

Week 2 Recap

The Development of Pre-Colonial Caribbean Societies:

Key Points for slide one:

Evidence for pre-Columbian societies: Historians use various sources to gather information about societies that existed in the Americas before the arrival of Columbus.

Archaeological findings: One of the primary sources of evidence.

Tropical climate challenges in the Caribbean: The warm and humid environment in the Caribbean can be problematic for preserving certain types of artifacts.

Deterioration of materials: Objects made from materials like thatch, wood, and cloth tend to degrade quickly in these conditions.

Survival of durable materials: Artifacts made from stone, pottery, and bone have a better chance of surviving in the Caribbean's tropical climate.

Active involvement in archaeology: The paragraph mentions a photograph of schoolchildren helping to collect artifacts on Nevis, indicating community participation in historical preservation.

Definitions:

Pre-Columbian societies: Societies that existed in the Americas before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492.

Archaeological findings: Objects or artifacts that are discovered through the scientific study of historical human cultures and their development.

Artifacts: Objects made by humans, typically of historical or cultural interest.

Key Points for Slide One:

Petroglyphs: Historians use rock art as evidence.

Oldest art form: Found globally throughout history.

Creation methods: Made by carving, etching, incising, rubbing, or pounding the rock.
Dominican Republic cave: Petroglyphs were discovered there.

Key Points for Slide Two:

European diaries: Valuable historical records.
Bartolomé de las Casas: Edited Columbus' journal, kept his own, and advocated for native rights but supported African enslavement.

Key Points for Slide Three:

Linguistic evidence: Reveals insights into pre-Columbian life.
Word origins: Examples include "hammock" from "hamaca" and "hurricane" from "huraca'n".
Deities related to hurricane: Goddess Guabancex and Gods Guatauba and Coatrisque.

Key Points for Slide Four:

Genetic evidence: Used to determine migratory patterns.
Haplogroups: Descendants from a common ancestor.
Puerto Rico migrations: Inhabitants believed to have migrated from Florida, Mexico, and the Amazon.

Key Points for Slide Five:

Casimiroid culture: Early inhabitants of the Caribbean dating back 4,500-6,900 years.
Culture's range: May include groups from Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.
Lifestyle: Fishermen, hunters, gatherers, and traders.

Key Points for Slide Six:

Trinidad's formation: Became an island about 12,000 years ago.
Banwari Trace excavation: Revealed a settlement dating back to 5,200-3,200 BCE.
Economy and tools: Based on shellfish, hunting, and fishing, with various artifacts found.

Key Points for Slide Seven:

Largest migrations: Originated from Orinoco and Amazon.
Arawak migrations: Moved to the Caribbean in waves.

Key Points for Slide Eight:

Saladoid culture: Originated in Orinoco valley and northeast coast of South America.
Economy: Cultivated cassava and maize.
Ostionoid culture: Developed later with increased community size and complexity.
Key Points for Slide Nine:

Pottery: Development in clay, stone, and hardwood with patterns similar to feather-work and basketry.

Key Points for Slide Ten:

Agriculture: Shifted to conuco cultivation, which still exists in parts of the Caribbean.

Key Points for Slide Eleven:

Taino village: Represents large permanent villages in the northern Caribbean.

Key Points for Slide Twelve:

Dwelling variations: Indicated social stratification.

Key Points for Slide Thirteen:

Ceremonial places: Batey site in Puerto Rico where a ball game, likely with diplomatic purposes, was played by both genders.

Key Points for Slide Fourteen:

Collar's purpose: Uncertain, but possibly similar to a basketball hoop in Mexico.

Key Points for Slide Fifteen:

Arawak political hierarchies: Led by Caciques who inherited their power.

Cacique duties: Building assignments, crime judgments, religious ceremonies, and festivals.

Key Points for Slide Sixteen:

Behique: Served as a doctor and spiritual leader.

Petroglyph: Possibly represents the ancestors of the Behique.

Key Points for Slide Seventeen:

Healing petroglyph: Represents an individual being taken to a healing cave to be cared for by the Behique.

Summary of The Development of Pre-Colonial Caribbean Societies:

The rich history of the Caribbean is intricately woven with tales of petroglyphs, ancient diaries, and linguistic remnants from Arawakan languages. Evidence from biologists and geneticists traces back the islands' first inhabitants, with haplogroups suggesting origins from regions like Florida and the Amazon. Earliest settlers, the Casimiroid culture, were succeeded by waves of migrations mainly from South America's Orinoco and Amazon

regions. Cultures like the Saladoid and Ostionoid introduced advancements in pottery and agriculture, particularly the conuco cultivation. Permanent settlements, like the Taino village in Ponce, Puerto Rico, exemplify the northern Caribbean's societal structures. Here, political hierarchies emerged, with Caciques at the helm, and religious ceremonies held immense significance, including the hallucinogenic Cohoba ceremony. The Taíno people revered their ancestors, practicing unique funeral rites for their elite. Simultaneously, the Kalinago, also known as Caribs, migrated to the Caribbean. They bore resemblances to the Taino but were linguistically and politically distinct. Europeans, who arrived later, described the Kalinago as fierce warriors. By the close of the 15th century, the Caribbean boasted an indigenous population of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ million, concentrated mainly in Hispaniola, Cuba, and Jamaica.

