Slavery and the Plantation Economy in Brazil and the Guyana's in the 19th Century

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Here we will show you a brief video on the history of Africans in Brazil.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bBGWyByAIA
Atlantic Slave Trade

Slaves came across the Atlantic Ocean from West Africa. They then went to the port of Saint Domingue. The slaves were packed into ships and treated harshly. The French, British, Portuguese and Dutch.*

Trading ships would set sail from Europe with a cargo of manufactured goods to the west coast of Africa. There, these goods would be traded, over weeks and months, for captured people provided by African traders.

During the voyage the slaves would be kept in the ship’s hold where the slaves would be crammed closely together, conditions were very harsh and many of the African slaves did not survive.
Where did the slaves come from? What kind of work did they do?

- Although many slaves were from Africa, some came from Indonesia and East India.
- Many of the slaves, as in the Caribbean sugar estates, that worked in the field gangs were female. This refers to the slaves on the Vassouras coffee plantations.
  - Because the women were the majority on these field gangs, men were expected to do a majority of the unskilled labor. These include the weeding, planting, and harvesting of the produce.
- The African slave trade kept the coffee fazendas supplied with slaves up until the early 19th century. If it weren’t for these slaves, many of the luxuries wouldn’t have been available to us as Americans, as Brazil was our second top producer, specifically sugar.

This picture is an original map made around the end of the 18th century.
What is the difference between a native and a slave in 19th century Colonial Brazil?

**African Slave**
- African descended slaves were more abundant in number versus the less popularly used Brazilian Indians. It is said that 40% of the slaves via the slave trade were brought to Brazil.
  - Before 1791, Brazil was known as the largest slave society in the world. Later, this title would go to their Northern counterparts in North America.
- As mentioned previously, having African slaves via the Atlantic Slave Trade was a bonus considering their immunity or ability to recover quickly from the many diseases that the Europeans introduced to the Africans as well as the Amerindians.
- With the boom in cash crop production (indigo, cacao, and sugar at the time) called for a larger importation of slaves via the Atlantic Ocean. So the Brazilian slave population continued to grow until the mid-19th century. Not only did the slaves help produce these 3 things, but we will see that slaves played a major role in the production of other goods.

**Paulistas of Brazil**
- Many of the natives that the Portuguese encountered were not at all willing to cooperate with the Europeans.
  - The African slaves were more accessible and were far enough from home that they could not flee to anywhere that they had any alliances.
  - The natives on the other hand were many in number and could fight back, for the African slaves had no sort of weaponry. The Blacks were seen as unthreatening and defenseless.
- The region of São Paulo was always ranking fourth in national output. This accounted for no more than 5% of the national production, this showed that sugar was a vital part of the paulista economy.
The Economic Role of Slaves in the 19th Century

175,000 slaves did domestic work, only a small percentage of them were economically active. They also worked in construction, masonry, stonework, allied crafts, agricultural work, seamstresses. Only women were seamstresses, with a population of only 41,000, slave women only represented 8% of the total workers.
Who were the first and largest European group to colonize Brazil?

- Brazil has had a long history with European colonists since before the 18th century. Besides the Dutch from the Netherlands, the French, the Spanish and for sometime the British, the Portuguese were the first major European group to permanently settle on Brazilian soil.
- The Portuguese fleet that was headed towards Brazil was commanded by Pedro Álvares Cabral. Seeking new economic opportunity, the Portuguese landed on the Bahian shore on Rio Buranhém in April of 1500.
  - The Portuguese would later make their first colony in Brazil in 1532.
- The Treaty of Tordesillas stated that the two Iberian countries were to divide the New World (1494). Upon coming to what is now Brazil, Pedro Álvares Cabral claimed the land to the king of Portugal, King Manuel I.
- **Portugal imported 9 times more slaves to Brazil than their British counterparts would bring to the U.S.**

This picture is a painting by an English painter by the name of Augustus Earle. He lived in Rio de Janeiro from 1820-1824. (Capoeira)
Immigration: Brazil’s Italian Immigrants

