JELENA KREBER

SLAVERY THROUGH HISTORY

ZAVRŠNI RAD

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ABSTRACT

This final paper is about slavery and its development through history. It describes slavery and types of slavery in the major periods of history. It starts with the ancient times and it describes slavery in the ancient cultures as well as in the Middle Ages. Then it continues with transatlantic slave trade which is an introduction to slavery in the United States of America. It describes the beginnings of the slavery in America, treatment of the slaves, importance of the cotton gin and the Civil War, all relating to racism and the impact it has on the economy. The last part of the work is devoted to a newer form of slavery. It touches upon the topic of today's human trafficking and modern slavery. The aim of this paper is to present slavery from the ancient times to modern forms of slavery, referring to the position of slaves through history.

Keywords: slave, slavery, slavery in the United States, human trafficking, modern slavery
1. INTRODUCTION

This final paper talks about slavery through history from the ancient times to newer forms of slavery as we know it today. Slavery was accepted in almost all historic cultures and communities. It has had many forms and this paper describes its six major types. Although slavery is globally rejected nowadays, it is interesting that today the number of slaves exceeds the number of slaves in any other historical period. This may also be the result of the global population growth; there are about seven billion people in the world today, while only 200 years ago this figure was much lower - one billion. The fact remains that the modern world has more slaves than ever before in history.

The most known form of slavery is the chattel slavery or slavery in America. A major part of this work is devoted to that period in America and it describes procedures and injustice the enslaved people went through.

In today's modern world, such stories and findings seem unbelievable, but the facts prove different. In many parts of the world, poverty and deprivation instigate further capturing of slaves but in a more sophisticated and perfidious manner. Trade in human organs grows, as well as selling of children, subsumed girls, women, children and men. This represents a reality in undeveloped parts of the world. People who live in more developed parts of the world live in the belief that slavery has nothing to do with them. This work also refers to modern slavery and the problems a modern man is faced with, as well as the problem of human trafficking.

Many talk about the creation of a new, modern slavery, but is it not possible to talk about the formation of slavery if it has never been eradicated. The vast majority of people still live in a kind of slavery.
2. SLAVERY

The English word slave comes from the Old French word sclave, from the Medieval Latin sclavus, and from the ethnonym Slav, because in some early medieval wars many Slavs were captured and enslaved. (https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Slavery)

Slavery is a system in which people are treated as property that can be bought and sold and forced to do labour. People are becoming slaves by capturing, exchange market or birth. After that they have no longer the right for compensation, refusal to work, and, of course, leaving their owners.

Modern slavery is present throughout the world. In some parts of the world it is more alike the old forms of slavery, where people work 15 hours a day for bread and water. In most cases, especially in the western world, the slave owners have changed their countenance, hiding under the mask of the sleek capitalists.
3. **TYPES OF SLAVERY**

Chattel slavery is the most common form of slavery known to Americans. It is the traditional slavery. In this system people are treated as personal property of an owner and can be bought, sold and owned forever.

Today, there are six major forms of slavery occurring in the world. Each form represents the basics of enslavement: the victims are forced to work involuntarily or are unable to leave once they have started.

The enslaved people face the threat of physical, mental and emotional punishments and are deceived and abused daily. If a person’s labour is exploited by such means, any previous consent to work for the enslaver becomes irrelevant as they are now being held against their will. (http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/five-forms-of-slavery)

3.1 **Forced labour**

Forced labour shown in Picture 1 describes all types of forced work that an individual must provide against his or her will. Contemporary forced labourers are treated as property to be exploited commercially, the same way African Americans were during the ante-bellum\(^1\) period in American history. (http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/five-forms-of-slavery)

Forced labour affects millions of men, women and children around the world and is most frequently found in labour intensive industries, such as:

- Agriculture and fishing
- Domestic work
- Construction, mining, quarrying and brick kilns
- Manufacturing, processing and packaging
- Prostitution and sexual exploitation
- Market trading and illegal activities

---

\(^1\)The ante-bellum period in American history is generally considered to be the period before the Civil War.
Forced labour is a global problem, although some regions have larger numbers of people affected than others. The regional distribution of forced labour is:

- Asia and Pacific: 11.7 million (56%)
- Africa: 3.7 million (18%)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 1.8 million (9%)
- The Developed Economies (US, Canada, Australia, European Union, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Japan): 1.5 million (7%)
- Central, Southeast and Eastern Europe (non EU) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CSEE): 1.6 million (7%)
- Middle East: 600,000 (3%)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are at least 20.9 million people in forced labour worldwide. That means that around three out of every 1,000 persons worldwide are suffering in forced labour. (http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/forced_labour/default.aspx)
3.2 Bonded labour or debt labour

Bonded labour is a slavery in which an individual is compelled to work in order to repay a debt. It is different from other forms; oftentimes the labourer and the employer initially enter a mutual agreement. However, contract conditions may be illegal and more beneficial to the employer than the labourer. These workers become slaves when they continue working, but cannot pay off their initial debt because of exploitative contract terms and so they cannot leave. ([http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/bonded_labour/default.aspx](http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/bonded_labour/default.aspx))

Bonded labour is the most widespread form of slavery in the world. A person becomes a bonded labourer when their labour is demanded as a mean of repayment for a loan. The person is then tricked or trapped into working for very little or no pay. Many bonded labourers are forced to work to repay debts their employers say they owe, and are not allowed to work for anyone else. Violence and threats can be used to force them to stay, and in some cases they are kept under surveillance; sometimes even under lock and key.

Bonded labour was used to trap indentured\(^2\) labourers into working on plantations in Africa, the Caribbean and South-East Asia, following the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Today the International Labour Organization estimates that a minimum 11.7 million people are in forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region, the majority of these being in debt bondage. ([http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/bonded_labour/default.aspx](http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/bonded_labour/default.aspx))

3.3 Sex slavery

Sex slavery refers to women, men or children used for the purposes of forced sex work within national or across international borders. They are exploited in the commercial sex industry, which may include: pornography, prostitution, erotic entertainment, strip clubs, online escort services, residential brothels, hostess clubs, fake massage rooms or any

\(^2\)Indentured servitude was a labour system wherein young people paid for their passage to the New World by working for an employer for a certain number of years
exchange of sexual acts for something of value. Money may or may not be exchanged; other things that may be traded for sex acts are drugs, shelter, food or clothes. A person’s initial consent to participate is irrelevant if that person is held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force. (http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/five-forms-of-slavery)

Each year, approximately 800,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders, while an additional numbers of women and girls are trafficked within countries.

Some sex trafficking is highly visible, such as street prostitution. But many trafficking victims remain unseen, operating out of unmarked brothels in unsuspecting and sometimes suburban neighbourhoods. Adult women make up the largest group of sex trafficking victims, followed by female children, although a small percentage of men and boys are also trafficked into the sex industry. (http://www.soroptimist.org/trafficking/faq.html#2)

### 3.4 Child slavery

Child slavery denotes all child labour from individuals under the age of 18 by means of force or deception. Children can be enslaved in debt bondage, forced labour, prostitution, armies, domestic work and other forms of hazardous work. Today, forced child labour exists in nearly every industry around the globe. (http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/five-forms-of-slavery)

Despite the fact that many people believe that slavery no longer exists, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that there are 8.4 million children in slavery or practices similar to slavery.

This group of children includes:

- Children who are used by others who profit from them, often through violence, abuse and threats, in prostitution or pornography: forced begging, petty theft, and the drug trade;
- Forced child labour, for example in agriculture, factories, construction, brick kilns, mines, bars, restaurants or tourists environment;
Children who are forced to take part in armed conflicts. They do not only include child soldiers but also porters or girls taken as "wives" for the soldiers and militia members. There are about 300,000 child soldiers involved in over 30 areas of conflict worldwide, some even younger than 10 years old. Children involved in conflict are severely affected by their experiences and can suffer from long-term traumas;

- Child domestic workers, many of whom are forced to work long hours in hazardous and often abusive environments, for little or no pay, and often far from home.

There are 215 million child labourers aged between 5 and 17 years old. Around 115 million children work in the worst forms of child labour (ILO 2010). Worldwide, 8.4 million children are in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and other forms of forced labour, forced recruitment for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities (ILO 2002). (http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/child_slavery/default.aspx)

### 3.5 Domestic servitude

In this type of slavery, slaves are forced to work in extremely hidden workplaces, like private homes. Domestic workers become slaves when their employer uses fraud or force to control or convince an employee that they have no choice but to continue working for them. Isolating environments, unfamiliar languages, hidden travel documents and restricted mobility are often connected to this form of slavery. (http://freedomcenter.org/enabling-freedom/five-forms-of-slavery)

Domestic work is a sector which is particularly vulnerable to forms of exploitation such as forced labour, trafficking, and bonded labour due to the unique circumstances of working inside a private household combined with a lack of legal protection.

