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History 103
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History Repeating Itself

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/learning-slavery-legacy-slave-trade-modern-society>

This artifact is an article from United Nations. To be able to interpret this article you must be able to understand what African Americans had to endure during this time period. How African Americans were being treated and disregarded as property belonging to Europeans. How slavery and the treatment of African Americans greatly impacted many different aspects of early America. This article specifically has to do with the African American slave trade also known as the Transatlantic slave trade or African Diaspora. African Americans were forced to migrate from 1525 to 1866. Ships would transport African Americans through the middle passage through the Atlantic ocean. 12.5 Million African Americans were enslaved. African Americans were taken from their homes like Ghana, Senegal, Gambia, Malia, Angola, and the Congo. African Americans were taken from their homes and forced to migrate, often separated from their families and forced to face the rough journey on ships across the Atlantic Ocean. The conditions African Americans face on the ships were horrendous and journeys often lasted several weeks if not months. Due to the awful conditions African Americans face while on the ships many did not even make it to the final destination and died on the ship. A small amount of African Americans were brought to North America but the majority were taken to South America and the Caribbean. African Americans if they survived the journey would be expected to work by helping to cultivate various crops. African Americans were forced from their homes on a long and treacherous journey and if they ended up surviving the journey they became somebody's property and were forced to work long grueling hours in order to make their masters a profit. People believed that African Americans were the best for these jobs because their bodies could handle and endure the conditions it took to cultivate crops and labor for significant amounts of time a day. The article discusses how the slave trade was a genocide or holocaust but nobody admitted it even though it is true. Over the years we have continued to persecute cultures, religions, and people for the way they act, look, speak, or believe in. Over the years we have continuously made the same mistakes repeatedly throughout history. During the slave trade European white men believed African Americans were worthless or more expendable because of the color of their skin, thinking them uncivilized unknowledgable people. If someone was going to be treated like trash it was going to be African Americans. Due to people's lack of knowledge back then continues to affect us today. Instilled into society during the slave trade were the ideas put into white men's heads that African Americans or black people are worthless and can be treated however white men see fit. We have carried this prejudice with us even in our society today and we can see this through the Black Lives Matter movement. African Americans today are still continuously being treated differently. African Americans may get paid less, or not get

the best opportunities, get looked at differently. These prejudices make life harder for African Americans which makes them more susceptible to violence as well as violence from police. Officers of the law are no exception; they also hold prejudice due to the ideas instilled in them. People see African Americans are different so they treat them differently which is awful and unfair for African Americans but in police situations can end up being deadly. Society has continued to change and evolve but we are still the same society we were during the slave trade. Seeing African Americans as different and white men superior and this needs to change. I think this artifact not only relates to early American history but also our society today. This artifact can show people in our society that we are repeating our mistakes and nothing has really changed and we need to open our eyes to how we are treating African Americans. It is important that we learn from our past mistakes so we do not continue to repeat history.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5323/jafriamerhist.97.1-2.0110?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

This artifact is an academic journal from The University of Chicago. It is important in order to interpret this artifact to understand how African Americans were treated like property in order to labor all day everyday in the South. The South was the largest place of slavery and as the South grew more successful the need for slaves also increased. It is also important to understand how slaves were being treated by their white masters who were the plantation owners. This journal discusses how the treatment of African Americans during the antebellum period continues to affect African Americans and our society today. Antebellum society was from 1783-1861. The rural South was poverty stricken until plantations became successful through growing crops. Plantations were often run by white men who owned land as well as slaves to work and labor on their property. As plantations became more successful the need for more slaves increased. Some plantations owned hundreds of slaves. Plantation owners had no regard for their slaves, they would purchase them and believed they were their property. Slaves were taken from their homes and brought to the South in order to be sold to work for white men, mostly plantation owners. When African Americans were sold they became property and were forced to work all day for their masters. African Americans were not paid for their work and were forced to endure harsh and violent treatment from their masters. Not only did they receive violence but slaves also had no rights or freedoms they could not marry or learn to read. If a slave tried to escape they would suffer violence or possibly death from their master. African Americans could do nothing but listen to the commands of their masters follow orders or suffer the consequences if not. Even during the Second Great Awakening which was a time when many people latched onto religions. Southern plantation owners restricted or did not allow slaves to be involved in religion because they feared they would read something that encouraged slaves to revolt or find out that the way they were being treated was wrong. Some slaves did learn from religion though or got tired of the way they were being treated and decided to rise up against their masters. Some slaves decided to revolt which was known as slave revolts. African Americans would rise up against

