

HISTORY TWO - YASSIN

TOPIC ONE

THE RISE OF CAPITALISM IN EUROPE

Capitalism is a socio-economic system in which a country's factors of production like industries, land, trade and other sources of capital and property are owned and controlled privately purposely for profit making in a free market economy (with little government intervention).

Capitalism is also referred to as a free market economy with a free competitive enterprise where prices of goods and services are determined by the forces of demand and supply.

Note: The cardinal bases of capitalism are: private ownership and control of factors of production; the sole aim of production is for profit making and; little government involvement in the control of the economy.

Capitalism first developed in Europe coming into existence after the demise of feudalism. It passed through three main stages namely, mercantile, competitive and monopoly phases.

Characteristics of capitalism

Capitalism operates through a number of ways:

- a. Free market economy in which prices of goods and services are determined by the market forces of demand and supply.
- b. Little government intervention as production is left in the hands of capital owners.
- c. Private ownership of factors of production against nationalization policy.
- d. Production is purposely for profit maximization.
- e. Existence of classes. There are two major classes: the haves who are the Capitalists or Bourgeoisies who own the major means of production (capital), and the class of the have-nots, who are mainly the workers called proletariats exploited by the capitalists for profit maximization.
- f. Exploitation, due to the presence of classes. The haves exploit the have-nots through low wages purposely for profit making. The principle of a capitalist here is to ensure low costs in production but realize maximum profits.
- g. Class struggle. The workers struggle against their exploitation by their employers the capitalists. For instance through strikes under Trade Unions.

TRANSITION FROM FEUDALISM TO CAPITALISM

The transition of European societies from feudalism to capitalism was a gradual process. Several developments were experienced from the 15th C to the late 19th C for capitalism to mature.

Before taking an analysis of European transformation to capitalism, it is imperative to have a glance on the situation of Europe under the feudal system.

FEUDALISM IN EUROPE

Feudalism is a political-economic system or Mode of Production based on landownership and personal loyalty. In a feudal system land was the major means of production. It was owned by a few, the landlords who rent it to the landless majority, the peasants or tenant (serfs). Besides owning land, landlords as well partially owned the serfs whom they exploited through payment of rent.

The development of feudalism in Europe is traced from the 5th Century A.D. after the fall of the Great Roman Empire. The fall of the Roman Empire caused more trouble as there was no longer a strong central government to protect the people. The invasions which had weakened the empire caused widespread disorder and suffering. As most western Europeans were living in constant danger, many turned to local rulers, the warlords who had fought the Roman Empire with their own armies. The strong rulers gained political strength, declared their independencies and distributed land to their armies and loyal subjects. Slaves who worked with the Roman Empire were set free and became tenants or serfs together with other free people who needed security from the rulers. On that note, feudalism was a system developed basing on mutual obligations. In exchange for military protection and other services, landowners granted land to their guards (armies). The person receiving a land was called a vassal. The armies then distributed it to the landless common people in return for rent. These came to be called peasant and serf.

Features of European Feudalism

1. Land was the major form of property and means of production. The other means of production like industry were not yet highly developed hence Europe depended much on the land with agriculture as the main activity. Landowners possessed land held both political and economic power.
2. Property especially land was owned by a few landlords who rented it the majority landless peasants and serfs/tenants. The serfs lived on the landlords land worked on the land for their landlords or paid rents to their landlords. The landlords and the property owners were the aristocrats, feudal lords and the church.
3. Social stratification. Society was divided into classes hierarchically: at the top were the nobility classes of the Monarchs and the Dukes, second were the clergy (religions leaders like Bishops and priests) followed by the knights (soldiers) and the landlords. At the bottom were vast majority of the peasants and serfs who did not own property or political power. This class was also divided into the Freeman Tenants (peasants) who enjoyed some freedom as they paid rent in produce and could leave the land when they wished and serfs who could not lawfully leave the place they were born/manor or marry without the consent of the landlord. Social class was usually inherited.
4. The church was also a powerful feudal institution owning vast estates (land) and accommodating tenants and serfs. Besides controlling the religious and moral affairs of

society, the church also participated in political and administrative roles to the state. For instance, it controlled the education of which alongside religion was important strengthening loyalty to the state.

5. State and state apparatus. Feudalism existed under centralized monarchical systems which exercised despotic rule. Power was in hands of the strong landlords the monarch supported with armies. The aristocrats, nobility and the clergy enjoyed state power and privileges followed by the landlords. For example, on top of owning land, they were exempted from taxation and public labour.
6. Restrictive laws. There were special laws which bounded the serfs to the land and to the services of landlords. This was purposely to strengthen the loyalty of the serfs to their landlords so as to enhance exploitation. For example the laws that bounded the serfs to the land (manors) where they neither marry nor leave without the consent of the landlord. Such laws were known as feudal justice laws.
7. Excessive exploitation of the serf and peasants. Serfs paid high and many feudal dues like rents and taxes to the landlords, the church and the state. In France for example, they obliged to payment of several taxes like income tax, land tax, poll tax and salt tax. In addition he paid a tithe of the produce of his land to the church. As if these burdens were not sufficient, he was often liable to forced labour on the roads or public buildings. The upper classes were exempted from such burdens.
8. Payment of Rent. On using their landlords' lands serfs had to pay rent. Rent payment was the major possible form of extracting surplus from the serfs by landlord. There were mainly three forms of rent: Labour Rent which was predominant in the early stage of development of feudalism in which the peasants worked part of the week, providing labour for the landlords and the rest of the days on his holding; Rent in kind by which the peasant shared portion of his products with his landlords and lastly; was money Rent in which peasants paid rent in form of money. The peasants had to sell their products in order to pay their rents.
9. Division of land. Land in the manors was divided into different complete portions for different purposed. The major divisions were; the open free lands for cultivation, common meadowland for hay production, common pasture lands for grazing of cattle, common woodlands for firewood and common wastelands which were fallowed.
10. Feudalism developed a tendency of invasion and conquest. Feudalism was much competitive for property especially land. Hence strong feudal lords or societies (manors) developed a habit of invading the weak ones, annexed their land, grab their properties and subjugate their people.
11. Petty commodity production. Trade and commerce were minimal and the use of money at the beginning was initially insignificant. However at the advanced stage when payment of rent in cash became more preferred by the landlords commodity production increased as serfs were now conditioned to turn to commodity production to raise money for rent payment.

The features of European feudalism are a glance on how the system was not only retrogressive but contradicting provocative to individual initiatives and freedoms particularly to the peasantry class and development of productive forces. The system was marred by frequent peasant revolts and civil wars. Besides it caused suffering to the majority due denial of individual freedom by the restrictive laws and low production which caused scarcity and frequent famines. It was on

such grounds that the feudal system could not withstand the new changes of society which came to transform Europe to capitalism beginning with Western Europe.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF CAPITALISM IN EUROPE

I. THE AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

The Agrarian revolution was a fundamental change in agricultural production system. The revolution made changes mainly in production techniques and land tenure system which transformed the old traditional and feudal European farming systems to the new one of commercial and capitalist systems. The revolution began in the Netherlands and reached England in the 15th century, from 1450's. It reached its climax in the second half of the 18th century.

It was the transformation from the old traditional feudal farming system of the open field to new systems particularly the enclosure system which was effected by changes in land ownership (tenure) system and in land usage and application of scientific methods like cross-breeding, land reclamation, and use of fertilizers.

The old farming system under open fields, on which farmers worked on small strips of land in scattered fields and grazed their animals and gathered timber on public (common) land, did not allow effective use of land. Poor methods were used like fallowing and broadcasting of seeds, which resulted into poor grain production because weeding was difficult and mechanization impossible. By the Agrarian revolution such systems were discarded by introducing new and scientific systems and commercialization in farming.