Domestic workers perform a range of tasks in private homes including: cooking, cleaning, laundry, taking care of children and the elderly, and running errands. Some domestic workers also live in their employers’ homes and are often considered ‘on call’ to undertake work for their employer 24 hours per day.
For some domestic workers, the circumstances and conditions of their work amount to forced labour: where employers have forbidden them from leaving the home; withheld or not paid wages; used violence or threats of violence; withheld their passports or identity documents; limited their ability to have contact with family; or deceived them about their rights in order to compel them to work.

The pay is often very low, with wage payments being frequently delayed. Some domestic workers may not be paid at all or only receive 'payment' such as food or accommodation.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that at least 52.6 million men and women work as domestic workers across the world, as well as 7.4 million children below the age of 15.

Women and girls make up the overwhelming majority of domestic workers worldwide, although in some countries a significant number of men and boys are also domestic workers. ILO estimates that more girls under the age of 16 work in domestic service than in any other category of child labour.

In many countries, domestic workers are not considered as 'workers' but as informal 'help' and are excluded from the national labour regulations. Often they do not enjoy the same protections as other members of the workforce, such as minimum pay, social security, and maternity benefits. In countries where domestic workers are covered by the national labour laws, enforcement is poor and these protective measures have not been translated into practice. ([http://www.antislavery.org/slavery_today/domestic_work_and_slavery/default.aspx](http://www.antislavery.org/slavery_today/domestic_work_and_slavery/default.aspx))

### 3.6 Forced marriage

A forced marriage can be regarded as a form of slavery if one of the parties, usually the female, is subject to violence, threats, intimidation and required to engage in sexual activity and perform domestic duties and other work without any personal control. The customs of bride price and dowry that exist in many parts of the world, can lead to buying and selling people into marriage. Forced marriages continue to be practiced in parts of the world such as South Asia, East Asia and Africa. Forced marriages may also occur in immigrant
communities in Europe, United States, Canada and Australia. Marriage by abduction occurs in many places in the world today, with a national average of 69% of marriages in Ethiopia being through abduction.

Slavery is no longer legally protected anywhere in the world, but the control and exploitation of one human being by another still remains. (http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/descent_based_slavery_2/default.aspx)
4. HISTORY OF SLAVERY

Rome was once the largest and most beautiful city of the ancient world but its magnificence could not hide the seeds of collapse: an unhealthy dependence on slave-ownership economy, the differences between rich and poor. Behind rich forums there were the poorest districts from which there was no way out because of the lack of jobs. To keep the citizens obedient games and spectacles were maintained. At the beginning just racing chariots; later on began the cruel gladiator combats to death. Earlier in Roman history, the power was held in the hands of only the elected representatives, which made up for some combination of oligarchy and democracy. However, soon all the functions of the government were taken over by the emperor, who was then above the law and the government decree. It is amazing that a civilized nation like the Romans, with the most human legal system ever devised, could tolerate violence against other human beings. This imbalance and the irresponsible behaviour of the public officials will become the main reason for the final fall of Rome.

Five thousand years ago, the Sumerians in Mesopotamia forced their prisoners to cultivate the land as slaves. This meant that the workers had no rights or salary, and that their masters held them as their personal property. In the ancient times slavery culminated in the Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. The slaves produced most goods and worked as servants in households. Slave freedom varied from country to country. While somewhere slaves had the right to marry and start a family, they were deprived of such freedom elsewhere.

With the appearance of feudalism in the Middle Ages, a new form of slavery emerged. Those new slaves were called serfs and their position was in many ways different from the classical slaves. They were farmers, who worked for their owners, and since at that time the agriculture was the most important branch of the economy, many states were dependent upon their work. They were not treated as slaves but as wage workers which manufactured
goods, in this case for their master, but also retained a part for themselves, while their master gave them a portion of his property on which they could operate.