- Although Brazil’s major exports that would bring them wealth were yielded by the African slaves that were brought through the African slave trade, some of the work would soon be divided amongst the Italians.
- As the anticipation of the end of slavery was fresh and widespread, it was the paulista planters who introduced immigrant labourers. By the 1880s, there was already some ten thousand immigrants working alongside the slaves on the coffee fazendas.
- The local planters began to divide the labor, assigning the Italian immigrants to care for the newly planted trees. The slaves continued to work on the older, more mature trees by weeding, pruning, and harvesting.
- Jews were also apart of the population. They owned sugar estates, and over 9,000 slaves in Pernambuco and the Dutch West Indies. In Suriname they formed their own synagogue, they were the largest population of native-born whites, meaning that they were born on the colonies in Suriname.

This image shows coffee being shipped to Europe from the Brazilian port of Santos.
What were Brazil’s major exports?

- Gold
- Cotton
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Cacao
- Annotto
Other Important Exports and Labor

- Other than coffee, Brazil’s south-central zone worked in other fields of labour. Coffee fields and the labour associated with it took up only a portion of Brazil’s slaves.
  - Of the 1.2 million economically active slaves listed in the first national headcount in the year of 1872, well over 808,000 slaves were involved and employed in agriculture. And of the latter, only $\frac{1}{3}$ were in coffee.
- Besides the typical plantation work, the labour opened up to more tasks that had been a prominent part of Brazil’s successful history.
  - As Minas Gerais was a region well known for their mining industry, the region also specialized in ranching and cattle. And around this time, sugar was still Brazil’s second most valuable export.
  - The regions of Pernambuco, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro still had their some of 100,000-125,000 slaves.
- Other plantation crops that gained way in the 1870s was cacao and cotton. Brazilian cotton revived in the 1860-80 period, as it had been a vital colonial product.
  - The growth of cotton had no long-term effect on the local labour distribution.
Beef jerky had still held its place in importance. The industry in the southern provinces of Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, and Santa Catarina were also in the meat and hide production, as these tasks were primarily free-labour work.

Minas Gerais was not only in the ranching industry, but had some experience with the manufacturing of pork and dairy products for local markets in that area.

Besides the agriculture and plantation work, these slaves were also very skilled in the artianal arts such as: wood working, metal craftsmanship, carpentry and even blacksmithery. And not only this, but there was an estimated 7,000 of these skilled artisans.

Slaves played a major role in the economy of these regions. They made up at least 11% of the total industrial workforce of Brazil. Some of the 11%, some 13,000 workers, could be found in the textile factories.

These textile factories were then coming into prominence as it was Brazil’s first major industrial activity.
Located in the Brazilian Northeast, Bahia and Pernambuco were the leading sugar producers at the time. As steam mills were not introduced until well into the 19th century, the average output remained the same as it was in the colonial period. By the 1820s, the national output from Bahia was up to 40 thousand tons and eventually rose up to 70 thousand tons by the 1830. Later, the average output reached 100,000 tons where it would remain that way for the next twenty years. It remained here as it were buffeted by the entrance of beet sugar into the markets in Europe. Soon, Brazil became America’s second largest sugar producer. This was after the crisis of emancipation chaotically affected British West Indian production. Pernambuco sugar output surpassed Bahia’s by a long shot. As Bahia never caught up to Pernambuco and their level of production surpassed Bahia’s sugar production levels by the mid nineteenth century.
What was the significance/ importance of Saint Domingue? What were the conditions like? What was the outcome?