Problems that faced agriculture in Europe under the Open Field system

1. Poor land tenure system of landlordism of the feudal system. The feudal system of land ownership did not favour agricultural development and the majority of the people. The Largest part of land was owned and controlled by a small section of the state; the monarchy, church and landlords while the majority remained landless only to be exploited by the landed classes.
2. Existence of exploitative feudal laws. The serfs who were the majority landless were subjected to hard exploitative laws, which limited their freedom and tied them to work on land. For example the church used its canon laws to exploit its serfs.
3. Intensive exploitation of the lower classes. Serfs and peasants were required to pay high feudal dues in form of rent (labour rent, rent in kind, money rent) and taxes. These indeed did not favour the development of productive forces and commodity production as the serfs largest share was not his.
4. Use of primitive means of production. Poor tools were used in farms for example hand hoes and poor farming methods like fallowing. Such means retarded agricultural development. More so tied many people to work on land because they were labour intensive and thus limited land for agricultural use.

5. Civil wars and revolts also hit agriculture in Europe. The feudal system faced many conflicts and civil wars for instance in 1453 a civil war erupted in England as peasants and serfs reacted against exploitation by landlords and demanded for equal rights with the landlords.
6. Problems of land fragmentation. Land was acquired mainly by inheritance. It meant that family land had to be portioned into small strips for family members making large scale farming and mechanisation difficult. It also increased conflicts based on land demarcations.
7. Low production. Production was always low and mainly for subsistence, worse of all from the little the serfs produced they were required to pay a large part of it to their landlords as rent in kind. Many European societies were always attacked by famine due to low production.

Causes of changes in the farming system

1. Advancement in science and technology. New technology was applied in farms by the invention of farming machines like horse/oxen driven plough and seed drill. Other scientific methods included use of fertilizers and cross breeding. Such methods increased efficiency and production as more land could easily be opened for agriculture.
2. Demographic revolution. Between 1750 and 1810, European population was expanding very fast. In England for instance, it had doubled from about 5 to 10 million people. The increase caused shortage of land hence forced for changes in land ownership system to reduce excess population on farm land and improve agriculture hence the enclosure system was introduced.
3. The expansion of the domestic and external market. The increasing demand for farm products of food and raw materials transformed agriculture from subsistence to a commercial oriented venture. The market was expanded due to a sharp population increase in many countries like England, Belgium, and Netherlands. Europeans also had expansive overseas markets in Africa, Americas and India for textile products.
4. The adaptability of the English people. The English people were adaptive so could easily change to fit new circumstances before them. On that ground, it was easy for them to abandon the old traditional farming systems and adopt new ones which could meet new demands.
5. The expansion of towns. When towns expanded, many peasants abandoned the land and migrated to towns for better living. This led to shortage of labour in the farms and that could be solved by the use of machines. But also expanding town population was a reliable market for agricultural products particularly food and raw materials like wool needed for cloth making.
6. The rise of the monetary system. The increased use of money expanded trade, it required increase in production of agricultural goods like grain and wool which were important items of trade hence the monetary system contributed to the commercialization of agriculture.

The new systems or changes that replaced the old ones were characterized by;

a) The enclosure system

In the enclosure system, small peasants' plots of land, common lands and public lands in amalgamated were amalgamated, enclosed (fenced) and put under private ownership of rich farmers. It was the most significant aspect of the Agrarian revolution. It brought great changes in land ownership and usage, replacing the open field system.

Under the enclosure system, agriculture became more efficient because wealthy landowners farmed larger amounts of land, applied new and scientific farming methods like use of machines for large scale farming, cross breeding on sheep, cattle and experimentation with new crops. Such new innovations increased production of both food and raw materials tremendously; production of grain (wheat, barley and corn), potatoes, cotton, wool and meat increased.

The poor peasants were forced to sell off their plots to the rich farmers or were evicted from the land. Peasants who lost plots remained in farms to sell their labour to the rich farmers for wages while others moved to towns to either sell their labour too or participate in trade for those who had capital. The system was supported by the English parliament and between 1760 and 1800 about three million hectares were enclosed.

Reasons for the adoption of the enclosure system

1. To increase food production. Many European states suffered from food shortages due to poor farming methods which contributed to low production and poor yields
2. To increase production of raw materials. The increasing number of textile and woolen industries forced changes in agricultural production system. There was need to provide more land for sheep rearing to increase wool production and to increase cotton production.
3. To solve the problem of land fragmentation. The open field system suffered the problem of land fragmentation like land conflicts and low production due to poor methods of farming. Hence the enclosure system with its new land tenure system was to solve the problem.
4. To reduce congestion on land. Before the enclosure system greater numbers of people were kept on land to work on it, this increased pressure on land leading to soil exhaustion, low and poor yields.
5. To transform agriculture from a simple subsistence to commercial production system. Land was commercialized and sold to rich capitalist farmers whose aim was to produce for profit making.
6. To end conflicts associated with landlordism of the feudal system. The feudal system caused conflicts since it denied many (commoners) a chance to own land. Land was owned by few; the nobles, church, and landlords on inheritance. The enclosure system was to change the old system by commercialization of land.
7. To improve transport in the farming areas. In the open field system the farms were not easily accessible, because they were not fenced without clear demarcations between different individuals' plots. Therefore the enclosure was to improve the situation.

b) Land reclamation.

This meant bringing into cultivation the lands which previously could not be used for farming. Thai wastelands were made arable and consolidated for agricultural use. Marshy areas were drained, dry areas were put under irrigation and forests were cleared and terracing as used in hilly areas. Land reclamation did not only enable expansion of agricultural land but also allowed agricultural mechanization. This indeed revolutionized agriculture since light machines were invented and applied in farming.

c) *Mechanization of agriculture.*

New technology was applied in farms through the invention of farming machines like the Jethro Tull seed drill that planted the seeds in straight rows to ease processes of planting, weeding and harvesting. Other machines applied included John Deere and Jethro Tull horse driven ploughs. Mechanization increased efficiency in farming by increasing production as more land could easily be opened for agricultural purposes.

d) *Use of scientific breeding.*

Both animals and seeds were selected for breeding to develop high quality seeds and livestock breeds. As a result yields were tremendously increased in quality and quantity. For example, Sheep and cattle increased in weight and number thus increased production of raw materials like wool, and hides for textile industries, mutton, meat and milk.

e). *Use of fertilizer.*

Fertilizers were applied to add and maintain soil fertility so as to increase agricultural production. Different types of fertilizers like decomposed manure were discovered and used together with other measures like use of nitrogenous crops like beans and peas which were inter-planted together with other crops and systems like mulching. The use of fertilizers ended the practice of fallowing which limited farmland by resting parts of land to regain fertility.

f) *Introduction of crop rotation.*

This is a farming system in which farmlands are divided into different portions for cultivation of different crops at the same time on a (seasonal) rotational basis to control the problem of soil exhaustion caused by cultivation of same crops on the same part of land for a long time. Crop rotation was also a substitute to fallowing.

g) *Infrastructural improvement*

Transport and communication networks like roads were improved to make farming areas easily accessible. The aim was to link the farms with the markets of agricultural goods especially towns which bought food and raw materials to the industries.

How the Agrarian Revolution (enclosure system) contributed to the rise of capitalism.

