hope for colonization, as he became bankrupt. Apparently, It seemed that setting up a permanent colony would not entail the planning and economic resources of individuals but that of the royal pocket (Foner 1: 91).

1.2.2.The Road to the Permanent Colony

The push for establishing a successful colony was plainly rooted to the Elizabethan age. Not only adventurers or men such as Raleigh who contributed in the foundation of colonies but also writers. Notably, the skilled writer Richard Hakluyt, a tireless researcher and archivist, dedicated himself to gather and publish every document relevant to English exploration before 1600. This talented writer used his pen to promote English expansion. Factually, his purpose was to convince Queen Elizabeth I to spend the royal purse for a colony or plantation in the newly claimed territory of Virginia. He believed that this would dramatically help employ criminals and landless poor (Gray 28). The emergence of such kind of people was due to the enclosure movement⁴ (Driver 5.1: 9).

Another preeminent reason which encouraged the English colonization was the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 by Sir Francis Drake. This victory greatly raised the nostalgic nationalism of English people, and gave England dominance over the

seas (Markham 23). As consequence, the same year the English definitively conquered the Spanish naval, Queen Elizabeth seriously declared to her army:

I know that I have the body, but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and Stomach of a King, and of a King of England too, and think foul scorn that . . . any Prince of Europe should dare invade the borders of my Realm, to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I my self will take up arms, I my self will be your General, Judge, and Rewarder (qtd. In Gray 35)

Antithetically, as time passed, England's king James I signed a peace treaty with Spain. The treaty extremely ensured the English hope to establish colonies along the northeastern seaboard of North America (Morgan 42).

More interestingly, the creation of companies was substantially a fundamental mechanism to not only establish the desired colony, yet to colonize large territories in the New World. The colonies had all "begun by corporations or by groups of individuals as business ventures" (qtd. in Markham 1: 23). For instance, the joint-stock companies, notably the London Company which was chartered by James I on, April 10, 1606 to Richard Hakluyt, the skilled writer, and others (Ballagh 11; Morgan 42). Moreover, when king James I enthroned, he played a pivotal role in the push for colonies (Gray 39; Markham 1: 24). All these various ingredients gradually melted for launching the veritable settling of permanent colony.

1.2.3. The Official Establishment of Virginia Settlement

The earlier undertaking of Raleigh's attempts for establishing a colony had failed, because they were in the interest of military purposes to support English privateers against Spanish ships (Gray 39). Besides, they were not financed by the monarchy. As times changed, the interest to found colonies intended for commercial purposes, as the joint stock companies enabled the investors (Adventurers) to increase their own wealth by sending colonists (Planters) to America. Conversely, they could not do so unless they had granted patents (Ballagh 11-12).

Since Queen Elizabeth I was overloaded by sickness which led to the end of her long reign in March 1603 at the age of 69 year old. Her death prevented her from witnessing her dream of settling down America getting truly fulfilled. The same year, James I became a king , and thanks to his charters, the London Company managed to establish a permanent colony in Virginia at Jamestown (Jordan and Walsh 33).

Particularly, on a cold December day 104 men, boys, and crew members left England heading to their uncertain fate dragged by their greed for finding gold as well as sea route to Asia. They boarded three small ships the Susan Constant, the Godspeed, and the Discovery on which they had carried everything necessary for the venture. Eventually, on May 14, 1607, they landed at what we know today Jamestown nearly to the James River to virtually establish the first permanent English colony ever (Encyclopedia Virginia). Henceforth, a great detour in history of the New World would be happening to no longer became the virgin land.

In other parts of West Indies, the Spanish and the Portuguese colonizers had begun cultivating cash crops in places in which they did not find riches. The British colonizers would learn from the experiences of the European colonizers. However, When the British arrived on Jamestown, they saw the Natives growing tobacco successfully (Rodriguez 85). The Indians convinced some of the early settlers that the cultivation of tobacco might be possible. They grew a kind of tobacco that was not like the one already imported from the Spanish colonies to Britain. Consequently, in 1604, James I, king of Britain , wrote an essay entitled “A Counterblaste to Tobacco,” in which he criticized the harmful tobacco (ibid).

By 1620s, One of the settlers named John Rolfe grew a crop of "sweet-scented" tobacco from seeds imported from the West indies. Nonetheless, the result was much better. In1617, Britain imported the first Virginian tobacco which was more cheaper (Morgan 69). Colonists and investors in London were convinced that further land was needed for cultivating tobacco. Tobacco became Virginia’s main cash crop and the mainstay of Virginia’s agricultural economy (Norell and Quittmeyer).

1.3.Virginia Climate and Nature

The southern colonies within the British America consisted of: Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolinas, and Georgia. They were located in the temperate Zone which is characterized by annual rainy season cooled and watered parched land, making possible life.

Virginia is bordered by Maryland to the northeast, the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, North Carolina and Tennessee to the south. However, and the Appalachian mountains to the west and southeast. When the colonists arrived at Virginia looking for gold and other wealth, they found a forested wilderness divided by numerous broad creeks flowing into wetlands and large rivers. It is characterized by the variety of landforms, elevations, and climates. Climate, Soil, fertility of the land, and longer growing season differentiated Virginia from other colonies.

1.3.1.Virginia's Climate

When the English first settled Virginia, they understood the climate of the colony. They believed the cycles of the summer and winter, wet and dry seasons, days and nights, cold and hot climates. The climate is mild and even warm in which summers are hot and winters are moderate (Emerson 43: 21). However, in southeastern Virginia, January temperatures are about 40 °F (4 °C) while in July temperatures in the upper 70s F (about 26 °C) (Norell and Quitmeyer).

In the first paragraph of a map of Virginia (1612), the captain John Smith, an early leader of Jamestown the capital of Virginia, described the climate of Virginia:

Virginia is a Countrey in America that lyeth betweene the degrees of 34 and 44 of the north latitude. The bounds thereof on the East side are the great Ocean. On the South lyeth Florida: on the North nova Francia. As for the West thereof, the limits are vnknowne. Of all this country wee purpose not to speake, but only of that part which was planted by the English men in the yeare of our Lord, 1606. And this is vnder the degrees 37 . 38 . and 39. The temperature of this cuntrye doth agree well with

English constitutions being once seasoned to the country.(qtd in Ashburn 118)

John Smith judged Virginia's summer to be , however, "the colle Breeses asswage the vehemencie of the heat." Winter was from mid-December through mid-March. "The colde is extreame sharpe, but here the proverbe is true that no extreame long contiueth" (Ruffin 248). The climate was variable, but it was mitigated by the fact that neither drought nor rain continued for long periods of time. The Virginia weather was mercurial, but it was no obstacle to agriculture (Hill 176).

Alexander Whitaker, a minister resident for two years in Virginia, in his "Good Newes from Virginia" (1613) said that summer and winter were more extreme and both moderate each other over time: "the winter is for the most part drie and faire, but summer watered often with many great and suddaine shewers of raine; whereby the cold of Winter is warmed, and the heate of Summer cooled" (Porchas 112).

1.3.2. Virginia's Geographic Regions

The natural geography of Virginia is divided into distinct regions, ranging from the valleys and mountains in the western part of the state to the Tidewater and the Chesapeake Bay in the east. There are five main regions that shaped Virginia: the Appalachian Plateau, the Valley and Ridge, the Blue Ridge the Piedmont Region, and the Coastal Plain (Emerson 13). Each region includes a diversity of geographic features (see annex 02).

1.3.2.1. The Appalachian Plateau Region

The Appalachian Plateau Region of Virginia is part of the great Appalachian chain. It is situated in Southwest Virginia. It is considered as the smallest of Virginia's geographic region. Only a small part of the Plateau is located in Virginia. It is an elevated land which is flat on the top (Martis). The average elevation or height of this region is 2,000 ft. above sea level. As the Appalachians rose, streams carried sand and mud westward and filled the sea. The land of the Appalachian Plateau is rocky and covered with forests (Emerson).

1.3.2.2.The Valley and Ridge Belt

The Valley and Ridge Belt are located between the Appalachian mountains and Blue Ridge Mountains. The harder strata, mostly sandstone and siliceous limestone, are left projecting as ridges, while the softer limestone and shale are etched by erosion into valley. The valley is long structural land that forms the eastern boundary of the Ridge Belt. While the Ridge Belt consists of a series of narrow, extended, wooded knobs and ridges, which are similar to one another. These ridges are broken by wind gaps and water gaps. The valley soils are generally fertile and they are derived from lime- stones, and shale. On the other hand, The soils of the ridges are unfertile because they are composed of rocks and the northern section of the Great Valley (ibid 20).

