

The Impact of the Slave Trade

Africa, 2020

Historical Concepts: Consequence

- History is the understanding of how forces in the past have shaped future people and societies. Students demonstrate competency as historical thinkers where they understand and can explain how significant events and people have had both short-term and long-lasting effects. Students use evidence and interpretations of those people and events to make comparisons between different points in time, and to make judgments about the extent to which those forces produced long-lasting and important consequences.

The Slave Trade

- Slavery has existed in Africa, and most of Europe, for thousands of years
- 1400s: Portuguese explorers start to interact with African Civilizations
- Trade guns and manufactured goods for gold/salt
- **Colonization of the New World destroys Native Population**
 - **Europeans turn to Africa in order to get a labor force**

Captured Africans bound
for the slave market



The Slave Trade

- Europeans see **4 major advantages** in using African Labor
 - 1.Africans have been exposed to European diseases
 - 2.Many Africans have experience in farming
 - 3.Africans were less likely to escape (for good) in new land
 - 4.Skin Color
- Introduction of European goods into Africa
 - **African leaders need guns/ goods to remain in power**
 - Sell or be sold mentality emerges
 - Cycle of war, encouraged by European traders

Edge of Imperialism

- Remember, when colonization of Africa began, European nations and African nations had been participating in trade for hundreds of years already
- Europeans were well aware of the vast resources to be had in Africa
- Africans had in turn acquired goods (like weapons) from Europe

Effects of the Slave Trade

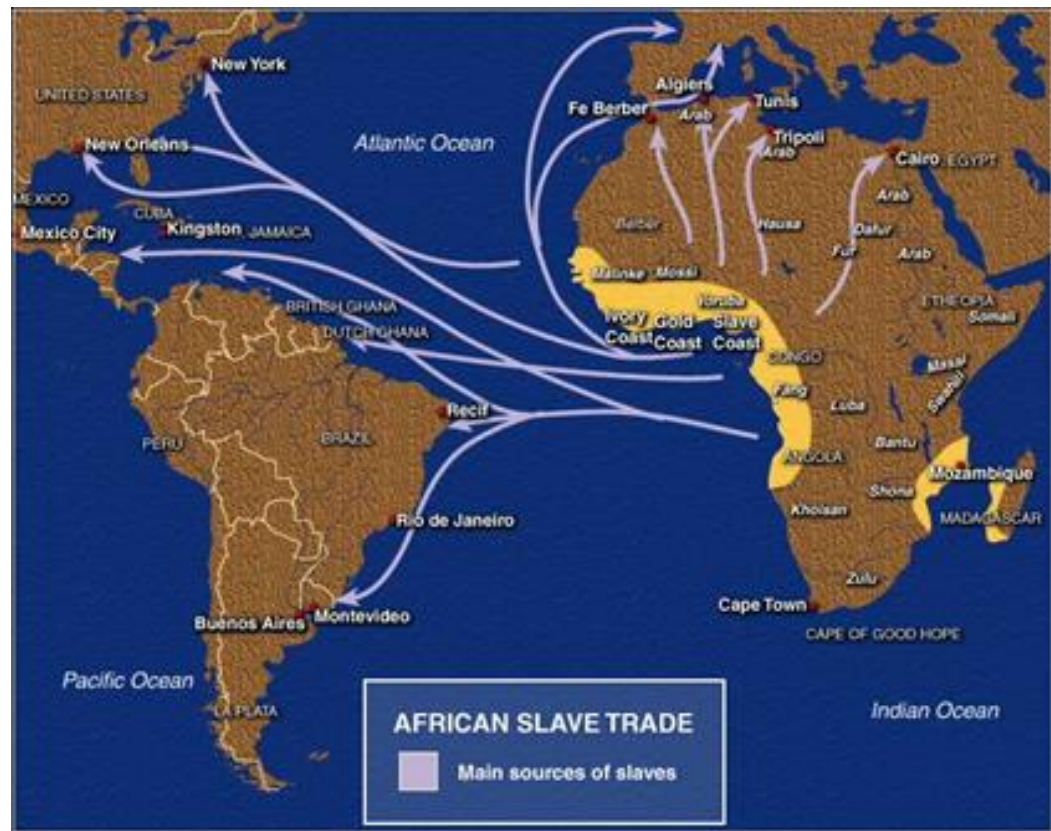
- **Brain Drain in Africa: Youngest, fittest, brightest minds taken**
- **Disruption of African Civilizations - Societies**
- **Economic and Cultural development of New World**
- **Homogenization of African Cultures (in the eyes of Europeans)**
- **Increased wealth for Europe**

Challenges for Africa

- Africa had wide variety of cultures and languages
- Not unified – separated by kingdoms and languages
- Naturally fought one another
- **Europeans played rival kingdoms against each other**
- ...in 1600, nearly 30% of the world's population lives in Africa.
- By 1900, under 10% of the world's population lives in Africa.
- **...the population of Africa in 1850 has been estimated to have been only about half of what it would have been had slavery and the slave trade not been a factor in African history.**