1. Increased production of raw materials. Application of scientific farming techniques like cross breeding and crop rotation improved agricultural productivity through which enough raw materials like wool were produced to feed the growing cottage textile industries and thus boosted industrial development.
2. Increased production of food. Better farming methods of agrarian revolution like crop rotation improved production and allowed cultivation of new food crops such as potatoes and corn introduced from America on top of the European traditional crops like wheat, barley and turnips. Also cross breeding in sheep and cattle increased meat production. Enough food was produced which contributed to population and market expansion.
3. The revolution contributed to the abolition of serfdom. Poor landlords and peasants lost their land to the rich farmers, the situation which freed serfs who were tied on land for exploitation by landlords. The freed serfs turned to free labour needed for capitalist's development as wage labour leading to the creation of a working class.
4. Capitalization (Commercialization) of agricultural land. As land was sold to the rich farmers, the system changed the old feudal land tenure system based on inheritance agriculture was made an economic activity where production was purposely for sale and profit making. This marked a shift from the traditional subsistence farming to commercial farming.
5. Advancement of science and technology in agricultural. This was through application of machines in farming. Simple farm machines like seed drills and horse/oxen drive ploughs contributed to effective land use for agricultural purposes. But also contribute to further technological inventions and released a large labour force for industrial advancements
6. Growth of towns. Many evicted peasants migrated to towns where those with capital involved in trade and those without had to sell their labour for survival. This expanded town populations, market for agricultural goods like food and trade in towns.
7. Provision of capital. The commercialization of farming enabled rich farmers to accumulate a lot of wealth which was used as capital for further economic development. The capital acquired was invested in other capitalist economies like industry and trade which led to the creation of a large wealthy Bourgeoisie class. Capital was also acquired to the poor peasants and landlord by selling their plots to the rich farmers. Most of their capital was invested in trade.
8. Contributed to infrastructure development. Transport and communication infrastructure like roads were developed to link farms and market centres majorly towns and industries. Consequently, production, manufacturing and trade were developed. The enclosure system led to the development of transport to make farms easily accessible
9. The revolution contributed to the development of trade. Trade expanded internally and externally due to the availability of commodities for exchange like food stuffs which had ready market in towns and raw materials like wool for manufacturing of trading items like cloth highly needed in overseas trade of mercantilism.

II. MERCANTILISM, 15TH - 18TH CENTURY

Mercantilism was the first stage in the development of capitalism. It was an economic policy of European foreign trade based on the collection of bullion (gold and silver) basically by primitive means from the 15th to 18th C. European countries attracted themselves to the largest amounts of billions because they were a measure of a nation's wealth, power and prestige.

To the Marxist historians, mercantilism was the primitive means of capital accumulation through which Western European nations passed to acquire wealth especially by buying cheaply and selling dearly, plundering, looting and piracy

Mercantilism marked a revolution because of the significant changes it made in the commercial field by internationalization of trade. Supported by the geographical discoveries extending trading contact to overseas continents was realized by mercantilism. It also marked the origins of a capitalist mode of production with merchant capital as its drawing force.

Advancements in marine technology sparked off geographical discoveries of the New Worlds of the Caribbean and Americas by Christopher Columbus (1492) and sea route to India by Vasco da Gama (1498) and other discoveries to start overseas trading contacts by the European merchants. The discovery of new lands meant the discovery of new sources of wealth to be exploited.

Features of Mercantilism

Mercantilism has five cardinal features;

- a. National unification. This involved creation of strong centralized states. Absolute monarchies in England, France, Spain, and Portugal were compelled to unify within themselves by amalgamating feudal Manorial states so as to be strong enough to withstand competition by other nations. For this purpose, English states of Britain, Scotland, Ireland and Wales unified to form England (United Kingdom). National unification helped in:
 - Creating a wider national market
 - Creation of a large labour force
 - Introduction of common currency
 - Maintaining peace and stability
 - Establishment of centralized taxation system
 - Establishment of legal system and legal protection of private property
 - Establishment of uniformity of weights and measures.
- b. Protectionism. The principle policy of mercantilism was protectionism at home and plundering abroad. Protectionism safeguarded local producers from outside competition by imposition of higher tariffs on imported goods to discourage domestic market from buying such goods and instead buy those locally made. Protectionism was also extended to the colonies to bar off merchants from other nations from plundering in them.
- c. Bullionism. Bullions (gold and silver) were the most wanted items of mercantilism. European states and merchants competed for the accumulation of largest stocks of bullions than their rivals because they were the determinant of nation's wealth, power and glory. Bullions also served as money hence determined one's wealth.
- d. Expansionism. In the exploration of the 15th C of other continents. European states acquired colonies in the Americas, Caribbean, India and Australia. Colonies were important for reliable markets, sources of cheap raw materials for European industries, investments and settlement of undesirable population.

- e. Militarism. Creation of strong armies and navies was a precondition in this era. Strong militaries were important in ensuring national security, protecting merchants on the sea against pirate and for piracy and plundering other nations. Important also for colonial acquisition.

Phases through which Mercantilism passed

Mercantilism passed through three main phases;

i) Bullion phase, 14-15th C

This was the earliest phase in the development of mercantilism. In this stage, European merchants mainly attracted themselves to the accumulation of gold and silver. The quest for bullions propelled European sailors to circumnavigate the world leading to the discovery of the new worlds. Bullions were a determinant of a nation's wealth, power and glory. More so used as medium of exchange.

ii) Slave phase, 16th - 18th C.

This phase was dominated by slave trade across the Atlantic Ocean. Millions of African slaves were shipped to the New Worlds of Caribbean and Americas across the Atlantic to supply cheap labour in European plantations and mines. The discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492, prompted European nations like Portugal and England to acquire colonies and establish plantations and mines there where African slaves were taken for labour.

iii) Trade in other items, 18th - 19th C.

This was the last phase of mercantilism. It was a period when merchants started shifting attention from trade in slaves to natural products like the forest products like ivory, palm oil, and animal skin etc. It was the period when the industrial revolution was in its earliest stages.

Factors for the rise of mercantilism in Europe

1. Development of science and technology especially Maritime technology. Advancement in industrial and marine technologies played a pivotal role for mercantilism. Industrial development (cottages and guilds) availed items for trade like cloth. Marine technology enabled the building of strong high sea going ships and the Marine compass which enabled European sailors (merchants) move across high seas to contact overseas continents. Marine technology contributed to the development of mercantilism in a number of ways;
 - Contributed to geographical discoveries like New Worlds by Columbus (1492) and the sea routes like to India by Vasco da Gama (1498)
 - Made the carrying of bulk goods across high seas easy regardless of the distance.

- Enabled the Europeans easily involve in piracy, plundering and looting since carrying of goods was now eased.
 - European merchants were able to control all the major seas like Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
 - Acquisition of overseas colonies by European nations.
2. Role of Merchant Kings. Supportive governments like of Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal and King Henry VIII of England laid strong grounds for the, development of mercantilism by providing security and sponsoring merchant voyages. For example Vasco da Gama's search for the sea route to India was sponsored by king Henry of Portugal and King Henry III of England introduced the Navigation Acts of 1650 and 1651, to protect English merchants from competition.
 3. The enclosure system. The enclosure commercialized agriculture leading to increased raw material production like wool which boosted industry to produce enough items for trade. Not only that, but also raise capital for trade and ejected many people from land, many of whom joined trade and others involved in commodity production.
 4. Prior accumulation of merchant capital. A lot of wealth had already been acquired during feudalism to be invested in trade like through feudal dues such as rent and taxes collected from the serfs and peasants by landlords, the church and the ruling classes. Also through internal trade and earlier sources of primitive capital accumulation like the 'crusades' of the 11-12th C.
 5. Geographical discoveries. The discovery of sea routes and New Worlds was a main force for the development of mercantilism. For example the discovery of the Caribbean and America by a European sailor Christopher Columbus in 1492 led to the discovery of new sources of wealth (bullions) and gave way to colonization of the New Worlds and the existence of the Triangular trade.
 6. The rise of Merchant companies. Companies like the Dutch East Indian company, the English East Indian companies and Royal African Company provided protection, transport facilities, capital and opened overseas location centres for their merchants like the Cape of South Africa by the Dutch East Indian company in 1652.
 7. The development of financial institutions. These were mainly banks and insurance systems. Financial institutions raised capital by providing credit and loans to merchants which were vital in commodity production, purchasing ships and financial institutions also provided security to merchants and their wealth and served as agents of payment. Thus, more importantly they provided capital and protection against trade.
 8. Introduction of money. Use of money as a medium of exchange made trading contacts easier for example in Britain the dinaries were widely used to substitute the feudal barter system and were also introduced in their colonies like India, hence making trade between Europe and the overseas areas easy.
 9. The rise of competition among the mercantile powers. The rising competition among mercantile powers implied that each of the involved powers like Holland, Spain, Britain and Portugal sought to challenge the others and dominate trade. In the long run, all increased their volumes of trade and capital hence more development of mercantilism.
 10. The emergence of a large commercial class in Europe. This emerged from the rich feudal lords, the peasants who sold off their land to join towns for trade and from industrialists and financiers. These classes possessed sufficient capital to invest in the overseas trade.