The Origins of Underdevelopment

Paragraph 1 (Slide 1): Introduction to Development

- Definition: Development is the endeavor to improve material conditions, extend trading capacities, further scientific progress, and refine societal values.
- Historical Context: Initiated post-WWII, primarily to address reconstruction in Western Europe and North America.
- Later Aim: Assist decolonizing nations in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean in establishing infrastructure and societal progress.

Paragraph 2 (Slide : 2, 3, 4, 5): Rostow's Stages of Economic Growth

- Who is Rostow? Walt Rostow, an American economic historian, created a model describing Europe's path to development.
- Stages Overview:
- Traditional Society: Pre-industrial, limited technological advancements.
- Transitional Stage: Advent of tech in agriculture and production; increased trading activities.
- Economic Take Off: Proliferation of industrial activities and rise of democratic institutions.
- Drive to Maturity: Diverse economies due to technological innovations.
- Age of High Mass Consumption: Economy centered on consumer-oriented industries.
- Critique Highlight: Rostow's model has been criticized for not accounting for colonialism's influence on Europe's prosperity.

Paragraph 3 (Slide : 6, 7): Pre-Colonial Africa

- Social Fabric: Tight-knit communal societies with strong emphasis on family and community well-being.
- Economic Mainstay: Predominantly agrarian, complemented by activities like fishing, animal domestication, and hunting.
- Metal Craftsmanship: Metals were manipulated to create vital tools and weaponry.
- Usufruct Explained: The right to use and benefit from property owned by another, provided its substance remains unharmed.
- Trading Patterns: A mix of local barter systems and long-distance exchanges involving luxury commodities.

Paragraph 4 (Slide : 8, 9, 10): Class and Feudalism in Europe & Africa

- Birth of Class Structures: Resulted from shifts in trade dynamics, outcomes of conquests, and control over resources.
- European Feudalism: An agrarian framework wherein large tracts of land were owned by the elite.

- Serfdom Defined: Serfs were workers bound to the land, serving landlords. They lacked mobility rights.
- Usufruct in Context: Serfs were granted the usufruct rights to utilize land and tools. In return, they owed a portion of their produce as rent.

Paragraph 5 (Slide: 11, 12, 13): Changes in European Feudalism and Trade

- Feudal Rights in Flux: By the late 16th and 17th centuries, commoners found access to land increasingly restricted.
- Enclosure Acts: Legislation that fortified the rights of landlords over rural lands, spurring wage labor's growth.
- Trade Diversification: Expansion in both intra-regional food trades and intercontinental luxury trades.

Paragraph 6 (Slide 6: 14, 15): Global Trade Evolution

- Pathways of Trade: Evolved from primarily overland networks to vast trans-oceanic routes by the 15th century.
- 1500s Snapshot: Economic landscapes featured communal societies, budding feudal states, and burgeoning trade avenues.

Paragraph 7 (Slide: 16, 17, 18): Factors in Western Europe's Rise

- Crumbling Feudalism: As trade centralized wealth, political might consolidated, and labor was channeled into manufacturing sectors.
- Dawn of Capitalism: Profits from trade were funneled into production. Commodities became central to economies. The maritime trade gained momentum.

Paragraph 8 (Slide: 19, 20): Intercontinental Trade and Europe's Discoveries

- European Quests: Spurred by a desire for spices, precious metals, and textiles.
- Columbus's Accidental Discovery: While seeking an Asian route in 1492, he ended up in the Caribbean.
- Spanish Ambitions: Their primary goal was gold extraction. This led to significant socio-economic changes, including the Taino population's drastic reduction.
- English and French Aims: Their focus was agricultural productivity, resulting in indigenous enslavement.

Paragraph 9 (Slide: 21, 22, 23, 24): Understanding the Economic Historians

- Andre Gunder Frank's Theories: Introduced concepts such as Dependency Theory and World Systems Theory, which scrutinized resource flows between nations.
- Immanuel Wallerstein: A sociologist recognized for his world systems analysis.