their owners in the attempt to be free. Many of these revolts were unsuccessful and majority of the time even if they were successful any African Americans involved would be killed anyway as a result. This antebellum plantation society relates to various different things occurring in our society today including the Black Lives Matter Movement. For hundreds of years we have been placing African Americans as lower class people which forced many of them to be in lower socioeconomic standing than other people. During the Antebellum South African Americans were forced to work long hours for no pay at all. In our society today African Americans often fill the undesirable low paying jobs or African Americans end up getting paid different wages than their white counterparts. In Antebellum South the white plantations owners felt they had the right to use violence against their slaves. White Southerners did not use this type of violence on any of their white counterparts they only used this kind of violence on African Americans. The class and violence we used against African Americans back then can still be seen present in our society today. Officers can be seen being overly violent and aggressive with African Americans than with whites. A lot more African Americans are arrested and killed by police officers than whites are. The violence used towards African Americans by officers can be deadly and when confronted by officers African Americans do not receive the same rights or treatments of their white counterparts. Similarly we saw slave revolts in Antebellum South that can be translated in our society as the Black Lives Matter rallies and protests. Over the years society has progressed forward but nothing has really changed. Our society has not evolved in the way we treat white people versus how we treat African Americans and these differences cost people their lives. African Americans within our society today are treated differently because of the color of their skin and are forced to endure prejudice, socioeconomic struggles, racism, violence, and possibly death. African Americans should not be treated like this just because people see them as different only because of the color of their skin.

<https://digpodcast.org/2020/01/26/slave-contraband-refugee-the-end-of-slavery-in-the-united-states/>

This podcast discusses the Civil War and the end of slavery. In order to be able to understand this artifact it is important to understand what African Americans had to go through in the South. The North was becoming free-slave states while the South was continuing to increase their number of slaves. Cotton became a very successful crop and the South had been able to successfully cultivate and grow cotton. Cotton allowed the South to go from poverty stricken to wealthy. The cotton boom allowed plantation owners to become prosperous and wealthy. Before plantation owners would have a handful maybe a dozen slaves working on their plantation but as the success and demand for cotton increased the need for slaves in the South increased as well. The Cotton Revolution took place from the 1830s to 1840s. As the South's demand for slaves continued to grow the anger in the North also grew. The nation between the North and the South began to become divided based on their differing beliefs on slavery. The North believed African Americans should be free and slavery be abolished while the South depended on slavery and

were determined to preserve the enslavement of African Americans. Due to the differing opinions the nation split which ended up causing Civil War in 1861-1865. I believe the Cotton Revolution and the increase of slaves caused the Civil War to occur. The North had tried through speeches and laws by going through the government to see slavery ended through peaceful means but when that was rejected using violence was the next resort to end slavery. The North and South went to war. I believe this is relevant in our society today. Our society today's remains divided over several different matters, the president, racism, the Coronavirus, and many other aspects of our society. Our society today is so divided which relates back to when the North and South were divided over slavery. In society people are arguing and being divided on whether Biden or Trump should be president. People argue on the significance of Coronavirus. Protests are breaking out about African Americans being treated inequality and paying for that with their lives. Some people argue all lives matter not just black lives and many just completely miss the importance of these protests. People are going to have diving opinions and views on everything and it is important to stand up for what is right. African Americans were supposed to have been free when the Emancipation Proclamation was declared in 1863 but here we are in 2020 still fighting for African American's rights. The North tried to peacefully help African American when they were being enslaved and treated unfairly and when that did not work resorted to violence and war. If we do not make changes now we will end up having another civil war over the same issues as the first one. The Cotton Revolution and slavery in the South not only applies to Black Lives Matter movement but also who the President is and Coronavirus. No matter what issue is dividing us we must work through it or it will tear us apart and cause chaos, violence, war, and death. If currently reliving history right now and how we proceed in society today can determine if we break out into a war tomorrow. These moments in history should be teaching us to change and make sure we learn from our past mistakes and change in order to keep history from repeating itself.