Their capital was the propeller of mercantilism. Mainly invested in industries, and ship building.

Columbus was an Italian explorer, navigator and colonizer. Under the auspices of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, he completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean which initiated the European colonization of the New World. In the context of emerging western imperialism and economic competition between European kingdoms through the establishment of trade routes and colonies, Columbus' proposal to reach the East Indies by sailing westward eventually received the support of the Spanish Crown, which saw in it a chance to enter the spice trade with Asia through a new westward route. During his first voyage in 1492, instead of arriving at Japan as he had intended, Columbus reached the New World, landing on Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) an island in the Bahamas that he named "San Salvador": Over the course of three more voyages, Columbus visited more Caribbean islands and Central America, claiming all of it for the Spanish Crown. Though Columbus was not the first European explorer to reach the Americas, his voyages led to European exploration, conquest, and colonization that lasted for several centuries. Columbus spearheaded the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and has been accused by several historians of initiating the genocide of the Hispaniola natives. Columbus himself saw his accomplishments primarily in the light of spreading the Christian religion.

MERCANTILISM IN ENGLAND

England was the dominant mercantile state by the help of the Tudor monarchy. The Monarchy founded by King Henry VII, followed by King Henry VIII, lasted to Queen Elizabeth I, from 1485-1603. The Tudors created an absolute monarchy by destroying the powers of the Nobles, and the feudal lords. The monarchy took deliberate measure to promote commercial interests. As a result England emerged the dominant mercantile power.

Contribution of Tudor monarch towards the development of mercantilism

1. Establishment of absolute rule. The Tudor monarchy under King Henry VIII created an absolute state in England by destroying the powers of Nobles, feudal lords, the church and their exploitative activities of charging higher feudal dues of rent and taxes which used to discourage producers and merchants. This was done by confiscation of their property especially land which was distributed for private ownership leading to increase in commodity production
2. They supported the enclosure system. The monarchy confiscated the church and nobles lands and distributed them for private ownership. They also passed laws to allow land consolidation for the enclosure system. Such new measures increased wool production which was very important in making cloth for trade.
3. The Tudor monarchy protected merchants against the authoritarianism of the old guild system by allowing the manufacture of woollen clothes through domestic cottage industries. This raised competition and eventually increased commodity production
4. The monarchy encouraged establishment of other industries such as sugar iron and coal industries. These facilitated the development of mercantilism by facilitating ship building and the manufacture of more items for trade.

5. The monarchy provided security to English merchants. Sufficient navies were provided to protect English merchants against pirates and on the other hand conducted piracy against merchants from other nations like Holland and Portugal on high seas to rob their wealth, particularly bullions.
6. Encouraged formation of chartered companies. The monarchy encouraged merchant to form joint stock companies by offering them charters and exclusive trading right all over the world. As a result, companies like the Royal African Company formed in 1582 to organize slave trading and East India Company formed in 1600 for trading with India and the Far East were formed.
7. The Tudor monarchy promoted and organised settlement of merchant groups in English overseas colonies especially in the New World and supported them. By early 17th C English merchants were settling and investing in the overseas trading activities as clothiers, artisans, ship builders.
8. Through protectionism, the monarchy assured merchant capitalists the supply of raw materials especially wool by prohibiting the export of wool to any other country. Wool was the most important raw material in cloth manufacturing and cloth was the most important trade item from England during mercantilism.
9. Colonial acquisition. The monarchy secured colonies for England like in the Caribbean, America and India. Colonies were a reliable source of wealth, raw materials and market for the English manufacturers and areas for new investments. Colonies boosted English trade and industry.
10. The monarchy passed Navigation Acts. Navigation Acts such as those of the 17th c (1650) protected English merchants from competition with other nations by giving them exclusive rights to monopolize trade with English colonies. By that England acquired a lot of wealth.
11. Contributed to abolition of serfdom. It freed serfs by distributing the church and nobles' land for free private ownership. By doing so, the monarchy allowed the emergence of new families whose livelihood depended on trade and manufacturing as many freed serfs joined towns for trade and guilds.

Factors that enabled England to become a dominant mercantile power

England was indeed the dominant mercantile power, the most successful nation in mercantilism. She was favoured by her early unification since the 14th C hence attained political stability.

Second she had developed an advanced well efficient Marine technology and her cottage and guild system had reached a stage of producing enough for her trade. Above all British producers had reached a considerable level of specialization and developed recognizable efficient skills of organization in commodity production.

1. The role of the Tudor Monarchy. The monarchy under kings like Henry VII and VIII greatly contributed to the development of mercantilism in England. It created a harmonious environment for the development of commercial activities. For example, protected English merchants against European rival nations acquired colonies in America and Caribbean and encouraged production by destroying the powers of the feudal lords and the church to stop exploitation.

2. Development of industrial production. This was done by encouraging specialization among English producers something which helped them develop efficient skills in commodity production and as a result English producers increase industrial production to dominate world market.
3. The enclosure systems. England was the first to fully embrace the enclosure system. The system changed land ownership by handing land to rich farmers and adopting new scientific farming methods. The enclosure system increased agriculture production to allow increase in wool production, the main raw material used for cloth making and food to support population.
4. Development of the Maritime technology. Since the 14th C England had a superior marine transport compared to other nations. She was able to build enough stronger and efficient high sea-going ships which enabled her dominate overseas trade and control a large colonial empire.
5. The acquisition of greater numbers of colonies. England possessed the largest colonial empire compared to other mercantile nations. She had 13 colonies in North America, in the West Indies like Jamaica and Haiti and others like New Zealand and India. Colonies provided England with; bullions, raw materials, market for her industries and new areas for settlements and investment.
6. Subjugation and exploitation of other European Nations. Such exploited nations included Portugal which depended on English military assistance against her rival enemies particularly Spain. In return for her protection. England attained heavy economic gains from Portugal for instance, all Portuguese ports in Asia were left tax free for English ships. As if that was not enough, Portugal was to buy all her ships from England. Such exploitative tendencies enabled Britain to consolidate her mercantile supremacy.
7. Fighting her rival nations. England was able to defeat her rivals like Spain in 1588 over the control of the Americas and the West Indies, Holland over India and France between 1756 and 1763 for the control of North America. Canada and West Indies. Such victories won England more colonies and new sources of wealth.
8. The imposition of protective laws. These laws were passed to protect the English merchants and industries against competition from the rival nations. For instance the Navigation Acts of 1550, 1651 and 1660. Through these Acts trade between Britain and her colonies was reserved for only Britain and British ships.

The main provision of the Acts included;

- a) Trade between Britain and her colonies was reserved for only British ships
- b) Goods carried from British colonies had to be brought to England First, before being exported to their final destination nations such goods included tobacco, sugar, timber hides and iron.
- c) Goods that were to be brought to Britain had to be carried in British ships or else if carried by other ships were heavily taxed.
- d) British colonies were integrated into the British economic system as they had provided raw materials to British industries and provide ready market to British manufactured goods.