1.3.2.3.The Blue Ridge Mountains

The Blue Ridge Mountains are considered as part of the Appalachian system. They are located between the piedmont and valley and ridge regions. Parts of the mountains rise to an average altitude of 3000 to 4000 feet above the sea level. The mountains are covered with a variety of plants including trees and flowers (Walbert 14). Due to this high elevation, however, moist air is trapped and condenses into rain. The rain water flow created tiny streams which merge into larger and larger streams. These large streams became the state's rivers. The soils of the Blue Ridge are derived from the same kinds of rocks as are most of the Piedmont, they are deep fertile. However, the thorough drainage consequent upon the steep slopes leaves much of the region with thin soils (Emerson 19).

1.3.2.4.The Piedmont

The Piedmont, which means “foot of the mountains”, is a plateau between the Blue Ridge region and the coastal Plain. It rises 1,500 feet above sea level. It is considered as the largest Virginia’s region. Streams and Rivers flow more rapidly here in falls and rapids. Thus, the name "Fall Line" was given to this slope. This "Fall Line" made travel by water for settlers more difficult. It served as a dividing

line between the piedmont and the tidewater lands of eastern Virginia (Walbert 14). Much of piedmont's land has rolling hills and valleys. It includes grassy meadows that are good for grazing. Forests are also found in the Piedmont. The rocks under the Piedmont are largely crystalline and relatively hard. They are composed of granites, schists, gneisses, slates etc. The soils of the piedmont region are composed of clays and sands. These soils are in general retentive of wetness. Clay makes agriculture more difficult for planters (Emerson 19).

1.3.2.5.The Coastal Plain

The Coastal Plain is the easternmost region of Virginia. It grades quietly from the Piedmont to the Atlantic. What separates it from the piedmont is called "Fall Line". Its inner margin raises from 100 to 200 above the sea level. rocks of the Coastal Plain are soft and Its principal constituents are Sand and clay. It lies so close to sea level, and its lower portion is flat and its surface is rolling and rough (Walbert 12). However, wetlands dominate the majority of the landscape. The wetland is a region in which soil is watered during the whole year. The rivers in the Coastal Plain have a low slope and their water is mixed with salt water from the ocean (Emerson 18).

1.3.3. Virginia's Rivers

Virginia has four main rivers that all of them flow in the Chesapeake Bay and then toward the Pacific Ocean: the James River, the York River, the Potomac River, and the Roanoke River. They created peninsulas, an area of land completely surrounded by water except for an isthmus connecting it with the mainland, in which They keep soils fertile all the time. The source of these rivers is the Blue Ridge mountains. They flow from higher lands to lower ones. Each river was considered as a source of food and means of exploration and commerce. They provided transportation links between the neighboring colonies (Jefferson 4) and facilitated long-distance trading. They played large part in the development of region by bringing natives to fish, bringing settlers to live, and allowing wildlife to flourish.

Conclusion

The variety of landforms, elevations, and climates has produced as diverse a range of ecosystems. The Atlantic ocean, rivers, streams, and Mountains systems control the climate. Rivers kept soil moist and fertile. However, Virginia enjoyed a warm climate and long growing season. Both nature and climate best suited for the growing of tobacco crops. Therefore, after the first arrival of few colonists to finally establish the permanent colony of Virginia, they soon recognized that the gold was just an intuition, and thus they would face hardships.

To guarantee their survival, the colonists depended on the grant of nature to earn a living, agriculture was the solution. In this way, farming became Virginia's substitute for gold. As far as farming was concerned, Virginia enormously became a tobacco growing region. However, tobacco plantation was a labor-intensive crop to grow and required attention year round. Over time, the demand for workers gradually increased to reach its peak. These inevitable conditions foreshadowed to an institution of workers to give birth to a series of incidents in the history of both Europe and the New World.

Chapter Endnotes

¹ (1540-1596) English admiral who was involved in piracy and illicit slave trading before being chosen in 1577 as the leader of an expedition intended to pass around South America and explore the coast that lay beyond. He successfully completed the journey and was knitted by Queen Elizabeth I upon his triumphant returned. He participate in the defeat of the Spanish Armada (Biography.com Editors).

² (1532-1595) British naval commander established himself as a merchant and slave trader, eventually having hostile encounters with Spanish naval forces. He later became treasurer and controller of the English navy and oversaw the creation of more technologically advanced vessels (ibid).

³(1552-1618) An English explorer, soldier, and writer. He fought with French Huguenots and late studied at Oxford. He became a favor of Queen Elizabeth I after serving in her army in Ireland. He was knighted in 1585, and within two years became Captain of the Queen's Guard (ibid).

⁴ many rural folk moved into more populated areas, they were rounded up and placed in correctional institutions or work houses(Driver 03).

⁵ thousands of persons were uprooted from the land. Many flooded into England's cities, where wages fell dramatically. Others, denounced by authorities as rogues, vagabonds, and vagrants, wandered the roads in search of work(Foner 57).

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Introduction

Little more than a decade after the initial British settlement of North America at Jamestown, settlers realized that they had a lot of land to care of. Initially, it was a period of mixed agriculture on a small scale, usually that of the family farm, but seizing more new lands pushed colonizers to think of cultivating most of the land. However, in Virginia, tobacco could be grown and settlers used this land to satisfy the demands of both the large English market and the European market. The introduction of a profitable staple crop raised the demand for labor and therefore tended to raise the level of immigration to the colony. They tried to enslave Indians but they could not. They turned to their homeland workers. Thus indentured servants appeared in use in Virginia in 1620 and it became a central institution in the economy and society of the colony. Nevertheless, due to many economic factors, the institution of servitude disappeared and was replaced by slavery. Significant numbers of plantations were based almost exclusively on slave labor.

2.1.The Rise of Indentured Servitude

After the failure of the English to find bonanzas along the western seaboard, they turned to farming (Morgan 24). Virginia's soil and climate were fertile and suitable for growing crops, and tobacco was the crop most Virginians grew and sold. Initially, the demand for labor was quite low because farms were small. Planters had begun to develop large plantations. As a result, they required a large number of workers. Due to the expansion of plantations, the economy continued to grow and the Virginian planters started having difficulty in finding enough number of workers to fit their plantations. However, a new system of laboring was developed in order to supply the colony with servants, that was indentured servitude (Jordan and Walsh 12).

2.1.1.Indentured Servitude

Indentured servitude was part of the institution of "bound labor". There was a coordination between the Virginia Royal Colony and Virginia Company of London¹ in which the company would transport servants from Europe to the colony. The Virginia Company of London, a commercial enterprise, was created on April 10, 1606

by King James I (Morgan 43). Its main objective was to establish a colony purely for economic reasons and trade, in addition to the transportation of servants (Ballagh 11).

Indentured servitude was considered as a market. It had both buyers and sellers. The buyers were the laborers, trying to use their labor to purchase passage². The sellers were the ship captains and agents of the company, accepting labor in the form of an indenture contract, in return for passage. The ship captains and agents were the real risk takers as well. In order to profit, they had to make sure that the indentured servant arrived in the colonies alive and with enough strength .

2.1.2.Kinds of Indentured Servants

In 1619 an economic boom had begun, and the need for labor rose sharply. Consequently, Servitude had fully established in Virginia by the 1620s and then extended widely in the other American colonies, and it became important to their economic and social development (Galenson 5). However, there are two kinds of servitude which are based on two principles:

First, Voluntary Servitude, based on a free contract with the London Company included many immigrants from England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Voluntary servants were persons who could not meet the expense of the payment for passage and looking for a job. Some children were dispatched by poor parents seeking a better life for them. They generally signed the contract of indenture in Britain with occupant planters or the agents of the colonists. The agreement was by deed indented, and thus came the term “indented” servants (Balagh 40). The contract bound them to serve a master without pay for several years, usually between three and seven years. In return for free passage to America, basic clothing and necessities would be offered, and at the end of their contract the master would give them “freedom dues of goods” and sometimes acres of land. “freedom dues of goods” included provisions including tools, clothing, arms, and food (Blackburn 227).

Second, Involuntary Servitude, which was composed of two kinds of forced migrants who were sent to the colonies against their will. The first source of

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Involuntary Servitude was the banishment of political prisoners and criminals to Virginia colony (UNESCO 19). While the other source was found in the practice of “spirits”³, which was a system of kidnapping person and transporting them to the plantations.

The term of servitude for the political prisoners and criminals, whom England wanted to get rid of them, was considered as reformation or cancellation from other punishment for delinquency already committed. In this case, the contract was signed between the court in England and the one who was responsible for the transportation of the offender (Ballagh 34).