- Walter Rodney's Perspective: Authored "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa". He theorized that European prosperity was significantly bolstered by exploiting Africa.
- Rodney's Central Argument: Europe's growth, especially during the Industrial Revolution, was considerably fueled by siphoning Africa's wealth.

Summary of The Origins of Underdevelopment:

Development, initiated post-WWII, sought to improve various societal facets, from trading capacities to scientific advances. Rostow proposed a five-stage model highlighting Europe's development trajectory, from pre-industrial societies to consumer-driven economies. Meanwhile, pre-colonial Africa thrived on tight-knit communal setups, agrarian economies, and a mix of local and long-distance trading. As trade dynamics evolved, class structures emerged in both Europe and Africa. European feudalism, with its emphasis on serfs and usufruct rights, witnessed shifts by the 17th century due to increased land restrictions and a diversifying trade. By the 1500s, trade routes transitioned from overland to trans-oceanic, setting the stage for Western Europe's rise, marked by the decline of feudalism and the advent of capitalism. Europe's maritime quests in search of spices and precious commodities led them to the Americas, with countries like Spain focusing on gold and England on agriculture. Notably, economic historians like Frank, Wallerstein, and Rodney provided insights into global dynamics, emphasizing Europe's growth at the expense of Africa's resources.

Youtube Video: Written out of History

Summary of 'Written out of History'(video):

The video delves deep into the obscured history of Native American enslavement and the deliberate erasure of their identities by European colonizers. While records primarily from the Catholic Church mentioned European names for the enslaved, these records mostly lacked details on the ethnicity of individuals. As a result, many enslaved Native Americans went unrecognized, despite evidence pointing to their widespread enslavement as early as the 17th century.

However, by the 18th century, this trend began to decline. One reason was the Europeans' realization that Native Americans weren't suitable for enslavement due to their ability to escape and seek refuge within their communities. Colonial outposts, like Barbados, even passed acts prohibiting the importation of Native American slaves due to the problems they presented.

With time, the lines distinguishing ethnicities began to blur due to the intermarriage between Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans. This intermingling resulted in a rise of mixed racial identities, leading Native Americans to gradually vanish from the annals of history. A notable point was the English colonizers' tactic of bureaucratically erasing Native American identities when they couldn't suppress them through violent means. This systematic erasure reached its zenith with deliberate acts, such as Dr. Walter Plucker's modification of birth, death, and marriage records of Virginia Indians, marking them as "colored" instead of recognizing their true heritage.

By the dawn of the 20th century, due to widespread discrimination and the dangers associated with identifying as Native American, many chose to adopt other racial identities as a safety measure. This wholesale distortion of identity was further exacerbated by biased census takers who often decided one's ethnicity based on appearance rather than truth. The narrative concludes with a poignant reflection on the Native Americans' enduring quest to reassemble their fragmented history and affirm their genuine identity amidst a backdrop of distortion and neglect.

Youtube Video: Taíno Symposium – Welcome by Eduardo Díaz

Summary of ‘Taíno Symposium – Welcome by Eduardo Díaz’(video):

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Video: AfroLatinos the Documentary

Summary of 'AfroLatinos the Documentary'(video):

"AfroLatinos: The Untaught Story" is a documentary that delves deep into the history, culture, and contributions of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean. It highlights the significant yet often overlooked presence and influence of Afro-Latinos in the region.

Here are some key aspects of the documentary:

1. **Historical Overview:** The documentary traces the history of Africans who were brought to the Americas during the transatlantic slave trade. It discusses their contributions to the cultures, economies, and histories of Latin American countries.
2. **Cultural Influence:** Afro-Latinos have played a pivotal role in shaping the culture of Latin America. This is evident in music, dance, religion, and other aspects of culture. The documentary showcases various forms of art, music, and religious practices that have African roots.
3. **Racial Identity and Discrimination:** Afro-Latinos often grapple with issues related to their racial identity. In many Latin American countries, racism and discrimination persist, leading to socio-economic disparities. The documentary sheds light on these issues, revealing how some Afro-Latinos have been marginalized or rendered invisible in national narratives.
4. **Modern-Day Contributions and Challenges:** The film highlights modern-day Afro-Latinos who have made significant contributions in various fields, from arts and culture to politics and activism. It also addresses the challenges they face, such as racial discrimination, lack of representation, and efforts to reclaim their African heritage.
5. **Testimonies:** Personal testimonies from Afro-Latinos provide a first-hand account of their experiences. These stories offer insight into their struggles, triumphs, and the rich tapestry of Afro-Latino culture.
6. **Call to Action:** "AfroLatinos: The Untaught Story" serves as a call to action, urging viewers to recognize the contributions of Afro-Latinos, combat discrimination, and promote inclusivity in the broader Latino narrative.