Reflection

The past events of early American history not only affected society then but also continues to remain relevant and make impacts on our society today. As we reflect on what has happened in the past repeatedly and what our society looks like today we realize we have repeated history several times and we still have the same struggles as we have had in the past.

People can look back on our history and see how things have repeated themselves or remained unchanged over the years. History can give people today insight on what can happen. For example the slave trade was a genocide or holocaust as was the holocaust regarding Hitler and his disregard for people who were different. We can learn from these past events that if we are not accepting of people and allow people to have such a hatred for a certain group of people whether it be regarding race, religion, culture, or any other differing factor can cause mass death or murder of people just because they differ from others. People today can look back and compare previous events that have occurred and determine if our outcome is going to be based

on past information and outcomes. For instance we saw what happened regarding the difference in opinions on African Americans between the North and South and how that ended up causing the Civil War. This can be related to events today regarding The Black Lives Matter movement. If we do not make changes regarding this issue it could have the same outcome and cause a war within our own nation. We can compare past events to guess or foresee the possible outcomes of the future. We can resolve the issue or no changes can occur and war can break out.

When we reflect on events from the past we can clearly see that nothing has really changed. Our society has changed and moved forward but the way our society runs and treats others has remained the same. Slavery of African Americans ended when the Proclamation Emancipation was declared in 1863 yet here we are in our present society seeing violence and death occur to African Americans. We see protests and rallies in hopes of truly gaining African American's their freedom and equality. The emancipation proclamation did not really solve anything because we still see the problems it was supposed to resolve in our society today. We still see African Americans dealing with socioeconomic problems, pay inequality, less freedom, violence, and inequality compared to their white counterparts. We may think things have changed but in reality we are in the same position we were in hundreds of years ago and little to no progress has occurred in response. We have had plenty of time to correct our past mistakes and because we haven't now they are resurfacing. If we treated African Americans with the respect and equality we treated white people with then the Black Lives Matter movement, protests, and rallies would not be happening right now. If we had made changes while we had the chance we could have avoided unneeded bloodshed, violence, and the repeating of history.

We have repeated history countless times and hopefully looking back on past events and their outcomes will help to teach our society today how we should respond to certain issues in society. I believe that history continues to repeat itself until we end up making the right decisions in response to the problems. The Civil War broke out because of the treatment of African Americans. Again we see issues in society because of the treatment of African Americans and if we do not make the right choices this time another civil war will occur and the same mistakes will be made and we will be doomed to repeat this same problem in another two hundred years. We have experienced all of the problems we have in society today before in the past and we should be able to learn from the past and use our past experience to move forward. History will continue to repeat itself until we get the outcome right. I also believe we should be using our past experience with early American history as a guide to help us make decisions and learn from our mistakes. We are still stuck in the past making the same mistakes. We need real change to happen in order to help us to evolve and break free of this loop of history that we are forced to live in. We need to change and make progress towards a better future. Even though history occurred in the past it is still relevant today and people alive today can use it as a guide and help us to make history that's worth teaching and following. It will be hard and we will not be able to make significant changes overnight that will help our society be perfect but hopefully we can

make steps towards improving our society in order to continue to make positive changes in the years to come.