On the other hand, children, drunks, poor people, and the mentally infirm, all fell victim and found themselves held in large ships and transported against their wills to the plantations. They were kidnapped from streets and countryside and then transported to the plantations to benefit the kidnappers who were known as “spirits” (Jordan and Walsh 14). “Spiriting” grew up in the reign of Charles I(1625-1649) and continued throughout the reign of the Commonwealth (1649-1660). Initially, the kidnap gangs faced no problem, and it was very easy to grab any person because the victims and their families were weak and, they could not claim their rights which was due to their few powerful supporters. However, in 1644, the Lord Mayor of London and some planters and merchants sent petitions calling for the registration of any person who entered the colony of Virginia through the establishment of registry offices. Although strict regulations did not stop the practice but they reduced it. Penalties were imposed for the non-registered servant(Balagh 39).

2.1.3.Means used to Motivate Servants and Planters

2.1.3.1.The Head-right System

The leaders of Virginia Colony knew that labor was essential for economic survival. Thus, they encouraged and motivated the colonists and planters to settle down and to bring workers to the colonies through the “head-right system” (Rodriguez 344). The system was started by the London Company in 1618. Under this

system, colonists who paid their own way to Virginia would receive 50 acres of land. A colonist could earn another 50 acres for every additional person brought from England. Many rich colonists brought servants or relatives to Virginia and gained large amounts of land (Jordan and Walsh 38).

With the passing “head-right system”, hundreds and sometimes several thousand of indentured servants arrived in Virginia each year. It provided enticement for both the master and servant to increase the population of the colony (Blackburn 228). However, Between 1620 and 1624 around 3,000 people had emigrated to Virginia. Because so many died or returned, an official count of Virginia’s population was taken in 1625 showed that only 1,200 people to be living in the colony. In addition, between 1625 and 1640, the number in excess of 15,000 people arrived from England (Blackburn 15).

2.1.3.2. The Servitude in Husbandry

Another source developed the head-right system that was "servitude in husbandry" in order to supply the colonies with labors. "Servitude in husbandry" was an English labor system that was used in the preindustrial England. Members of the Virginia company transplanted the system from England to the colonies. It provided the colonies youth servants of both sexes, normally between the ages of 13 and 25. Masters were not satisfied with the adult workers (Galenson 03).

In the summer of 1620, the Virginia Company of London announced that it would send to Virginia, at “publike charge,” “eight hundred choise persons,” half of whom were assigned to be tenants of company land. One hundred “yong Maides” were sent to "make wives for these Tenants," and one hundred boys to serve as apprentices (Kingsbury 3: 313). Finally, “one hundred servants [were] to be disposed amongst the old Planters, which they greatly desire, and have offered to defray their charges with very great thanks. ” Thus the number of servants in Virginia had increased gradually (Galenson 6).

2.1.3.3.The Use of Loans

There were significant changes in the system of indentured servitude in the colonies compared to the one of England. Initially, the company faced some transportation cost problems of the servants. But the company's solutions were to use its funds and signed contract with the transported servant. The agreement often included a form of a loan to the migrants and usually it lasted for one year. They contracted to repay this debt out of their earnings in the colony. This system encouraged many workers who wanted to migrate to the colonies but they could not pay the high transportation cost. When they arrived, some of them work for the company some were sold to masters (Rodriguez 345).

The Virginia Company of London always had more land than labor to work it. For the first half of the seventeenth century, the institution of servitude remained the dominant form of labor in Virginia colony. Without indentured servants, however, land would have little value. The institution temporarily transformed free men and women into chattel, or property to be bought and sold. Some of them were transported by their own will and others were forced or snatched against their will. The authorities and the company used varied means in order to encourage migration. Thus, the number of indentured servants in Virginia's colony increased gradually.

2.2.Indentured Servants Life

2.2.1.Woman and the Family

In contrast with the English society, Virginia lacked consistent family life. The colony increasingly raised the immigration of women, who arrived in 1620 and 1621 as 'tobacco brides', to boost family life through arranged marriages. These marriages would later encounter obstacles at the hands of the masters (Ballagh 51). Yet, the increasing demand for male servants to work in the tobacco fields, men outnumbered women for most of the seventeenth century by four or five to one. Apparently, most of women who came to the region were indentured servants. Besides, they were obliged to complete their terms of service before marriage as well as the unequal ratio between

the sexes, and the late age of marriage for those who found partners decreased the growth of population ; and produced a society with large numbers of single men, widows and orphans (Foner 1: 102).

As in England, a married woman possessed several rights before the law, such as the claim to ‘dower rights’ of one-third of her husband’s property if he died. However, when the widow died the property went to the husband’s male heirs. On the other hand, widows and the women who never married took advantage of their legal status as ‘femme sole’ to make contracts and conduct business. For instance, Margaret Brent, who emigrated to the Chesapeake in 1636, acquired land, managed her own plantation, and acted as a lawyer in the court (Ibid).

Some widows were chosen to administer their husband’s estates, rather than receiving only ‘dower rights’. But, as mentioned before, because the majority of women came to Virginia as indentured servants, they could look forward only to life of hard labor in the tobacco fields and early death. Female servants were frequently exposed to sexual abuse by their masters (Ibid).

2.2.2 Indentured Servants at Work

Working on plantation was extremely harsh and unbearable. White servants were not only supposed to afford such laborious work but to be aware of the Algonquin⁴ frequent attacks. Attacks that might surprisingly take their lives forever, as they were perilously threatened through persistent rain of arrows. Life in the tobacco fields could be that bad. For servants of the tobacco fields, life was one of nonstop labor. In other words, in the freezing cold, they had to be out in the forest in order to cut down oak, pine, and hickory to clear the ground for cultivation (Jordan and Walsh 104). They moved from field to another in order to let the former field rest for further use, when it had lost its fertility (Driver 1: 15).

In addition, vast vulnerable tobacco plants were firmly watched, nursed, and coddled so that it could not be corrupted or ruined. Moreover, servants were responsible for a rigorous round of planting, nurturing, replanting, weeding, and

worming. Therefore, Thomas Jefferson, USA's third president and a successful planter, himself said, 'crop [tobacco] that wears out men and land.' Hitherto, the miserable life of the plantation would not stop here, yet servants had to work after dark to make the daily bread for everyone, especially the master and the family, through the most hated task which was 'beating at the mortar' (Jordan and Walsh 104).

Notably, one of the most sorrowful stories, which truthfully shows a pathetic servant pleading his father to buy his freedom, was that of Richard Frethorn's letter (see annex 03). Richard arrived in Jamestown when a war of attrition had already begun against the Native Americans. He was working from dark to gloomy dark, carting supplies between plantation and Jamestown with fear of Indians in each and every step, when he wrote his first letter invoking his father's help.

This brutal humiliation under such drastically terrible conditions is also best depicted through the view of Mary Johnston who stated that the institution of servitude was seen as a hot iron, namely a golden opportunity, that must be pounded to profit the maximum at the expense of humanity (ibid 110).

2.2.3.Master-Servant Relationship

Virginia evolved toward societies dominated by small aristocracy ruling over numerous bound laborers. In fact, the finite term of indenture is the crucial element to the master-servant relationship. For instance, Edmund S. Morgan (1975) described the process best stating.

... we can see not only the fleeting ugliness of private enterprise operating temporarily without check, not only greed magnified by opportunity, producing fortunes for a few and misery for many. We may also see Virginians beginning to move toward a system of labor that treated men as things... [and] a tightening of labor discipline beyond what had known in England and probably beyond what had been formerly known in Virginia.(93)

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Therefore, indentured servants received worse treatment, because they were regarded as a temporal investment. In other words, they would be gone after a few years. In this vein, The legal system in Virginia was designed to maximize the protection of the property rights of the planter class as it was written and implemented by legislative assemblies dominated by the members of that same class. As a result, the landholders excessively practiced cruel pressure on their servants. This power went well beyond the limits of mistreatment, and confirmed the fact that the evolution of servitude, as a system, viewed people as real estate and livestock. Perhaps, one of the earliest and most important habits associated with indentured servitude, which absolutely influenced the personal rights of servants, was the master's right to assign his servant's contract without his consent. In penal legislation, a servant can be subjected to corporal punishment for committing offenses, or by extending his period of indenture in addition to the term of the contract (Ballagh 43-45). A law of 1619 provided that, "if a servant willfully neglect his master's commands he shall suffer bodily punishment" (qtd. in Ballagh 45).