Impact of Mercantilism in the world

The impact of Mercantilism in the world reveals how Europe exploited other continents during the era through unequal exchange, plundering and slavery to enrich herself something which contributed to underdevelopment of other continents particularly Africa.

Impact of mercantilism on the Americas and the Caribbean

Mercantilism contributed greatly to the economic and cultural development of the Americas and the Caribbean greatly through African slave labour.

1. Colonization of the Americas and the Caribbean. After the Columbus discovery of the New World in 1492, and their great economic potentials, European powerful nations hastily went to colonise them. For example, Britain possessed 13 colonies in North America, Jamaica and Trinidad; Portugal had Brazil; Spain had Mexico, Peru and Chile and the French had Canada etc. colonies were for resource exploitation.
2. Agricultural development. Development of plantation farming in the New Worlds depended on African slave labour. Plantations of Sugar, tobacco, tea, and rice thrived on their muscles. Addition to that, African slaves carried new expertise in agriculture to the New Worlds for example slaves from the Upper Guinea region carried their rice- growing techniques to South Carolina in North America.
3. Population growth. There was a substantial African and European population in USA, Latin America and the Caribbean countries. Millions of Africans were shipped to the New Worlds as slaves while many Europeans migrated to the New Worlds to invest in plantations and mines, while many hopeless paupers and criminals from Europe were also moved to the Americas as fortune seekers to try their luck there. Furthermore, more were added by intermarriages between slaves and colonists.
4. Creation of blacks dominated states in the Caribbean. The increasing number of African slaves in the Caribbean islands where plantation agriculture greatly expanded led to the foundation of blacks' majority states as the number of Africans surpassed the native population. Such states include Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad, San Marino and Barbados.
5. Growth of towns, cities and city ports. Many towns and ports developed directly due to mercantilism. Towns and cities like New York, Chicago and Mexico grew as sea ports handling slaves imported from America and raw materials and minerals exported to Europe. But also as ship repairing and trading centre.
6. Industrial growth. During the mercantile era, many European investors were attracted to the Americas to invest in industry, mines and plantations due to readily available cheap labour, raw materials and market as African slaves and European populations kept on expanding there. Mainly food processing, cloth making, and ship building industries were developed.
7. Mercantilism strengthened racism in the Americas and the world at large. The Europeans and white Americans segregation and inferiority looking at Africans are traced from Trans-Atlantic slave trade and enslavement of Africans in the New Worlds during mercantilism. Since then Africans have been viewed by the Europeans as low status people of no equality with the Europeans but only good for manual hard labour.

8. Spread of diseases and depopulation. The Europeans carried to the New World killer diseases such as small pox, measles and syphilis which claimed millions of the native populations. Depopulation was also due to mistreatment of the natives by the Europeans. The Amerindians lives were claimed to the point of annihilation. For instance in 1519, Mexico had a population of about 20 million people but by 1608 about only 2 million was left.
9. Cultural detachment. Mercantilism played a big role in the destruction of the culture of Native Americans. The Europeans imposed their ways of life like languages and dressing codes on the American natives and African slaves in their colonies. Also some African cultural practices were carried to the New Worlds by slaves.
10. Spread of Christianity. European mercantile nations introduced and spread Christianity in their colonies in the New Worlds as Native Americans and African slaves were forced to abandon their traditional religions. This created classes based on religions as Native populations were torn between Christians and Non Christians.
11. Exploitation of resources. Land, mineral and labour resources were exploited in the established plantations and mines. Minerals exploitation particularly gold and silver was done to diminishing level and human labour to extinction levels to the extent that new labour supplies of African slaves had to be introduced.

Impact of mercantilism on Africa

Mercantilism was largely destructive to Africa; it marked the beginning of Africans underdevelopment and dependence on the capitalist world. It disturbed African economic and socio-political settings in areas touched therefore it largely left drastic effects on Africa.

Economic effects;

1. Technological stagnation. This was due to; flooding of European manufactured goods to Africa which out-competed African local industries and slave trade which eroded African skilled craftsmen and artisans to the New World for labour.
2. Decline of inter African trading system. Both local and regional trading patterns like the Trans-Saharan trade which boomed before mercantilism declined and their position were occupied by Trans-Atlantic slave trade as many Africans preferred trading with the European merchants other than their fellow African societies and the Middle East
3. Exploitation of African resources. Exploitation was done especially through unequal exchange where Africans valuable resources like gold, silver and ivory and human resources were taken by the European maritime traders for the less valuable European manufactured goods such as, beads, glass ware, and cloth.
4. Introduction of new crops. New crops such as maize, potatoes, cassava and fruits like pineapples and guavas were introduced in Africa by the Europeans and are still used in Africa and some African societies have adopted them as staple foods.

Political effects;

5. Rise and growth of some African states. Some African states acquired political and economic strength from participation in trade with the Europeans. States like Oyo, Benin,

Dahomey and Asante, acquired firearms and wealth from the trade with the Europeans. Firearms were essential in state expansion and slave raiding.

6. Downfall of some states. Some states crumbled by attacks from more powerful states for slaves and wealth like gold and silver needed by European traders. Slave trade also robbed them of their badly needed labour force for their development.
7. Paved way for the future colonization of Africa. Through mercantilism, Africans economic potentialities such as minerals, fertile lands and abundant labour were exposed to the European nations. After industrial revolution, European industrial powers viewed Africa as a solution to their industrial demands.

Social effects;

8. Occurrence of famine. Famine was caused due to agricultural decline caused by destabilizations by frequent slave raiding. Suddenly also slave trade led to labour shortage in farms and over concentration of many societies on trade and abandoning agriculture
9. Spread of diseases. The interaction with the European merchants exposed Africans to European diseases such as small pox, measles, syphilis and gonorrhea carried to Africa by the European merchants. Other associated diseases like cholera and diarrhea were also spread due to congestion of slaves in small rooms with poor hygiene before transportation to the New World. Diseases claimed a lot of lives.
10. Rise of state of fear and insecurity. Slave trade devastated African societies by introducing guns which encouraged frequent inter-society wars for slave raiding and wealth looting. Societies were destabilized and people forced to wonder around in fear.
11. Depopulation. A large number of African productive youths ageing between 15 and 35 were caught and shipped to the Americas as slaves. Additionally famine, raids and wars of slave capture also claimed lives of many Africans. Surely numerous cultures lost generations of their fittest, young and able.
12. Deculturalisation. Mercantilism contributed to the destruction of African culture and heritage. In contacting Europeans, many Africans particularly middlemen adopted European ways of life like languages and dressing codes and mixed them with their traditional ways of life.
13. African families were torn apart. Countless African families were torn apart as some members were captured and exported to the Americas and the Caribbean as slaves while the lucky ones who escaped slavery in the New Worlds remained in Africa.
14. Development of Kiswahili language. Some vocabularies from European languages like Portuguese, English and French were added to Kiswahili language. For example, Portuguese words like meza, were incorporated into Kiswahili.
15. Spread of Christianity. In contacting the European merchants, some Africans adopted Christianity. This brought a new aspect in Africa, that created classes based on religions as societies were torn apart between Christians and Non Christians.

In all, mercantilism integrated Africa into capitalist economic system with Africa as the exploited and Europe as her exploiter. Africa was robbed of her precious human and physical resources and started dependence due to technological stagnation.

The contributions of Mercantilism to the rise of European capitalism (impact of mercantilism on Europe)

Mercantilism by its exploitation of other continents through unequal exchange by European powers resulted into the development of European countries and largely contributed to the development of industrial revolution and capitalism.

