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"To what extent is the Atlantic slave trade a economic and cultural turning point in World  
History?"

Slavery and forced labor has been a huge part of world history. In the 1300s the Italian Kingdom of Genoa conquered new land in the European Middle East and captured and enslaved black Africans to do the hard field labor required to keep the lands working. Two hundred years later Europe had gained new plantations in the United States, which as before, also resulted in the use of African slaves. Not only were Europeans using slaves but the Spaniards followed their steps on their conquered lands of the Americas. They tried using Native Americans instead of African Slaves to save some money, but this didn't last for long due to many Natives dying from infectious diseases that the Spaniards had brought in. Slaves were distributed throughout different countries and were forced to do hard labor. This was all done without their consent and some of the families were ripped apart from their children and taken to other plantations or traded for more slaves. Although slavery helped construct civilizations, the Atlantic slave trade created economic and cultural impacts because it influenced new cultures , religions, and has developed different economies throughout the world.

Slavery was seen as something usual even though the practice of it was inhumane. It all started with slavery in the African colonies. The rulers of the different colonies used captives of war as laborers; and slaves were also obtained as a pay for some sort of debt. This occurred very frequently; but when European traders arrived to Africa the slave trade changed drastically. Europe and Spain, as well as other countries, discovering the New World had an enormous change in the economies because that meant that they had to find laborers or in this case slaves to work their land with a low paying wage. Many of the countries like Spain turned to African slaves after using natives as their workforce. Slaves were used after because just like the natives in America, natives in Latin America were dying because of disease and infections.

The countries had to think thoroughly of how to transport all these slaves from one side

of the Atlantic Ocean to the other. The voyages of the slaves were horrifying and inhumane. Due to the amount of demand of slaves as a workforce the ships that they were transported in were packed and unsanitary as well. About 10 percent of the slaves not only had to endure one voyage but had to go through two if they were sent to America for labor work and many places, like Curacao were used as a pit stop for many of these voyages (Nardo 48). When the slaves arrived to their destination they were mainly put up to auction for "owners" to buy them and make them do forced labor. Sometimes during these auctions families were ripped apart and taken by different owners. Slaves were then exposed to new cultures that they did not know of and sometimes had to change their own cultures to be able to adapt to their new life as slave workers. Since the plantation owners looked for hand labor, men were usually the most looked for when it came to slaves in America. In Latin America families were usually taken in because they were cheaper to transport due to the fact that the women could have more kids and the kids would also work as slaves in the plantations. This increased the amount of families that were traded into slavery to be taken to the sugar and or cotton plantations in the New World. Natives of the new world, slaves, and the conquistadors created diversified world. All three of the groups had very different cultures, even though the Europeans conquered some African colonies. The cultures created new cultures that would eventually lead to different ethnic groups. This created an enormous cultural impact because the slaves interacted with natives and shared a part of their culture and adopted some of the cultural practices and ideas for their own. Cultures then merged together to create new ones that involve practices from the different cultures,

Many countries were using slaves as servants for their homes but most of them were used as labor workers. The ones as servants were paid a minimum wage but were sometimes not paid at all and had to do the work against their will for free. The land workers were not paid at all

and were treated horribly. Most of the time if the work was not completed then the owners beat the slaves or assassinated them. This was something that was really common and if you had the money acquiring new slaves was not a hard task at all. Some servants were known as indentured servants which meant that they had to work for the plantation owners for a certain amount of years, usually seven years, and then they were freed from all obligations by the owners. This form of labor was not very used because the work was temporary which meant the slaves had to be free (Abaka 1034). The labor workers usually died at a very young age due to the fact that they were not given any kind of attention and diseases as well as infections were really common in the plantations. Even though slavery was profiting the European countries, African colonies did not have the same luck.

Due the Europeans arriving in Africa to acquire slaves, some of Africa's economy depended on those slaves. Local industries that once did not flourish and some industries were even more affected by the goods that went in to Africa due to the Atlantic slave trade. Some people come to the conclusion that the good helped Africa's economy but it really didn't because of how cheap the materials were (Abaka 1035). The Atlantic slave trade created an economic downslide for Africa. The idea of individuals with more money being more powerful than low standing other humans contributed a lot to the Atlantic slave trade because the most powerful people could control whomever they desired and wanted to control. Un wealthy people or unpowerful individuals then would be sold or traded into slavery by the higher powers of their colonies (Finkleman 2). This was most seen in Africa due to the fact that many rulers took absolute power over their colonies and for the exchange of slaves acquired goods imported from the New World. Humans were easily put in to slavery by the higher powers and sometimes without reason or because of a small debt that they had not paid. The value of a slave sometimes

varied because of the economic stance of the country.

Religions from Africa quickly became very well known of in the New World because of the amount of slaves that were constantly being transported over. As well as cultures slaves used the ideas and practices of their conquerors and sometimes adapted them to their own. Most of the time the slaves would keep their home religion and practiced it while they could. Interracial marriage was prohibited most of the time but in the Spanish colonies interracial marriage was seen sometimes. The children of these marriages were known as mestizos. Which meant they were half Spanish and half of a different descent usually African but sometimes natives from the conquered colonies. The children as well as their parents were seen as outsiders and were treated inhumanely. This added on to religion because some religions prohibited interracial marriages. This contributed to the fact that these marriages had to find a different religion that would accept them and their children as an interracial family.

Religions were a big influence from the Atlantic slave trade because of the huge division of different religions and the amount of different beliefs. The slave trade was a big turning point in world history because it merged many different cultures together that now are well known of. This also created a whole different world for the slaves because eventually they could become their own people and build their own economy with the influence of different rulers. With this they could eventually free themselves from those rules and create their own country. Haiti was once full of slaves that were used in the sugar and cotton plantations. Since the slaves were sometimes allowed to practice their religions, a group of slaves created a plan to revolt against the sugar plantation owners and free themselves from them. Many owners died due to the fact that there were more slaves than owners at the time. This resulted in the slaves creating a country that would have African beliefs and religions but would also include new ideas taken from the

New World. The slaves even worked together to develop the economy in that country because they worked and for their work they were given a certain amount of money that would help them buy food for their family. This motivated individuals in neighboring countries to do the same and develop their own economies based in their beliefs and cultures.

The Atlantic slave trade was a created cultural and economic impacts that contributes to the rise of new economies, religions, and cultures. This highly influenced a new world that then created mixed world of different ethnic backgrounds and cultures as well as religions. If the Atlantic slave trade would of have not happened many of the ethnic groups and cultures that are seen today might not have been developed. Also the amount of cultural differences would not be the same at all. The Harlem Renaissance in the United States would not have been a huge part of U.S history because most of the beliefs, art, and music were influenced by African art and music a lot. This was influenced by the Atlantic slave trade because the merge of different cultures and beliefs developed a new era in history and mostly in the U.S since most of the slaves were taken to the U.S for slave work and hard labor.

In conclusion the Atlantic slave trade was a huge part of world history because new ideas and new cultures and religions as well as new economies emerged from the slave trade and became new countries.

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