The enormous size of the debt for passage to America inevitably urged emigrants to suffer a term of typically four to more years as bound laborers. Conversely, in England, they used to serve only one single year of farming. This might raise new problems of work incentives (Engerman and Gallman1: 154). Hence, Edmund Morgan argued that servants had little other reason to work hard, as they already lacked the motivation to be rehired. He also concluded that physical violence was the principal means by which masters extracted work from indentured servants in early Virginia (225).

Since the early years of the Virginia settlement, the Virginia Company established the House of Burgesses to give the colony a measure of self-government. Among the decisions made by this body to restrict the servant actions was that of giving the right to the masters to pillory the errant servant, who indulged in an open display of wantonness with a female servant, for four days, nail his ears to the post, and give him a public whipping each day. On top of this, others might lose an ear or both ears (Jordan and Walsh 93-94). Another irrational abuse which seriously

tightened the masters' grip on their servants was the ban of marriage. According to the act of 1619, a female servant could not marry without either her parents' or her master's sanction. In this way, in 1643 a law passed to prevent male servant from marriage as well. Nonetheless, if the latter did so, he would serve his master one complete year for such offense committed. But in case when a female servant married, she would double the time of service. Moreover, any woman servant falling pregnant owing to fornication, the guilty male servant had to give his master an extra year of service as a repayment, for the loss of her time (Ballagh 50-51).

Regardless of these shortcomings as far as the rights of servants were concerned, indentured servants veritably possessed the right to complain in the court of mistreatment and to redress their grievances. As commonly known, by the end of the contract, servants were given freedom dues consisting of tools, clothing, arms, food, and sometimes land (Driver 5.1: 8). But this rarely occurred, especially that of a land grant, as there were many cases of court records of masters cheating their servants of freedom dues; or holding them illegitimately for more additional time than the expected term of the contract (Jordan and Walsh 122 and 186). Unfortunately, as previously mentioned, the planter domination of the legal system often mortified the right to court (Grady 51).

2.2.4.Runaway Servants

Throughout the history of American servitude, the runaway was a profound phenomenon which could not be controlled and lasted as the system itself lasted (Jordan and Walsh 172). By virtue of aggressively vicious mistreatment of the masters in order for extracting work from their idle servants (Morgan 225), these vagrant servants, who had formerly looked forward to better their conditions through the passage to Virginia (Ballagh 34), chose to flee hopefully to live with the Indians ; or losing themselves in another colony (Jordan and Walsh 172).

To intimidate servants from running away, plenty of laws were passed. Punishments ranged from whipping, additions of time, and branding which eventually proved ineffectiveness. The enactment of frequently diverse statutes reached its

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highest levels and gradually became severer until they made no difference between runaway servants and slave escapees. This issue, however, became a business, specifically after the increasing number of newly imported undesirable class (Ballagh 52-53), in effect, Virginia was seen as a place (rubbish bin) to get rid of English felons (Morgan 169). The members of this class were actually convicts who corrupted the better class of servants through their behaviors. As such, the servants of the seventeenth century became demoralized and began run away in troops enticing negro slaves to go with them (Ballagh 52-53). To illustrate, two days following the outbreak of the War of Independence, masters published posts in the Virginia Gazette offering rewards for ten runaways. Two of whom were slaves, while the others were white servants. Half of the eight servants had been chased by the Virginia planter and soldier George Washington who would later become the first president of the United States (Jordan and Walsh 270).

Additionally, in 1640, a Virginia planter announced a clamor to have his three servants, who had fled to Maryland, caught. Thereafter, when he knew that they had been arrested, he decided to sell them where they had been caught. Though, the Virginia court disapproved the purchase, as it could potentially neutralize the court statutes with leaving runaways unpunished. Accordingly, the court got the Governor of Maryland to return the three escapees, two of whom were whites but the other was an African, to Virginia. By the compliance to the court trial, all the servants received thirty strokes of whipping. The two whites were forced to serve an extra year in addition to their official term. Yet, the most strict order was to be bound as the servants of the colony for further three years. Furthermore, the worst punishment was directed to John Punch, the African. After his whipping, he had to be the chattel slave of his master. This was the first recorded case of lifetime enslavement of African American (ibid 173-174).

As a matter of fact, the extension of the term of service was deliberately done on purpose, and as previously discussed the finite term was behind the master-servant problems. For instance, runaways encountered the most prolonged additions of time. On the other hand, masters wanted to monopoly the tobacco trade. They were

subsequently afraid of their servants, particularly, if they freed them in early time. Otherwise, their ex-servants would be managing their own tobacco plantations, and thus would become the masters' rivals. In this context, the freedman would be automatically contributing to the tobacco production. This would finally help to depress the price. For this reason, the masters exerted themselves to decrease the number of the freedman throughout attaching greater penalties to the servants (Morgan 157), especially runaways who were spirited by the convicts' ideas (Ballagh 53).

Even those who contract with or entertain servants were subjected to punishments, too. Any planter or freedman illegally stipulate or entertain runaway servants without a certificate of the servant's freedom, should pay to the servant's master twenty pounds of tobacco for every night the servant was entertained. Meanwhile, the runaway servant would be punished at the hands of the Governor and Council. Greedy planters accustomed to encouraging servants to desert their proper service. Instead, they offered more favorable terms (Ballagh 51). This had already been expected by the enactment of the Assembly of 1619, which provided "that no crafty or advantageous be suffered to be put in practice for enticing away tenants or servants of any particular plantation from the place where they are seated..." (qtd. in *ibid* 51).

2.3.The Decline of Indenture Servitude

The idea of indentured servitude was born of a need for cheap labor. With expensive passage to the colonies for all but wealthy, the Virginia company developed the system of indentured servitude to attract workers. Indentured servitude became vital to the colonial economy. For the first half of the 17th century, there were both cultural and economic reasons for being satisfied with indentured servants. At that time, white indentured laborers performed the majority of the work planting, cultivating, and curing the tobacco. Eventually, starting from the 1660s, they became unreliable due to several economic reasons and their decline started gradually.

2.3.1.Events in England Reduced the Supply of Servants

For the first half of the seventeenth century, the number of white indentured servants was sufficient to meet the labor needs of Virginia. Then, by the 1660s, the supply of white servants fell sharply. Many factors contributed to the growing shortage of servants. The English birth rate had begun to fall and with fewer workers competing for jobs, wages in England rose. The Great Fire⁵, that burned many parts of London in 1666, created a great need for labor to rebuild many houses, churches, and livery halls (Porter 137). Meanwhile, Virginia became less attractive as land grew scarcer. Some of those who were indentured preferred to migrate to other colonies such as Pennsylvania or the Carolinas, where opportunities seemed greater (Kolchin 9-12).

In addition, a decade after the restoration of the Stuart monarchy⁶, that took place in 1660, an anti-emigration movement developed in England supported by prominent mercantile theorists. They argued that the power of any nation depended in large part on the size of its population. Roger Coke, one among the theorists, agreed with this view stating that “a ruinous number of men daily flock to the plantation... to the weakening of the nation” (qtd. in Louis et al 232). These sentiments occurred at the same time as an improvement in environmental and economic conditions in England combined with the reputation for harsh conditions experienced by servants in the colonies provided less motivation for individuals to choose to indenture themselves for long periods of time (Louis et al 232).

2.3.2.Bacon Rebellion

Virginia's authorities accelerated the shift to slavery, who would never become free, as a consequence of the Bacon Rebellion (Foner 106). Nathaniel Bacon, a wealthy young planter who arrived in Virginia in 1673, led a rebellion in 1676 against the policy of Sir William Berkeley, the royal governor of Virginia. Berkeley showed favoritism towards large planters and merchants, and failure to defend the poorer. He was subjected to heavy taxes and economic restrictions. However, heavy taxes were combined with falling prices of tobacco because of the overproduction which exhausted small farmers. Bacon called for the reduction of taxes at a time of economic

recession in addition to the removal of the Indians who were prohibiting new settlers from the expansion of land westward. He also worked at stopping the flow of convicts from England (Morgan 182).

Bacon gathered a labor force composed of small farmers, landless men, and indentured servants against the orders of the governor Berkeley. He captured and burned Jamestown. The Governor, William Berkeley, fled and Bacon became the ruler of Jamestown. In June 1676, an English fleet arrived at Jamestown and restored order. Thus Bacon Rebellion was over. Planters recognized the dangerous of keeping white servants. As a result, the planters developed a new system of cultivation; the authorities reduced taxes and opened new western areas for farmers (Foner105). Some historians have argued that in order for Gentry to create an alliance between all whites, race-based slavery became more attractive as a method of control. It was only one among several factors that contributed to the development of slavery (Arnesen 140).