1. Accumulation of capital (wealth). European mercantile powers amassed a lot of wealth particularly bullions by exploiting other continents, mainly Africa and the Americas through unequal exchange, plundering and slavery. By that mercantile nations were able to earn huge capital to invest in other sectors like industry.
2. Development of science and technology. Mercantilism largely contributed to the advancement of European science and technology beginning with the Marine technology which was the backbone of mercantilism because it enabled Europeans to contact overseas areas. It also stimulated industrial development to give way to industrial revolution through increased invention so as to meet the increasing market demands of the domestic and overseas markets.
3. Stimulated the development of agriculture. Agriculture was expanded and commercialized due to the greater demands of agricultural raw materials like wool for cloth making and food for expanding urban population which engaged in commodity production for overseas markets.
4. Led to the development of ports, towns and cities. City ports like Liverpool, Manchester, Marseilles and Amsterdam developed as commercial centers and landing sites handling commodities to and from overseas. Other towns like Yorkshire, Lancashire and Paris developed as manufacturing centres producing trading items.
5. The rise and expansion of commercial classes of merchants. Expansion of local and overseas trade attracted many with capital to abandon their old activities in favour of trade. This also led to the rise of a rich aristocratic merchant class which transformed Europe to capitalism.
6. Development of money economy. Mercantilism led to the monetization of the European economy. At first the bullions were used as money hence many nations competed for their accumulation to be counted the richest but later paper money was adopted as trade volumes kept on expanding.
7. Development of financial institutions. Banks and insurance houses were born due to the increased accumulation of wealth by mercantile traders. Banks like Barclays formed in 1756 encouraged trade by providing security to merchants' wealth. Additionally were important in the provision of capital in form of credits and loans.
8. Provision of cheap labour. Through Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the trade known for its greatest human trafficking, millions of African slaves were exported to the New Worlds to provide cheap labour in the capitalist established mines and plantations in the Americas.

9. Colonial expansion. During mercantilism European mercantile states acquired colonies in the New Worlds for example; Britain possessed the 13 North American colonies, Jamaica and Trinidad; Portugal had Brazil, Spain had Mexico etc. colonies were integrated into the mercantile system through which they were exploited as sources of bullions, raw materials, and markets
10. Opened and strengthened trans- continental links. Mercantilism established ties between Europe and other continents like Africa, the Americas, Asia and Australia. Since the mercantilism period, contacts among continents have never stopped. The links provided Europe with wider trading and exploitation zones.

Mercantile states such as Britain, France, Holland, Spain and Portugal emerged into powerful states in the world economically and politically due to huge wealth accumulated from mercantilism. That is why they were able to colonize Africa and Asia in the 19th C.

III. AFRICA AND THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITALISM IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Africa contributed to the development of capitalism in Europe and North America through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The trade developed during Mercantilism between the to the 19th **Century**, connecting three regions; Europe, Africa and the Americas. The Trade was an act of the European foreign trade, Africa and the Americas were involved as victims of exploitation.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade marked the largest continental migration in the world history because by it, a big number of African slaves were shipped to the Americas and the Caribbean to labour in the European opened plantations and mines. The magnitude of slave exportation during the trade was very big and went on increasing year after year. For example between 1530 and 1600 about 13,000 slaves were exported per year. The number rose to about 27,500 in the 17th century and about 70,000 in the 18th century. By 1800 they had increased to 145,000 slaves per year.

How the trade was conducted

The trade operated between three continents (regions) of Europe, Africa and the Caribbean and Americas along triangular routes dictated by the European merchants.

It was the European merchants who journeyed from their home ports to contact Africa and the Caribbean and the Americas;

The first route was from Europe to Africa, transporting European made goods like cloth, cheap ornaments like earrings, beads, necklaces, guns, gun powder, and alcohol to be exchanged for slaves (and other goods like cola nuts, palm oil and bullions shipped directly to Europe);

The second route of the triangle was ‘the Middle Passage’, European merchants transported human cargo (slaves) from West Africa across the Atlantic to the Americas and the Caribbean for resale to plantations and mines owners and;

The third route was from the Americas and the Caribbean to Europe. Goods transported included, sugar, tobacco, cotton and rice from the plantations and minerals especially gold and silver to feed the European industries.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE TRANS — ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Between 1650 and 1860, approximately 10 to 15 million enslaved Africans were shipped from western Africa to the Americas. Most were taken to West Indies, Central America and South America.

A single ship setting out from Europe completed three stages of the triangle in its voyage, each with its own separate cargo, before finally returning to its home port in Europe.

DIAGRAM

The diagram of a slave ship of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade on route to the New World.

Factors for the rise of Triangular Trade

1. Development of marine technology. The advancement of maritime technology made overseas journeys easier to contact distant lands and allowed easy transportation of goods including slaves across high seas. The technology enabled making of stronger high sea-going vessels and compass direction to direct voyages. More so the invention of the gun and gun powder was a boost for protection along sea journeys. Such developments enabled European merchants make successful voyages across the Atlantic.
2. Discovery of the New World. The geographical discoveries by Christopher Columbus of the West Indies and the Americas were paramount for the rise and existence of the Triangular trade. The new found lands were discovered to be of greater economic importance to prompt colonization by the European mercantile powers like England, Spain, France and Portugal to exploit the rich land and mineral resources. The colonists needed cheap and reliable labour which African slaves could provide better in the established plantations and mines.
3. Low machine making technology. By the 15th C no significant machines had been invented to handle vigorous tasks in mines and plantations. Machines in use were inefficient to meet the increasing demands of the mercantile states which were in intense competition. To that effect, a large amount of cheap and reliable human labour was to be availed from Africa to work in plantations and mines in propagating resources for European merchants.
4. Profitability of trade in slaves. European merchants accrued unanimous profits in dealing with slaves. Slaves were acquired cheaply in exchange with cheap manufactured goods from Europe like cloth, mirrors and guns and in Africa and on the other hand in the New World were exchanged for abundant expensive items like the bullions and raw materials like sugar, tobacco and tea which were badly demanded in Europe.
5. The prior knowledge of Africans' abilities by the Europeans. Since 1440s Portuguese explorers like Gonzales had carried some Africans to Europe where they were enslaved

and proved physically efficient for manual duties. Also African slaves had been used by the Portuguese in sugar plantations on the Atlantic islands of Principe and Sao Tome since their conquest in 1480s. With such earlier knowledge, when the experiment on the Red Indians and European labour in the New World proved profitably wrong the Europeans with conviction knew African slaves would provide the needed cheap labour efficiently.

6. The problems encountered from the earlier sources of labour. The earlier labour source the Red Indians and European labour were not profitable, reliable, cheaper and efficient to the colonists in the New World. They could hardly withstand harsh conditions in mines and plantations and new diseases as for instance European diseases like syphilis claimed millions of the Red Indians. Also could serve for a limited time as for example labour from Europe could reclaim their freedom at the expiry of their contracts of imprisonment terms. The solution for all such was sought in African slaves who were more physically fit, more reliable and cheaper.
7. The role played by African chiefs. Local rulers in Africa played a vital role for the existence of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade by providing slaves to the European merchants cheaply and easily. They took all the risks in slave raids on behalf of the European merchants, collected slaves from the interior and transported them to the coast where the European merchants who by then never entered the interior of Africa found them to be exchanged for the cheap goods local rulers and traders needed from Europe like firearms and cloth.
8. Nearness of the Atlantic African coast to Europe and the New World. Geographically the Atlantic coast of Africa is closer to Western Europe, the West Indies, and Americas as well. The proximity of the three lands propelled the Atlantic trade. With shorter sea journeys European merchants made more trade trips (rounds) annually and reduced risks of long sea journeys like losing direction in deep sea. By that, more slaves were annually transported to the New Worlds and more bullions and raw materials from the New Worlds to Europe.
9. Possession of capital by the European merchants. By the time of the start of the Trans-Atlantic trade, European wealthy classes had accumulated enough capital through primitive means like the crusades of the 11-12th centuries and enclosure system and also through trade. It was this capital that was invested in ship building, cottage industries and purchasing items for trade like manufactured goods from Europe and slaves from Africa to facilitate the trade.
10. The rise of mercantilism. Mercantilism led to insatiable demand for wealth by European merchants (nations). The intensive competition resulted into colonial conquest in the New Worlds and opening of plantations and mines of silver and gold which were badly needed in Europe. Such demands forced for increased importation of slaves from Africa.