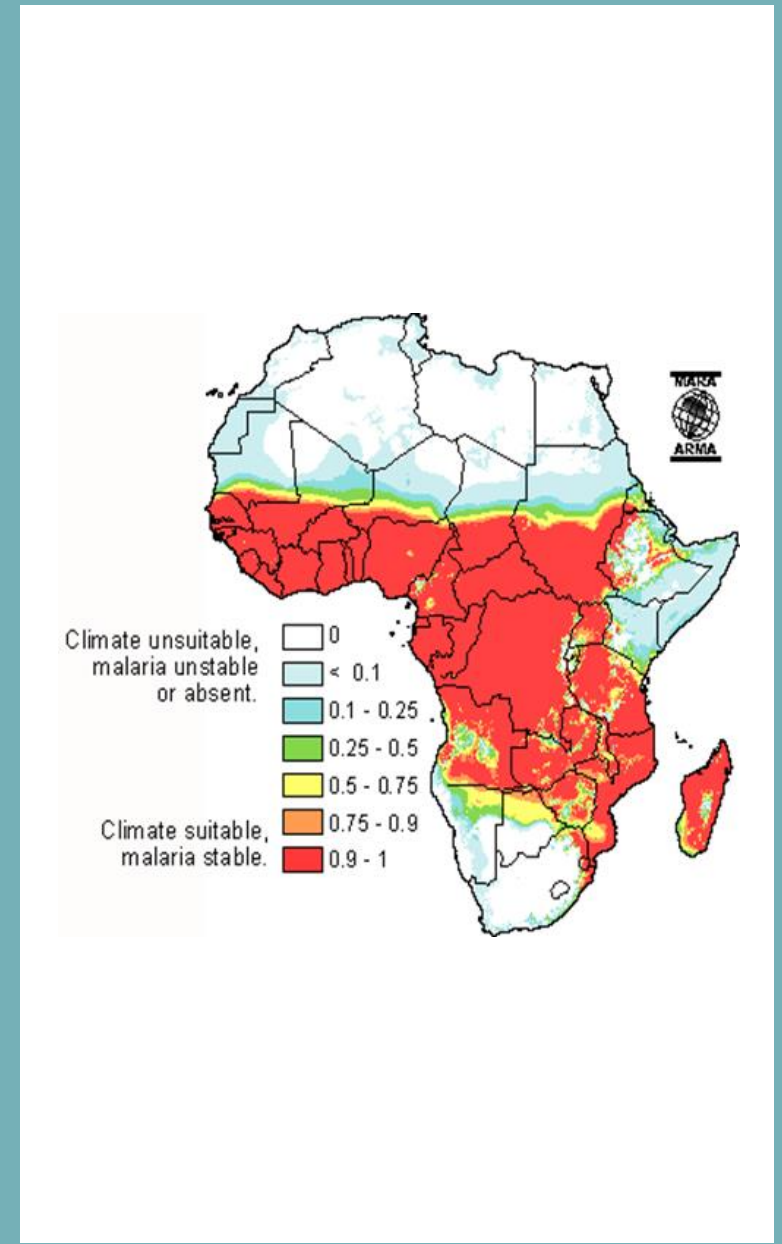
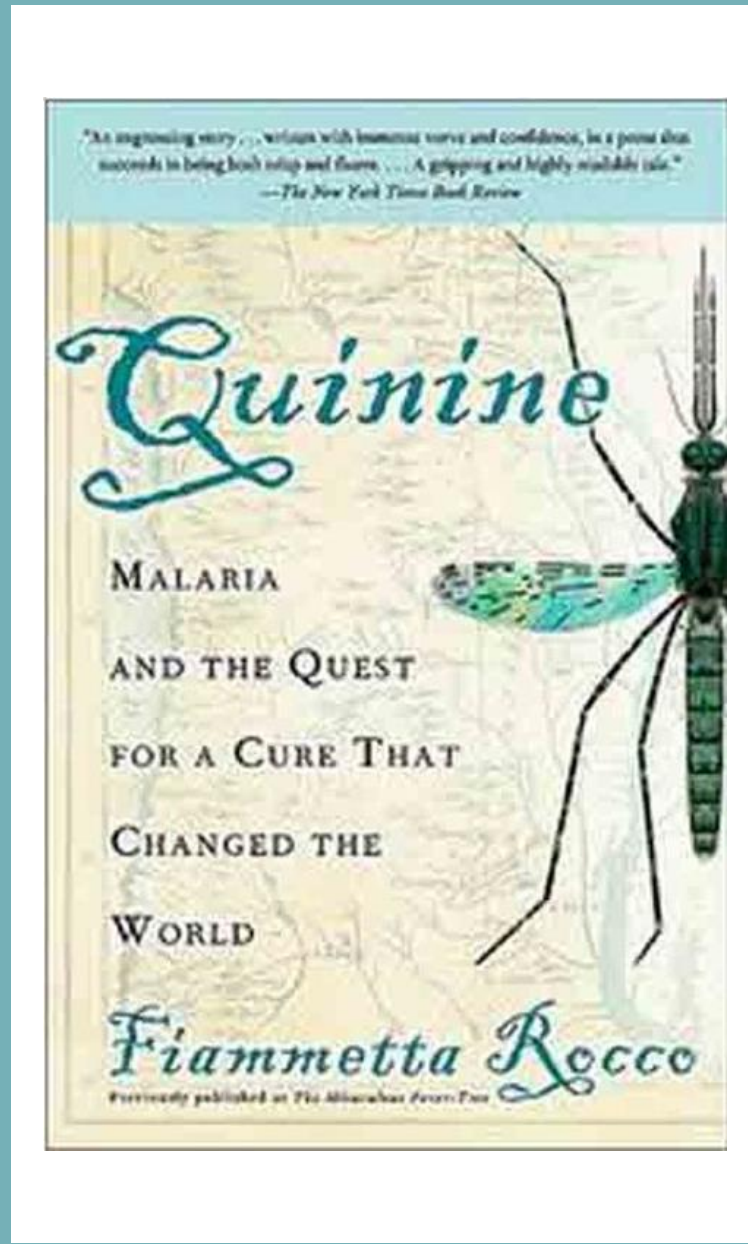
Challenges Faced by Europe