2.3.3.Alternative and Sufficient kind of workers

2.3.3.1.African Slaves

Tobacco was a labor-intensive crop, and the demand for labor in Virginia exceeded the supply of indentured servants from England. The population of the indentured servants in Virginia decreased exponentially. For whatever reason, indentured servitude was a form of labor that was declining, and the need for labor increased rapidly because of the expansion of Tobacco market. The economic solution was to obtain laborers from another source. Simultaneously, the spread of slave trade took place at that time. The major slave trader was the British rival Spain. As slavery provided a viable and cheaper alternative to indentures (Galenson 11), the British followed the Spanish model and began importing slaves to their colonies through the Caribbean islands as well as directly from that continent(Blackburn 254).

2.3.3.2.The Access to Slave Trade

The ending of a monopoly on the English slave trade previously enjoyed by the Royal Africa Company opened the door to other traders to import slaves and thus

reducing their prices (Foner 106). The English became more involved in the slave trade and as the number of indentured servants willing to go to Virginia fell, the price of slaves went down. In 1664, the company of Royal Adventurers trading into Africa supplied slaves at prices between £14 and £22 per person. By 1675 the average price of slaves in the West Indies had fallen by 25-30 percent, and the supply had increased over 200 percent (Louis et al 232).

2.3.3.3.The Advantages of the Slaves

For the majority of indentured servants were mainly men, as English women were not expected to do farm work. However, both African men and women were capable and obliged to do farm work and even the children started to do it at a young age. As early as 1722, in the revised version of his History of Virginia, Robert Beverly noted that “slaves of both sexes are employed together in tilling and manuring the ground,” whereas “a white woman is rarely or never put to work in the ground ” (Kolchin 51). Both of these reasons meant slaves became a better financial choice in the long run.

While the initial price of a slave was greater than that of a servant, the planter could anticipate a much longer work life of the slave. Slaves proved profitable and they had more knowledge about agriculture. Each additional worker could cultivate about two to three acres of tobacco. However, Planters, in 1661, complained that the prices for servants had increased in the past few years and by the end of the seventeenth century the price for a skilled servant could be anywhere from £25 to £30 per person (Emerson Smith 36). They quickly discovered that the terms of the indenture contract made maintaining an indenture more expensive than maintaining a slave. The maintenance costs of Africans were lower –both because the clothing issued to them was cheaper, and because they were more adept at meeting their own needs (Blackburn 242).

Both price and supply problems of the white servants in addition to the involvement of the British in the slave trade pushed planters and masters to get rid of white servants. In the early 1660s, planters recognized that white servitude was not the

ideal form of labor, and they were not beneficial to the productivity of their crops. Only skilled servants were kept as workers on plantations and serve some military purposes. They were training slaves to perform many jobs such as building houses, barking tobacco, making clothes for planters, and a variety of other crafts.

Conclusion

Indentured servants were vital to the colonial economy during the early years when the Virginia Company settled in Jamestown. Some of them were transported by their own will and others were forced or snatched against their will. The authorities and the company used varied means in order to encourage migration. They developed a profitable trade in Which servants were bought and sold. The trade involved large organizations that allowed investments by individuals interested in obtaining large profits through legal or, at times, illegal means such as kidnapping or fraudulent promises. They were servants, bound to serve their white masters for any number of years, ranging from one to seven, some terms were extended as a punishment. The majority of indentured servants experienced harsh and unbearable treatment by their masters. They were denied from their freedom dues. As a response, some workers attempted to run away to live far from the master's plantation. However, in the 1660s, many events took place in England reduced the flows of the indentured servants in Virginia. In addition, the cost of indentured labor rose by nearly 60 percent within a decade when white immigration to that region fell. At the same time, the English begun trading in cheap labors from Africa who later replaced the white servants. Thus, Black Africans became dominant form of labor in the plantations.

Chapter Endnotes

¹ The Virginia Company of London, created by letters patent from King James I., April 10, 1606, was organized as joint stock. Its main objective was to establish a colony of which trade was to be a result. It was composed of two divisions, the London Company and the Plymouth company (James Curtis Ballagh 11).

² a voyage or a sea route across the Pacific Ocean to reach the British colonies (Foner40).

³ members and agents of an organized system of kidnapping persons that is known as “spiriting”. Usually they kidnap people from the laboring class and transport to the plantations (Ballagh 38)

⁴ Native tribe and members of the Anishinabek nation. They live in the eastern woodlands of both sides of the Great Lakes (Natalie M Roslisky, The Algonquin Capstone 2004).

⁵ The Fire began on early Sunday morning on the 2nd of September 1666. It started in Pudding Lane in the shop of the king’s baker, Thomas Farrinor. The fire still spread, helped by a strong wind from the east. Soon London was filled with smoke. The sky was red with huge flames from the fire. By Monday, 300 houses had burned down. By Wednesday, they had the fire under control. But by then, 100,000 people were homeless(Porter 149).

⁶The first kings of the United Kingdom. They reigned in England and Scotland from 1603 to 1741.the royal household (www.royal.uk/stuarts)

Chapter03: The Rise of Slavery

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Introduction

The strong desire of European countries to dominate the world and strengthen its power reshaped the world's geography. More specifically, the discovery of the New World deviated the history of the globe, especially Europe and Africa. That is to say, the interests of the European big powers shifted from pursuing gold to chasing Africans in order that they would maintain their existence in the New World. Initially, they profusely brought Black Africans to their long life miserable fate, that was slavery. As well as the other European countries, notably Spain, Britain did greatly participate in this colonial wave, through its first settlement in Virginia and then spreading out to cover all the thirteen colonies. On the other hand, slaves excessively suffered all kinds of pain, as the work on plantation was labor intensive to them. And what made things quite worse was the mistreatment of their Masters. Neither men, nor women, the former often whipped and the latter endured sexual abuse. As such, these horrible treatments pushed slaves to escape such persecution.

3.1.The Origin of the Atlantic slavery

Originally, European explorations of West Africa were not in search of slaves, but various goods, notably gold. Such explorations were also an attempt to avoid Arab trade paths, in their way to the East. However, in 1415, Prince Henry¹, who known as the Navigator, initiated Portuguese expeditions to Africa which resulted in the conquest of Cueta (located in modern day Morocco). This latter would become the spark to discover more of Africa. Portuguese sailors, therefore, began to explore and map the Western Coast of Africa (Blackburn 99). It was here that the Europeans first came into contact with black Africa in the early 1440. In 1441, the Portuguese sailor Antam Gonçalvez² returned to Lisbon with ten captured Africans who were sold as slaves in the public market. This was the first recorded episode of Europeans transportation and marketing Africans as slaves (Rodriguez 79).

In 1492, still, Christopher Columbus stated that Asia could be reached by sailing west from Europe. To compete their rivals, Portuguese, Ferdinand and Isabella, rulers of Castile, agreed to support his proposal so that they could find a new way to Asia

(ibid 80). A few years later, after the arrival of Columbus to what would be known as the New World, which he virtually believed the outer reaches of Asia, the Spanish established a huge colonial empire in West Indies and America (Foner 23).

In the process of seizing new lands they massacred almost all the native Indian population. Instead, they gradually brought African slaves, who proved their capability in Europe as skilled and submissive workers, to the New World (UNESCO 17). In this context, the other European powers, such as Britain and Portugal, followed that of the Spanish model and began founding their own colonies, hoping to find gold. Over time, their hope of gold faded away; thus, they turned their interest in cultivation of cash crops in order to export them to the mother country through an economic order based on mercantilism³ (Rodriguez 81).

Nonetheless, from the early days of Columbus in Hispaniola⁴ the colonists sought to develop a commercial plantation agriculture. This agriculture relied mainly on Indian slaves at first and then switching to Africans, some with experience in sugar-making. The extreme decline in Indians was due to diseases and the Spanish mistreatment (Foner 32). Meanwhile, the number of slaves evolved since the first wave, 250 in all, who were brought to Hispaniola (Blackburn 135). The Spanish Government, thereafter, regularly concluded “asiento” (contract that would be assigned to slave traders to deliver up to 4000 slaves per year to the Spanish colonies in the Americas). The Portuguese were the first contributors to hold the contract and deliver slaves to the Spanish colonies (Foner 134).

In the half of the sixteenth century, Portugal completely lost monopoly in Africa and Spain in the New World. Besides, the development of Capitalism in Europe changed the colonial policy. Therefore, the big powers in Europe, such as Holland Great Britain and then France greedily began conquest America, Asia and Africa, where they erected their colonial empires (UNISCO 17).