- The colonial economy of Saint-Domingue was based almost entirely on the production of plantation crops for export (these crops included coffee and sugar)
  - To supply the need of labor force for the Saint-Domingue plantation around 800,000 African slaves were imported by the French

- The slave system in Saint-Domingue was regarded as one of the harshest in the Americas there was enormous brutality and sufferings of millions of black slaves deported from the African Coast
  - Some slave owners put tin masks over the heads of slaves to keep them from chewing on the sugar cane
  - Slaves endured long, back breaking work days and slaves often died from injuries, infections and tropical diseases
  - Malnutrition and starvation was also very common

- With brutality and mistreatment of slaves came rebellion, and it’s said that the Saint-Domingue nation is the only one to have a successful slave rebellion.
  - Rebellion came when French planters would not grant the free men of colour citizenship
    - From 1791 through 1804, enslaved people and their allies in Saint-Domingue fought an extremely protracted revolution to win their independence from France, many Free colored in Saint-Domingue played a vital role in liberating themselves from white domination and eventually lead to them promoting the establishment of freedom for local slave populations as a whole
Saint-Domingue Continued

Before Haitian Revolution
- Saint-Domingue produced roughly 40% of sugar and 60% of coffee imported to Europe.
  - Coffee would later be pushed greatly by the fall of the Saint-Domingue

Haitian Revolution
- The Haitian revolution was a series of successful anti-slavery and anti-colonial conflicts by self-liberated slaves against French colonial rule.
  - Rebellion began in August 1791 and then ended in 1804
- Acts of rebellion include:
  - Beating of slave owners
  - A hundred thousand participants destroyed plantations
  - Some slaves managed to escape into the mountainous interior (which is pretty much an area that's high, mostly common on mountain peaks) where they then became known as maroons and fought Guerrilla battles against colonial militia.

One example of an act of rebellion from a European point of view. (1847)
Cayenne (French Guiana)

Cayenne produced sugar, coffee, cacao, cotton and annatto. They had a slave population of 10,000 but the French Revolution prohibited slavery from 1794-1802. Later slavery was reimposed. They started off with a strong base in Suriname after they surrendered Berbice, Demerara, Essequibo to Britain.

Portugal seized Cayenne toward the end of the Napoleonic wars. The economy did not change under their rule.

The revolutionary era expanded the free colored class and the slave laboring class.

Cayenne’s decline came when ex slaves started subsistence and cattle farming. Cayenne tried to import indentured laborers from India but it failed.
Suriname was one of the major colonies in South America. In 1833 there were 344 plantations, 36,000 slaves with an average of 105 slaves per unit. There is an exception where two plantations had more than 400 slaves. Suriname produced sugar and coffee. The French Revolution has a negative impact on Suriname and the Dutch colonies because constant local conflicts led to a decline in production and the slave population, no new slaves entered the colony for a while because the Dutch slave trade ended in 1814.
British Guiana started out as a Dutch possession, they made the land into one of the world’s richest plantation regions.

Dikes and hydraulics were used to make the plains below-sea-level.

Guiana couldn’t compete with America and Cuba’s production of cotton and coffee so they switched to sugar.
What is a Maroon? Why are they significant?

● A maroon (Bush Negro) is a slave that escaped from their plantation. They are significant because they had rebellions and the Dutch eventually signed a treaty with them. There were three major groups: the djukas, saramaacanes, matuaris. The djukas were the largest group.

● Maroons were self-liberated slaves that were common along the American plantations to Peru and the American southwest for 4 centuries.
  ○ Maroon is a word that derives from the Spanish “cimarrones” which means “mountaineer”.
  ○ The Brazilian term for a self-liberated slave is quilombo.

● The maroon tribes had their own cultures and languages.

● 2,000 to 3,000 slaves were stopped by a free mulatto troop while they were moving, the interior region never developed a serious Marion society.

● Maroon communities arose in Suriname in the 17th and 18th century. The land was open and many slaves escaped.
Internal Crises & Setbacks

- All of the colonies followed a similar pattern of hardships. Slaves would die, and the population would not rebound, that led to a decline in production. This harmed the economy.
- In Suriname the French Revolution was causing internal conflicts with the government. Eventually the colonies got through it, resulting in a stable economy.
- Labor shortage, falling world prices, local climates and disease led to a decrease in production.
Abolition of Slavery in Brazil

Britain forced the idea of gradual emancipation on Portugal in 1850. In 1871 a law was passed declaring that after the law went into action the slaves were to be free. In 1885 slaves over 60 became free people. And in 1888 total emancipation occurred.