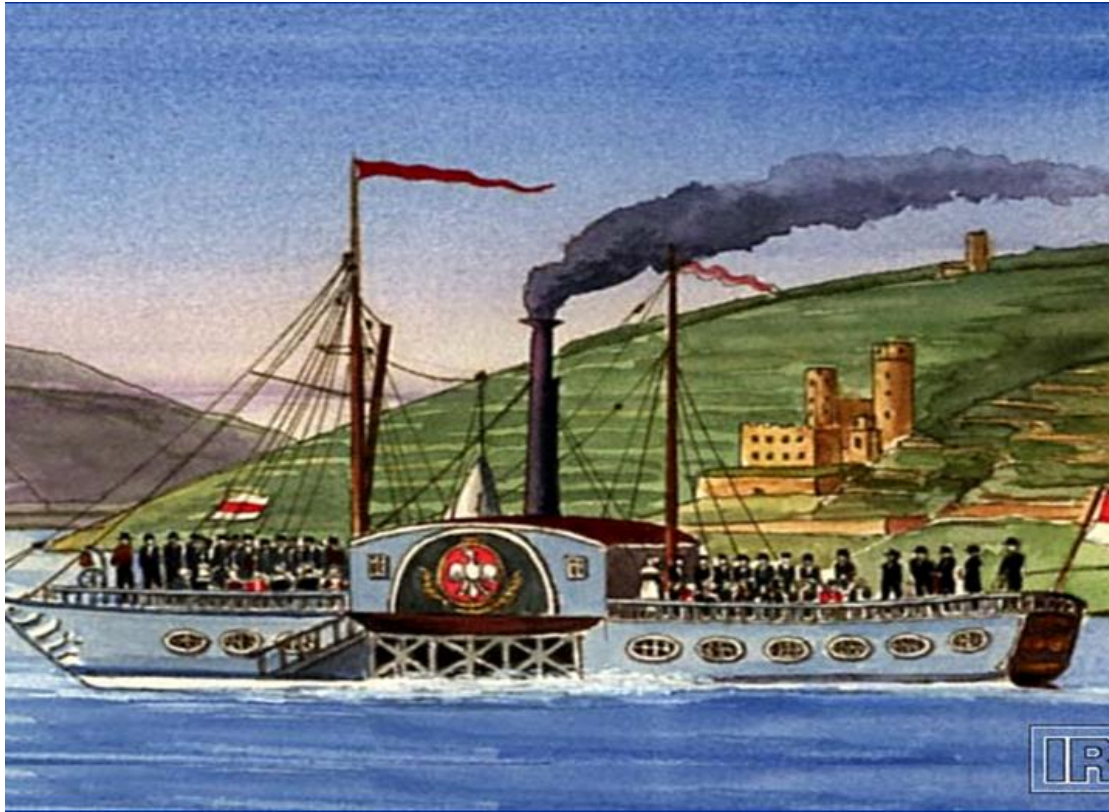
- African nations have advanced weapons (rifles) and fierce warriors
- **Solution:** Europeans invent **Maxim Gun**
 - Fired 500 bullets per minute
- Disease
 - Malaria: Deadly disease spread by mosquitoes in hot/tropical areas
 - 1700s: Death rate for European explorers in Africa is 50%



Challenges Faced by Europe

- **Solution: Quinine!**
 - Found in the bark of the cinchona tree
 - Native to Peru and Bolivia
 - Treats malaria!
- Africa has rivers
 - But they flow towards the sea...
 - Why would this frustrate Europe?





Challenges Faced by Europe

- **Solution: Early 1800s:
Steam Boats!**

Historical Concepts: Consequence

- Using what you know of Africa's geography and resources, write a description of what you think the African continent would look like had slavery/colonization had not occurred.