3.1.1.Britain Involvement in the Slave Trade

3. 1.1.1.First Footstep of Slaves in Virginia

Obviously, Britain did play no role in the origin of slaves and little part in the early development of the Atlantic slave trade. Yet, slavery in the British North American colonies began on August 20, 1619, when a Dutch ship docked to the colony of Virginia with twenty Africans who were sold as indentured servants (Rodriguez 87). For the time being, they were never treated as slaves, yet these twenty individuals represented the first permanent involuntary African immigrants (Evans 185). According to contemporary records of John Rolfe, one of the early English settlers of Virginia, “About the last of August came in a dutch man of warre that sold us Negars” (Rodriguez 87).

By the 1660s there was a clear demand for slaves in Virginia, and slave ships began to arrive more frequently. They no longer brought people primarily from Congo/Angola. Now ships brought them from the coast of West Africa. These people were taken from different parts of West Africa, and so had diverse cultural backgrounds. The slave trade system created by Europeans in Africa was much more damaging to African societies than the traditional forms that already existed in Africa. The people were exploited and their families were divided (Foner 137). In the middle of the century, there was no organized systematic trade in slaves between Africa and Virginia. Slaves arrived in the colony at irregular intervals, usually when slave ships trading in the Caribbean area or Central Africa made unplanned stops in Virginia.

3.1.1.2.The Royal African Company

In 1672, the Royal African Company was chartered by the king Charles II to bring slaves from Africa to Virginia. It had a monopoly on British trade with West Africa, including gold, silver, and slaves. It was also involved in the triangular trade in the Atlantic. In other words, English manufactured goods were sold to Africa for gold, ivory and slaves, and Africa was a ready market for these products. The slaves were then taken to Virginia to be sold to planters (Blackburn 254). The planters' tobacco was picked up and taken to England for sale for goods and services the planters

needed. By the 1680s the Royal African Company was bringing several hundred slaves to Virginia each year. Most of these slaves landed at either Jamestown or Yorktown.

The Royal African Company maintained a factor or business agent at Jamestown to oversee the sale of the slaves. Several prominent Virginians served as the Company's agent at Jamestown, including Colonel Nathaniel Bacon and Colonel John Page, both members of the Governor's Council. Africans formed a very small part of Virginia's population and at first lived much as indentured servants did (ibid 255). By the year 1713, the Royal African Company lost monopoly of the slave trade. Henceforth, it had shipped 120,000 Africans. Nonetheless, planters were still not satisfied. They excessively wanted more slaves (Walvin 55).

3.2.Slaves at Work

3.2.1.Works on plantation

The separation of the land into smaller units under private ownership became known as the plantation system. On large plantations owners discovered it was cheaper to buy slaves than to pay wages to white workers (Simkin). For slaves, life on the farm was grueling work. Most of them worked painful hours from sunrise to sunset for six days a week, from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, but sometimes longer at busy periods such as harvest (Randolph 19).

The majority of men, women, and even children worked in big fields of their Masters. They planted, harvested, removed weeds and other unwanted plants from land. The crop grown on these plantations was mainly tobacco. It was labor-intensive to slaves, as it created myriad jobs for slaves besides field work. Hard manual labor in the fields was paralleled by skilled labor in testing and assessing the growing crops, and knowing when to harvest, how to process the crop, along with when and how to pack and load (Walvin 97). Teenagers worked in the fields, too. Work for children was not too hard. They pulled out weeds, picked insects off the crops, fed chickens, and took water to other workers. For women, they worked the same hours as men, but

nearly all of their works was in the houses of masters, from helping with the cooking, laundry, gardening to child care and sexual services.

Moreover, Pregnant woman had to work no matter what their conditions, until their baby was born; after she had her child she was only allowed to recover for a month, and she must continuous to work with child on her back (Rodriguez 126). In addition, enslaved people can fish, hunt, and they were responsible for the material infrastructure and repair work on plantation life: masons, joiners, coopers, metalworkers, and transport slave, extra slaves were skilled doing carpeting and some worked in factories (Walvin 97). Other slaves became construction workers, they worked on the canals or railroads or worked as dock workers, lumberjacks, office workers, or riverboat pilots, and some worked in the mines.

A field workers day or “ Field Hands” was filled with hard works. Most house slavers or “House Hands” were living under better conditions than field workers. At time of work, the master controlled the slaves with whips if they attempted to idle in work. If work was not completed as assigned, they would receive beating and punishment very badly by the owner; for instance, the slave would be killed or shipped to another plantation without warning. James Ramsay, a doctor working for several sugar farm in St Kitts, was shocked by the way that slaves were treated by their overseers. Ramsay later recalled in his book, *An Essay on the Treatment and Conversion of African Slaves in the British Sugar Colonies* (1784) said:

...The ordinary punishments of slaves, for the common crimes of neglect, absence from work, eating the sugar cane, theft, are cart whipping, beating with a stick, sometimes to the breaking of bones, the chain, an iron crook about the neck... a ring about the ankle, and confinement in the dungeon. There have been instances of slitting of ears, breaking of limbs, so as to make amputation necessary, beating out of eyes, and castration....

Slaves worked very firm plus the owner did not pay them, even they have no weekends or rest days. They were generally allowed at day off on Sunday and on infrequent holidays as Christmas or the fourth of July.

3.2.2. Masters-Slave Relationship

Slaves were regarded as objects, they acted to be independent beings defying the theory of slavery by leading their own lives. On personal and day to day level, many slaves experienced pleasure as well as pain, and had contacts with whites that extended far beyond the exploitation of labor (Kolchin 53).

Some slaves carried deep anger, hate and Revenge toward their masters. Sometimes, slaves had a great desire to change places with their masters and carry out the same behavior on them. In speaking about her master, one ex-slave said: “He would whip me just for the fun of it, it was fun for him but not for me. I hope to whip him when I grow up.” Her desire was not just for the abuse to end, but to trade places with the abuser, which was the ultimate goal of revenge. But some slaves did not actually assault their masters. An ex-slave described the beatings he suffered at the hands of his owners stating, “I know that Solomon is burning in hell today and it pleases me to know it” (wheeler et al 246). Another ex-slave said to his fellows slaves when they cry at the master's funeral “they going on to hell like a damn barrel full of mails ” (Kneeland).

Differing to that, there were some masters who treated their slaves as “human”. They even preferred to name them “servant”. Those people were called “Patriarchs”, which means acting toward slaves as a father figure (K. Morgan 15). William Byrd of Westover, Virginia acted as patriarchs claims:

I have my flocks and my herds, my Bond_men and my Bond_women, and every so art of Trade amongst my own Servants, so that I live in a kind of independence of everyone but Providence...I must take care to keep all my people to their Duty, to see all the springs in motion and

make everyone draw his equal Share to carry the Machine forward. (qtd in ibid 115)

Charles, in his book "Slavery in the United States", distinguished sharply among his various owners, declaring that my mistresses, in Maryland, "were all good women," Ball recalled that he "really loved " that master; and when he died "I felt that I had lost the only friend I had in the world " (387).

Under Slave Law, the slave is the property of the master in body and mind. On plantation life, almost of female slaves suffered from sexual relations that existed between them and their masters under the same roof. Mary Boylin Chestnut's dairy is well known for her comments about how "men live in one house with their wives and concubines". In 19th century fugitive slave narratives such as those of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs archives are full of evidence that masters, even when married, did not hesitate to engage in sexual relations with their slaves (Lemer 896).

For any resistance by these women often came in the form of physical beatings; thus an enormous number of slave became concubines for these men. Any offspring of mulatto or racially mixed children resulted from this relations not only served to enhance the wealth of the planter but also cause the jealousy and rage of his wife (ibid).

Brutal, and unjust slavery system developed under conditions that at the same time left the slaves room to develop their own vital but fragile subculture and production particularly intense, and contradictory, relation between masters and slaves, relation that were marked by affection intimacy as well as by far, brute force, and calculation of self-interest (Kolchin).

3.2.3. Run-away slave

Slavery was very cruel and life of the enslaved people was acute, prolonged, and not a happy one. They were legally held as human chattel. They used many tactics to decrease or eliminate their imminent, intense pain such as escape. From the evidence that is available, it appears that escape for slave was very common. Servants

and slaves run-away and escaped plantations for a number of reasons. Some fled physical or sexual abuse of masters; other meant only to take a break from long hours of forced labor, or to visit friends. Some left in search of family members from whom they had been separated to different owners, they sometimes fled because they would be sold. Whereas, others had a lack of material resources and the resulting hunger and cold (Kneeland).