Why the Europeans preferred African slaves

1. The fear to under populate their own countries which would affect their economic and political stability. Large populations were needed at home to provide the required domestic market, cheap labour and defense.

2. Cheapness of African slaves. European labour was expensive. Despite their non-effective performance, labour from Europe demanded for higher wages yet African slaves worked for free.
3. The European labour and the Red Indians worked for a limited time. At the end of their contracts or imprisonment terms for the prisoners the European labour demanded for their freedom to start their own businesses or purchased land when they acquired capital or returned to Europe. Also like the Red Indians who were familiar with the environment, European labour could escape from the plantations and mingle with the local population or disguise themselves as free men.
4. The European labour knew their rights and demanded for them. For example, the right to bargain for better pay and demand for better working conditions. Similarly they were protected by their states' laws against mistreatment — they could sue their employers for misconducts.
5. Africans proved to be more physically fit and more resistant to disease. African slaves could handle the hard conditions of work in mines and plantations like long hours of work and handling heavy duties than the European and Red Indian labour. Likewise Africans were less susceptible to diseases like small pox and syphilis brought from Europe and tropical diseases like malaria.
6. Climatic factor. The climate in the tropics was hard for European labour to work due to high temperatures since Europe has a temperate climate with lower temperatures.
7. The racial factor. The Europeans were considered to be a master race to rule the other “inferior-servant” races particularly the Africans, on that matter, the Europeans were not for manual (donkey) jobs but other races Africans in particular. In raising such notions, the Europeans based on the biblical story of Noah and his sons. Their interpretation was that the Europeans were the descendants of Seth the blessed, Asians of Japheth and Africans of Ham the accursed and doomed to be servants of his brothers.

Impacts of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

(Refer to the impact of mercantilism)

Generally, the Trans-Atlantic trade integrated Africa into the capitalist system through which it planted dependence in Africa. Africa from there on has been relying on European for manufactured goods and thus serving as a reliable market for European manufactured goods. And worse of all, the trade paved way to the future colonization on Africa as availed the European capitalists with enough information about Africa especially on its potentialities.

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the development of capitalism (industrial revolution in Europe)

1. Ensured the availability of raw materials to the European industries. Raw materials were mainly obtained from European plantations and mines in the Americas and the Caribbean. Plantations supplied raw materials like cotton, sugar, tea, tobacco and others like palm oil were got from Africa.
2. Expanded markets for the European goods. Africa, America and the Caribbean served well as ready markets for European made goods. European merchants transport goods

like cloth, mirrors, beads, guns, powder, alcohol etc. for sale to both Africa and the New World.

3. Provision of abundance of cheap labour. Trans-Atlantic trade acquired abundant slaves from Africa for the European established plantations and mines in the New World. For example for Portuguese coffee plantations in Brazil and Spaniards' silver mines in Mexico.
4. Expansion of the European merchant class. The trade in slaves and bullions was much lucrative hence attracted many Europeans to abandon other activities like agriculture in favour of trade. This led to the expansion of the European merchant class in whose hands capitalism was developed
5. The trade enabled the European capitalist merchants to open new investments in the New World. Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade encouraged many European capital owners to invest in the New World due to cheap labour. They invested in plantations, mining, ship building, and industries from which they amassed a lot of wealth.
6. It Stimulated growth of science and technology. Firstly was marine technology due to the constant shipping by European merchants to overseas so, ship building industries were developed. Second was industrial technology. New inventions were made to improve production to satisfy domestic and overseas markets. All resulted into Industrial Revolution.
7. Accumulation of capital. European merchants acquired a lot of wealth from profits in Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The acquired wealth formed capital which was invested in other sectors especially industry which automatically gave way to the rise of capitalism.
8. The trade enabled European merchants acquire more entrepreneurship skills. They acquired enough skills in managing trade and risk handling. European merchants acquired more expertise in handling bigger and risky businesses like colonies.
9. Development of Banking and insurance services. These financial institutions developed due to increased merchant wealth which needed security. For example Barclays bank was founded in 1756 due to the wealth acquired in slave trading. Banks were also to provide capital in form of credits.
10. Contributed to the introduction of monetary system in Europe. The trade availed Europe with abundance of bullions which were adopted as medium of exchange before introduction of paper money. Bullions were also a determinant of a country's wealth and power.
11. Growth and expansion of towns and cities. Profits from the trade largely accounted for the rising wealth of a number of major European port cities, such as Liverpool and Bristol in Britain and Amsterdam in Holland which handled volumes of cargo imported and exported to and from Europe. Other towns like Birmingham in Britain grew as manufacturing centres, for trade items.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the development of capitalism in North America

1. Development of agriculture. Capitalist plantations were opened to provide raw materials to the European industries depending on African slave labour. That shows how African slaves were very vital in the transformation of American agriculture from a simple subsistence to commercial farming.

2. Industrial development. A number of industries were developed in America due to the Trans-Atlantic trade. Food processing, textile and ship building industries were developed to handle the increasing volumes of trade, increasing flow of slaves and European merchants and processing industries to reduce the bulkiness of raw materials for easy transportation to Europe.
3. The trade attracted many European investors to America. Many European investors moved to America during the Triangular trade to invest in agriculture, mining, and industry and participate in lucrative trade. These investors were the founding fathers of American capitalism and capitalist class.
4. It led to the expansion of American population; for example Millions of African slaves were moved to America for labour and European merchants and investors who invested in plantation farming, mining and industry on which African slaves worked therefore, enough Labour and market were availed.
5. Development and expansion of towns and cities in America. These were mainly coastal cities which grew as slave landing and trading centres and others grew along plantations and mining centres. Cities like Hawaii, New York, Massachusetts emerged and expanded.
6. It led to the development of other sectors especially infrastructure. The slaves were important in construction of roads, railways which connected plantations, industries and ports to enable European investors export raw materials and import slaves and manufactured goods to America.
7. The slaves served in American institutions especially the army. African slaves were very instrumental in the American war of independence against British colonialists in 1776 and American civil war of 1861-65 for the union government.
8. Provided cheap labour. African slaves provided cheap labour to the development of American economy. American industry, agriculture mining and infrastructure were developed depending on African slave muscles.

ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE

The abolition of slave trade was the putting of the trade in human beings to an end. it became prerequisite due to the transition in capitalism from mercantilism to industrial capitalism cause of the Industrial Revolution from I 750s. The Industrial Revolution marked a great change in labour relations as machines largely substituted human labour. The abolition of slave trade was to serve new demands of capitalism brought by the industrial revolution rough the so called “Legitimate Trade” which was a new form of exploitation of Africa to provide cheap labour, raw materials and market. Britain was the first nation to wage a campaign against slave trade because she was the first to undergo industrial revolution.

Reasons for the abolition of slave trade

The reasons for the abolition of slave trade are of two categories; economic as propounded by Marxists and humanitarian by Eurocentric scholars.