But most runaway slaves were on their own. They would often choose holidays or days off to give them extra lead time, chiefly at night hoping their absence would not be noticed until they were far away from their master or before being missed in the fields or at work. Where the female was mulatto she could pass for white. She stole her mistress's clothes, and her partner stole the family's open carriage and posed as the driver. Many fled on foot, coming up with ways to throw off dogs in pursuit, such as taking to water or using pepper to disguise their scent. Some stole horses or even stowed away on a ship to escape slavery in the South (Hope and Schweninger 81-82).

The statutes allowed any citizen to apprehend a runaway slave and deliver, which mean any slave found more than twenty miles from home or place of employment was considered a runaway. During the 1840s, legislators amended the “runaway slave” section to include a reward system. Anyone who arrested a runaway Black could receive a \$100 as reward. However, for the runaway slave, Thomas Jefferson placed an advertisement in Virginia Gazette (see annex 04).

One of the primary methods of escape for runaways was the infamous Underground Railroad. This network established in the early 1800s and was an informal network of white abolitionists, sympathetic Natives, and free blacks that secured safe and clandestine travel routes for escaping slaves during the 19th century (Foner 491) Underground Railroad illegally helped thousands of fugitive slaves to escape from bondage holding to northern states and Canada. Harriet Tubman “Moses” is the best known “conductor” of the Underground Railroad, she helped over 200 other slaves to escape after she herself reached freedom in 1849 (Bradford 30,58).

For slaves only know that the land of freedom was in the North. At first they just ran to northern states, After the Fugitive Slave Act⁶ was passed in 1850 when that became unsafe, they ran to Canada. Canada represented the “Promised Land” that many black slaves had learned about through Biblical teachings, as the land of milk and honey, a place where the wicked shall cease from troubling and them weary shall be at rest (Renford).

In Uncle Tom’s Cabin, an antislavery novel popularized the abolitionist position, The writer Stowe not only paints a picture of the horrors of slavery in America she describes Canada as a special place of liberation and freedom in the slave imagination. There are many instances in which Stowe’s characters give us a sense of the importance of Canada in the slave imagination. As in the following lines:

And where do you mean to go, my poor woman?" said Mrs. Bird." To Canada, if I only knew where that was. Is it very far off, is Canada?" said she, looking up, with a simple, confiding air, to Mrs. Bird's face. "Poor thing!" said Mrs. Bird, involuntarily. "Is 't a very great way off, think?" said the woman, earnestly. (qtd. in 151)

Scores of black wanted to be free. To be treated equally, to live where they chose, to get an education, to stay with their families, to develop their own talents and make some money of their own. Even slaves who were well treated, who had enough to eat and did not receive beatings, wanted to be free.

3.Slaves Communities

3.1.Family life

During the early times of slavery, Most slaves lived together in families with mother, father, and children. However, the plantation owners had complete freedom to buy and sell slaves. About one-third of slave families suffered permanent separation caused by the sale of family members to distant regions. Mothers and infants were often separated through selling them at auctions, as well as husbands, wives, brothers, and sisters. An ex-slave John Rudd said,“ If you want to know what unhappiness

means, just you stand on the slave block and hear the auctioneer's voice selling you away from the folks you love ” (Baker 217).

Enslaved people were denied a secure family life. For the reason that enslaved men and women were property and could not legally marry. They had to ask permission from their masters to do that, but this had no legal protection since masters could break up marriages and separate families as they wish. Often, slave owners felt it was to their advantage to allow slaves make relations, since producing any child from the marriage would add to owners wealth (Dunaway 65,119).

According to law, a child took on the legal status of his mother; if he was born to a slave mother he would become a slave, even if the father was free or white man. Later, a law came along that forbade owners from separating husbands from their wives or mothers from their children under 14 (ibid).

Slaves were housed in shelters which were some distance away from the master's house. On plantation, family slave generally shared a one room cabin or quarter with their family, no matter the size of them. Most of these slave houses had thatched roof and walls of old boards or of wattle and mud. The floor was dirt and was the earth itself and there were no furniture, the beds were collected pieces of straw or grass and old rags.

Besides, slaves generally received a weekly food rations were distributed every Saturday as: corn meal, lard, some meat, molasses, peas, greens, flour and cornmeal and that is all no tea, coffee and sugar. They had two meals a day, there was breakfast at twelve and dinner much later. The food that they ate depended on their circumstances. Some were treated better than others and would eat whatever was leftover from the table of the white family. Others were not so fortunate and had to provide for themselves by growing. A few eat the part of animals that thrown away as garbage, things like pig's feet, salt, bacon, chitterlings, chicken feet, cow's longue...etc. As well, some ate depended on the plantation as bacon, corps, and various type of birds, fish and meals (Randolph 18).

Every year, slaves obtained a clothing allowance; the master usually provided a winter and a summer set of clothes; The men usually received two linen shirt, two pairs of trousers, one jacket, one pair of socks, and a wool hat. The Women received the same allowance as the men, but children received none. The children remained naked until they were about nine years old, or were given cast-off clothing that their parents managed to find or were able to purchase.

Enslaved people in all regions and times periods often did not have enough to eat and wear. One ex-slave Fredrick Douglass in his novel Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass in 1845, slave held:

I suffered much from hunger, but much more from cold. In hottest summer and coldest Winter, I was kept almost naked—no shoes, no stockings, no jacket, no trousers, nothing on but a coarse tow linen shirt, reaching only to my knees. I had no bed. I must have perished with cold, but that, the coldest nights.....and there sleep on the cold, damp, clay floor, with my head in and feet out. My feet have been so cracked with the frost, that the pen with which I am writing might be laid in the gashes (ibid 41).

3.2 Slave Religion

Belief in God gave many slaves hope of a better life and as a source of comfort. It also assured them that they were loved and were equal in God's eyes with their masters. Slaves were taken from all sorts of places. Their religion would have been what their native religion was in their home country or follow their master's faith. Religion had always been a strong factor in the life of black community.

Slaves themselves did not have the opportunity to separate their religious beliefs between personal life and their work. They took the context of their beliefs into everyday life and it helped them to know that slavery was inhuman. Slaves used to praise the Lord, and their power of religion was so strong that often masters despised

their devotion to God and sometimes resulted in more brutal acts of hatred towards slaves known to have strong religious convictions (Raboteau 212).

Some slaves brought to the colonies ended up becoming Christians. They managed, however, to hang on to some practices by integrating them into Christian worship in secret meetings. These practices, including dance, shouts, African rhythms, and enthusiastic singing (ibid). Mose Hursey, a former slave, describing a Sunday service in the slave quarters assumed:

I heard them [slaves] get up with a powerful force of spirit, clapping they hands and walking around the place. They'd shout, " I got the glory. I got the old time religion in my heart." I seen some powerful figurations of the spirit in them days. Uncle Billy preached to us and was right good at preaching....(qtd. in ibid)

Christianity had pervaded the slave village by the eve of the Civil War. Not all slaves were Christian, nor were all those who accepted Christianity members of a church, but the doctrines, symbols, and vision of life preached by Christianity were familiar to most (ibid).

The religion of the slaves was both visible and invisible, formally organized and spontaneously adapted. Regular Sunday worship in the local church was paralleled by illicit, or at least informal, prayer meetings on week nights in the slave cabins. Preachers licensed by the church and hired by the master were supplemented by slave preachers licensed only by the spirit. Texts from the Bible, which most slaves could not read, were explicated by verses from the spirituals. Slaves forbidden by masters to attend church or even to pray, risked floggings attend secret gatherings to worship God (ibid). By a past slave Wash Wilson in his own experience of the “invisible institution” was recalled :

When de niggers go round singin’ ‘Steal Away to Jesus,’ dat mean dere gwine be a ’ligious meetin’ dat night. De masters ... didn’t like dem

'ligious meetin's so us natcherly slips off at night, down in de bottoms or somewhere. Sometimes us sing and pray all night (qtd. in *ibid* 213).

The slave religious format varied from plantation to another. Some slaves reject Christianity and accepted a different type of it (Catholicism, Protestantism....etc), several espouse other beliefs or preserved their own, as traditional African beliefs such as West African Vodun, Santería, Ifá and diasporic traditions like the Rastafari movement or belief in Islam, whatever it's Jewish, Hinduism. Plus, increasing numbers of slaves converted to evangelical religions such as the Methodist and Baptist.

Religion played a significant role in the life of slaves. They expressed their religious beliefs mostly in songs, clapping, dancing, and even spirit-possession, since they didn't have many other options (Charles and Oscar). Most of the slaves believed in many different gods but they forced to practice their own religious. Practicing a form of religion allowed them to hope for something better in the next life, and advising them to endure the hardships of this life and everyday it helped them to know that slavery was inhuman.

Conclusion

To come to the point, a great number of black slaves lived a horrible condition under the life of slavery, they suffered, abandon from their right as a human. Despite the squalor they were forced to live in, many slaves nevertheless attempted to eke out life as best they could. This is given to the reason that Europeans have an attitude of practicing racism or discrimination based on skin color with Africans being black, and thus Africans are usually seen from the slavery point of view. This is to suggest that history and colonialism have greatly influenced the way Africans are viewed by the whites. Even though their master's claimed their bodies, slaves resisted complete domination of their mind and soul by keeping their African traditions and customs alive.

Chapter Endnotes

¹ (1394-1460) a fifteenth century Portuguese prince was born in Porto, Portugal. Although he was neither a sailor nor a navigator, he sponsored a great deal of exploration along the west coast of Africa. He is regarded as an originator of the Age of Discovery and the Atlantic slave trade (Biography.com Editors).

² a fifteenth century Portuguese explorer and slave trader was the first European to buy Africans as slaves from black slave traders (Worger et al 9).

³ Policy of Great Britain and other imperial powers of regulating the economies of colonies to benefit the mother country(Foner 675).

⁴ Christopher Columbus landed on Hispaniola on December 5, 1492 and named it La Isla Espanola, the Spanish Island, which was eventually anglicized to Hispaniola. This island is the second largest island of the West Indies, today the site of Haiti and the Dominican Republic(The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica.).

General Conclusion

The end of the sixteenth century was, for the British, a starting point for the expansion of the British Empire. After the establishment of the first successful colony "Virginia colony" in 1607, the colonists hoped to discover precious metals, gems, or other valuable commodities. But unfortunately, they did not find what they wished for. They recognized that financial success rely on cultivating lucrative crop:tobacco. However, clearing land and the cultivation of crops required more labor. As a result, the system of indentured servitude was established in Virginia colony. Indentured servants cultivated crops, built houses, and shaped communities. They represented the majority of the immigrants. They contributed to the economic successes of their masters and flourishing the colony's economy for more than a half century.

As time passed, a demand for cheap and more labor necessitated the conversion from a system of indentured servitude to a reliance on slaves and the African slave trade. African slave trade is considered as the largest trade in human beings that the world has ever seen. Colonists preferred slaves because they were cheap, available, and competent workers.

The treatment of indentured servants and slaves has its similarities while the differences between the two are still evident. Both groups experienced the harshness of the journey to America, were considered property and could be sold and separated from their families. Yet there was light at the end of the tunnel for servants. Servitude and slavery were ,for masters, institutions in which they most often benefited. The more we can come to learn about their experiences and their influence on the actions and reactions of their fellow servants, the master and middling classes, and the enslaved, the more fully we will understand Virginia and the development of the concepts of both race and status throughout the colonial period. Without the institutions of indentured servitude and slavery, the southern colonies could not have been built as strong economy in a short period of time. When the British Empire lost control over the colonies, the new nation had to face the controversial question of slavery.

Annexes

Annex 01:

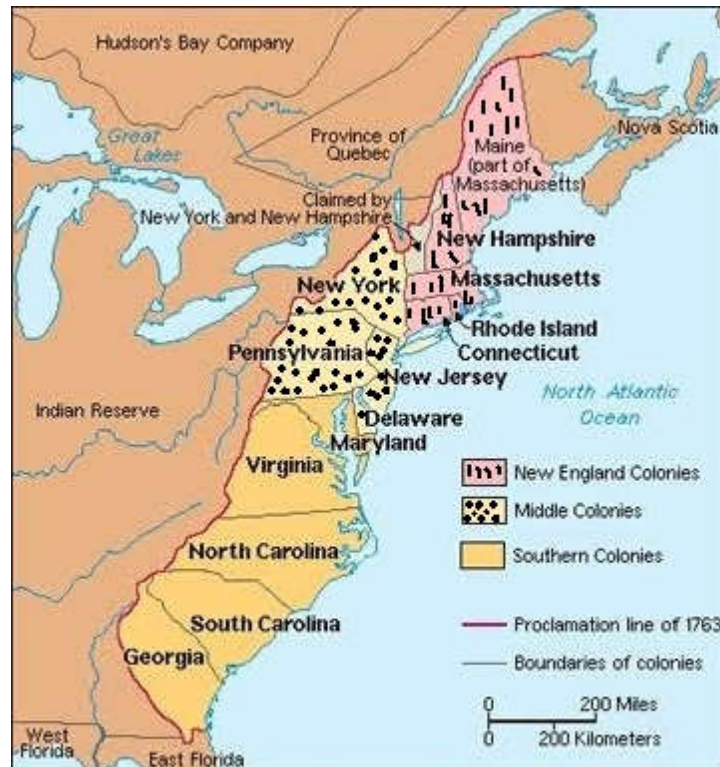
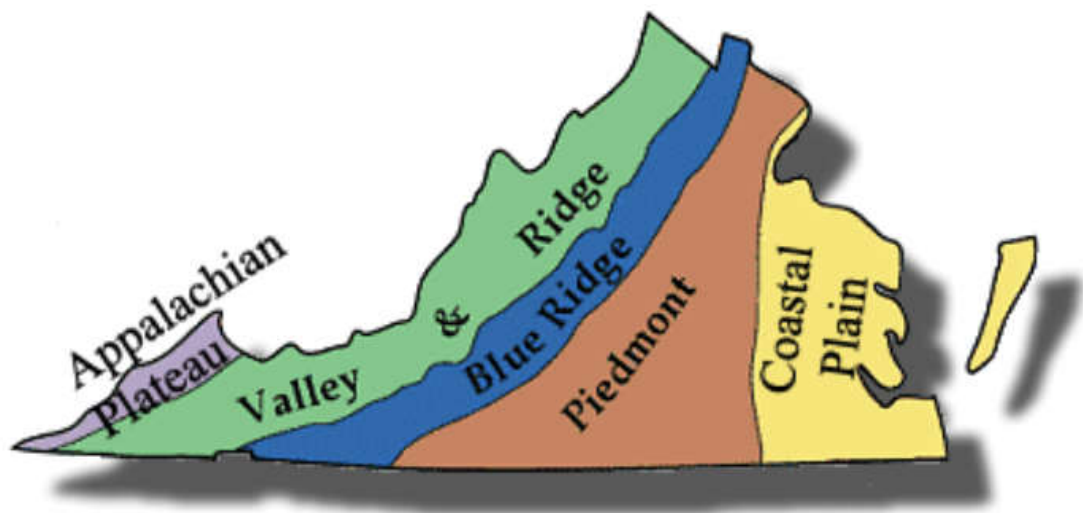


fig 01: The three main regions of the 13 colonies

Annex 02:



Annex 03:

I your child am in a most heavy case by reason of the nature of the country, is such that it causes much sickness, as the scurvy and the bloody flux and diverse other diseases . . . When we are sick there is nothing to comfort us . . . [We] must work hard both early and late for a mess of water gruel and a mouthful of bread and beef. A mouthful of bread for a penny loaf must serve for four men . . . If you did know as much as I, when people cry out day and night – Oh! That they were in England without their limbs – and would not care to lose any limb to be in England again . . .

We live in fear of the enemy every hour, yet we have had a combat with them on the Sunday before Shrovetide, and we took two alive and made slaves of them . . . and yet we are but thirty-two to fight against three thousand if they should come . . . Our plantation is very weak by reason of the death and sickness of our company . . . We came but twenty for the merchants and they are half dead just; and we look every hour when two more should go. There came four other men yet to live with us, of which there is but one alive; and our Lieutenant is dead, and his father and his brother.

. . . I have not a penny, nor a penny worth, to help me to either spice or sugar or strong waters, without the which one cannot live here . . . I am not half a quarter so strong as I was in England for I do protest to you that I have eaten more in a day at home than I have allowed me here for a week. You have given more than my day's allowance to a beggar at the door. (qtd. in Jordan and Walsh 100)

Annex 04

RUN away from the subscriber in Albemarle, a Mulatto slave called Sandy, about 35 years of age, his stature is rather low, inclining to corpulence, and his complexion light; he is a shoemaker by trade, in which he uses his left hand principally, can do coarse carpenters work,

and is something of a horse jockey; he is greatly addicted to drink, and when drunk is insolent and disorderly, in his conversation he swears much, and in his behaviour is artful and knavish. He took with him a white horse, much scarred with traces, of which it is expected he will endeavour to dispose; he also carried his shoemakers tools, and will probably endeavour to get employment that way. Whoever conveys the said slave to me, in Albemarle, shall have 40 s. reward, if taken up within the county, 4 l. if elsewhere within the colony, and 10 l. if in any other colony, from THOMAS JEFFERSON. (qtd. in Higginbotham 54:175)

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