Economic reasons

Marxist scholars argue that the real and major reasons for the abolition of slave trade were economic oriented. This stand is also supported by even analytical non Marxists, agreeing that abolition of slave trade was not for moral/humanitarian but economic reasons and that is why it came into force by Industrial Revolution

1. Industrial revolution. This was the fundamental factor for the abolition of slave trade. The revolution began in Britain in 1750s and later spread to other European nations. That is enough to explain why Britain was the pioneer slave trade abolitionists. The revolution was manifested by the invention of machines, marking a shift of labour relations as machines simplified work henceforth largely substituted human labour. The Industrial Revolution demanded for an end of slave trade due to;
 - a) The need for cheap raw materials. Factories needed extra tropical raw materials like palm oil so European industrial powers saw a need for Africans to remain in their continent and produce raw materials cheaply other than being enslaved in the New World.
 - b) Need for market expansion for manufactured goods. It was planned that if Africans would be turned to free labour they would spend their wages and incomes from cash crop selling on manufactured goods to expand market.
 - c) Need for cheap labour. Abolition targeted making Africans cheap labour in Africa through production of the needed raw materials and low wages. The invention of the machines made slave labour unprofitable because the costs of maintaining slaves had become high since a lot of work was performed by machines.
 - d) Area for investment. Abolition of slave trade would create a conducive environment for European capital investment in Africa because Africans would provide cheap labour to the capitalist economies in Africa, very important also was that Africans would be blind folded by thinking that, the Europeans were humanitarian and their liberators and therefore cooperated with them.
 - e) The need for natural oils. In the early stages of industrial revolution natural oils got from tropical crops like palm oil were used as lubricants for machines because alternative oils like petroleum had not yet been discovered. On that point, Africans were needed to stay in Africa to produce enough lubricant oils.
2. The sugar competition between the French and the British. The French had dominated the world's sugar market by selling their sugar at lower prices than their rivals, the British. The French maintained lower prices because they produced it at lower costs by largely depending on slave labour, in support of their modern machinery. The, British, being out competed, campaigned for the abolition of slave trade to deny their competitors the French who depended on slave labour force.
3. The abundance of slaves in the New World. European capitalists especially the British had already collected enough slaves in the New World in their colonies such as Jamaica. Trinidad and Tobago, North America and also other nations like the Portuguese in Brazil and Spaniards in Peru. Basing on that, there was no need of buying more slaves.
4. The American war of Independence of 1776. In 1776, the 13 British colonies rose against the British colonial masters, in fighting for their independence. In the same year the British were defeated and Americans declared themselves independent. Independence meant that, the British had lost colonies where slaves were taken to labour henceforth had nowhere to carry more slaves.

5. Frequent slave revolts. Slaves being tired of slavery with its massive exploitation and torture revolted against their masters in many areas like in 1791 when the slaves in St. Domingo led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, killed their French masters and set up the Haiti republic. Such revolts contributed to the abolition of slave trade because they made slavery too risky and unprofitable.
6. The rising prices of slaves in West Africa. African rulers and merchants had started charging higher prices for slaves. This reduced the profit levels of the European merchants dealing in slaves. Also Plantation owners reduced buying slaves due to high prices and many opted to invest in new manufacturing industries at home instead of plantations in the New World.

Humanitarian factors

Marxist scholars believe that the so called humanitarian factors were baseless and just mere conjectures. They question that why did such arguments emerge after the Industrial Revolution?

7. Rise of humanitarian groups in Europe. Humanitarian groups grew up in Europe like the so called "social reformers" formed in Britain in 1787 by men like William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson formed the society for the abolition of slave trade to campaign against slave trade claiming that "slave trade was contrary to the laws of God and rights of man" through W. Wilberforce who was a member of parliament pressurized the parliament to stop slave trade.
8. Role of religious bodies. Different religious bodies condemned slave trade and slavery accusing them of being ungodly and inhuman that it caused suffering and inequality to God's people. They also argued that God created all human beings equal so no one has the right to enslave others.
9. The influence of philosophers and their literature. Philosophers like Jean Jacques Rousseau condemned slavery by defending peoples' rights and emphasizing on the liberal ideas of freedom and equality. On that regard, Rousseau in his book, "The Social contract" argued that all men are born equal and no one has the right to torture the other. In so doing, their literature influenced people to fight against slave trade and slavery.
10. The influence of classical economists. Influential economists like Adam Smith and Ricardo wrote against slave trade arguing that slave trade was not the best economic trend for the survival of the capitalist economy. Adam Smith believed that capitalism can survive best in a free labour situation, where labour could easily be exploited through low wages other than tying slaves to their masters.
11. The influence of the French revolution of 1789. The revolution spread the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity and that liberty should be extended to all races in the world. The spread of such liberal ideas swept across Europe to win willing hearts for the abolition of slave trade. It was realized that slave trade and slavery were against equality, liberty and fraternity.

Difficulties faced in the abolition of slave trade.

The task to abolition of slave trade was not smooth. Despite the legal abolition of slave trade, slaves continued to be traded through the entire continent. In West Africa about 5,000 slaves were taken to America annually and the number increased to 125,000 by the year 1830.

1. Smallness of the British anti slavery squadron. Britain was the only country that was willingly ready to fund the abolition of slave trade from the start. However, she lacked enough manpower to patrol the whole seas minus assistance of other European powers. Thus Europeans who were still benefiting in slave trade continued to smuggle slaves.
2. Introduction of “legitimate trade”. Legitimate trade was to serve as an alternative to slave trade. The trade was directed in dealing with agricultural products like palm oil, coffee, rubber, groundnuts and timber needed as raw materials and lubricant oils. This was a new form of exploitation to substitute slave trade.
3. Created peace and security in Africa. Slave trade had established a state of anarchy due to slave raids and wars which were means to capture slaves, however with its abolition, a state of peace and stability prevailed to allow societies settle and concentrate on agricultural production. The peaceful situation attracted Europeans to Africa.
4. Influx of monopolistic trading companies. Companies like the Royal Niger Company, Basel Trading Company in West Africa and Imperial British East Africa came to exploit Africa by enjoying trade in exportation of raw materials from Africa and importation of manufactured goods from Europe. They laid ground for colonization of Africa.
5. Introduction of money economy. Money was introduced to replace barter system and facilitate “Legitimate trade”. Legitimate trade handled larger volumes of trade which the barter system could not handle. It was introduced to fully integrate Africa into the capitalist system through wage labour and sale of raw materials like cash crops and expand market for manufactured goods.
6. Penetration of agents of industrial capitalism into the interior of Africa. Groups of explorers, missionaries and traders flowed to Africa to prepare ground for European colonization under the pretext of stopping slave trade and introduction of legitimated trade. They made feasibility study in Africa and persuaded their home governments to colonise areas of economic potential.
7. Establishment of colonialism and colonial economy. Abolition of slave trade was used as one of the excuses for colonization of Africa in the so called humanitarian reasons. However in the real sense a new form of slavery was introduced through colonial economy in which Africans were enslaved in their own homeland through forced labour.
8. Collapse of Trans-Atlantic trade. The basis of Trans-Atlantic trade was slave trade with slaves as the major item exported to the Americas and the Caribbean. With the abolition of slave trade, the trade collapsed since its major item ceased to be supplied.
9. Decline of some states. States like Oyo, Dahomey and Benin which largely depended on slave trade as their major source of wealth, came to their decline with the end of slave trade. It took them long to adapt to other economic activities especially agriculture since it was not all that profitable and not as such easy like trade in slaves.
10. Rise of some states. States like Opobo and Itsekeli benefited from the so called legitimate trade because their leaders like Jaja and Nana Olwum actively participated in the selling of agricultural products like palm oil and cola nuts which were on great demand by European industries.

11. Establishment of new states of Sierra Leone and Liberia. The two states were found as a direct result of abolition of slave trade. Sierra Leone was founded by members of the British abolitionist movement in 1787 as a settlement of the freed slaves from England and Liberia in 1822 for the freed slaves from the United States of America.

It can be concluded that slave trade and its successor “Legitimate trade” integrated African societies into the chains of capitalistic exploitation. The so called “legitimate Trade was a new form of slavery, this time enslaving Africans in their own land. Africa became the supplier of raw materials, market for the industries of Europe and cheap labour.