The discovery of America and the beginning of the new century opened a whole new market, the country of new opportunities for all, including slave masters and slave traders, who saw an enormous potential in the new continent and started the practice that would result in centuries of slave exploitation and mark the United States as a country with a dark past, based on racism and slave labour. During the 16th century, European nations began colonizing the Americas and bringing in thousands of Africans to work as slaves on plantations and in silver mines. Between 1500s and 1800s, the Europeans transported about 12 million slaves from their countries into the new colonies. (Ball, 2000)

In the 19th century in the United States and Britain appeared various movements against slavery. Finally, in the 1850s, slavery in the British Empire and the United States (1865) was abolished or cancelled. (McDougall, 2010)

4.1 Ancient slavery

Slavery was the foundation of the economy and the development of some ancient cultures. It is believed that the first signs of slavery appeared in Mesopotamia, with the development of agriculture, about 10,000 years BC. Agriculture requested the labour force, the ideal for which were war prisoners and civilians kidnapped during the war. Other sources of slaves were criminals and people who were not able to pay off their debts. After Mesopotamia, slavery was beginning to spread more, especially in the ancient Greece and Rome, where it performed in full power. (Hornsby, 1999)

4.2 Middle ages

Ancient slavery disappeared almost completely in late 10th century and was replaced by new forms, especially serfdom. It did not disappear overnight; this process had lasted for centuries and was the result of many military, political and economic factors, slave rebellion and religious impacts. (McKay, 1997)
Although medieval slavery is without a doubt based on the impact and the legacy of antiquity, there is no significant difference between a Roman slave from the first century BC and a Dubrovnik slave 1,500 years later. In the Middle Ages, the slaves quit to be the basis and became the extra workforce. Employees were usually domestic servants in the homes of their masters, where they performed various jobs and often worked on ships as carriers or paddlers. Middle Ages are characterized by feudalism and feudal social relations.

The essential difference between slavery and serfdom is that the serfs, unlike previous slaves, were considered as human beings. It was not legal to fight and punish them and they were permitted to marry, have children and possess the land. Nevertheless, they had little freedom, but still more than the ancient slaves. (McKay, 1997)

Although the period of Greek antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages is approximately two thousand years long, the basic economic structure of Western civilization changed a bit during that time. And the Greek Antiquity and European feudalism were characterized by small, isolated, self-sufficient economy with little capital and relatively small production. At the level of the basic production, serfdom was akin to slavery, except for the legal difference wherein the serfs did not assign proprietary rights over their own bodies. In fact, the serfs were tied up to the country, whoever was the owner, and the slaves belonged to a particular owner, whether or not a landowner. (Ekelund, Hébert, 1990)
5. TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The transatlantic slave trade connected the economies of three continents: Europe, Africa and the continents of the New World; North and South America. As the Native Americans were considered "savages" and were harder to enslave and engage them in forced labour, the European invaders increasingly imported African blacks as slaves to perform the most difficult jobs. The Atlantic slave trade or transatlantic slave trade took place across the Atlantic Ocean from the 16th through to the 19th century. The vast majority of the enslaved and transported to the New World were West Africans from the central and western parts of the continent, sold by the western Africans to western European slave traders, or by direct European capture to the Americas. Far more slaves were taken to South America than to the North America. The South Atlantic economic system centred on producing commodity crops; making goods and clothing to sell in Europe, and increasing the numbers of African slaves brought to the New World. (Wyatt, 2009)

It is estimated between 25-30 million people, men, women and children were deported from their homes and sold as slaves in different slave trading systems. In the transatlantic slave trade alone it is believed that the number of the deported slaves was approximately 17 million. These figures exclude those who died aboard the ships.
The trade proceeded in three steps which can be seen in Picture 2. The ship left the Western Europe for Africa loaded with goods which were to be exchanged for slaves. Upon the arrival in Africa, the captains traded the merchandise for slaves. Weapons and gun powder were the most important commodities, but textiles, pearls and other manufactured goods, as well as rum, were also in high demand. The exchange could last from one week to several months. The second step was crossing of the Atlantic. Before the journey, the slaves were chained, beaten and sealed with a hot iron. Africans were transported to America to be sold throughout the continent. The third step connected America to Europe. The slave traders brought back mostly agricultural products, produced by the slaves. The main product was
sugar, followed by cotton, coffee, tobacco and rice. Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, England and France, were the main triangular trading countries. (http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/dialogue/the-slave-route/transatlantic-slave-trade/)

6. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States in the 19th century progressed to be the most developed country in the world. In the first half of the 19th century to America came a wave of the white population seeking for a livelihood. This white population densely settled the eastern coast of the United States and began to settle in the interior. The United States in different ways spread to the west and at the end of the American - Mexican War, 1846 -1848, received its present shape - from Florida east to California in the west. (Mills, Bowman, 2003)

6.1 Slavery in the United States

The United States had a big internal problem that prevented their economic development. In the territory of the United States, the slavery order from the times of discovery of America was preserved, so the United States had two economic systems. In the North the evolved capitalism and there was a very fast appearance of the factories. Foundation of all was hired labour. On the South remained the agriculture and there developed huge plantations where wage labour was not used, but the advantage of free labour provided by black slaves. The existence of these two systems had obstructed the development of the internal market. North and South were economically isolated. North had nobody to sell their industrial products. Slaves in the South did not receive payment for their work, and the plantation owners were buying practically everything in England because they exported all their cotton there. So the exchange between North and South almost did not exist. South was more connected to the Great Britain’s economy than with the American North. (Craven, 1957)

Slavery in the United States already existed for a hundred years before the founding of the state in 1776 and until the end of the American Civil War in 1865. First English colony of
North America, Virginia, obtained its first black slaves in 1619. That was the beginning of a long practice of slavery in the United States. Slavery spread to areas of high soil quality, which was suitable for large plantations of tobacco, cotton, sugar or coffee. Slaves performed physical maintenance and harvesting of the crops. In the early 19th century, most slaveholders and their slaves were located in the south of the United States, where slaves made up to one third of the total population and two thirds of the total number of slaves in America. (Rodriguez, 2007)

6.1.1 Foundations of slavery

Slavery in America began when the first African slaves were brought to the North American colony of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, to help in the production of lucrative crops such as tobacco. In this city, tobacco factory operated very well and exported 10 tons of tobacco to Europe. Encouraged by this success, Virginia and Maryland legalized slavery that has become a foundation of the southern agricultural economy. (Rodriguez, 2007)

Slavery was practiced throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, and African-American slaves helped to build the economic foundations of the new nation.

Table 1 Slave Population of Southern States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>1800</th>
<th>1810</th>
<th>1820</th>
<th>1830</th>
<th>1840</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1860</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>47,449</td>
<td>117,640</td>
<td>252,532</td>
<td>342,944</td>
<td>425,080</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>19,935</td>
<td>47,100</td>
<td>111,115</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>6,153</td>
<td>4,177</td>
<td>4,509</td>
<td>3,292</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>2,290</td>
<td>1,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>25,717</td>
<td>39,310</td>
<td>61,745</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>59,699</td>
<td>105,219</td>
<td>149,656</td>
<td>217,531</td>
<td>200,944</td>
<td>281,622</td>
<td>452,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>40,343</td>
<td>60,561</td>
<td>126,732</td>
<td>165,213</td>
<td>182,258</td>
<td>210,961</td>
<td>225,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>69,064</td>
<td>109,588</td>
<td>168,452</td>
<td>244,809</td>
<td>331,726</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>105,615</td>
<td>111,502</td>
<td>107,398</td>
<td>102,994</td>
<td>89,737</td>
<td>90,363</td>
<td>87,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>32,814</td>
<td>65,659</td>
<td>195,211</td>
<td>306,878</td>
<td>436,631</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>10,222</td>
<td>25,096</td>
<td>58,240</td>
<td>87,422</td>
<td>114,931</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>133,296</td>
<td>168,824</td>
<td>205,017</td>
<td>245,601</td>
<td>245,817</td>
<td>288,549</td>
<td>331,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>146,151</td>
<td>196,365</td>
<td>251,783</td>
<td>315,401</td>
<td>327,038</td>
<td>384,984</td>
<td>402,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>13,584</td>
<td>44,535</td>
<td>80,107</td>
<td>141,603</td>
<td>183,059</td>
<td>239,459</td>
<td>275,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>58,161</td>
<td>182,566</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>346,671</td>
<td>392,518</td>
<td>425,153</td>
<td>469,757</td>
<td>449,087</td>
<td>472,528</td>
<td>490,865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.americanhistoryrules.com
It is impossible to give the accurate figures, but some historians have estimated that 6 to 7 million slaves were imported to the New World during the 18th century alone, depriving the African continent. In the 17th and 18th centuries, black slaves worked mainly on the tobacco, sugar, rice and indigo plantations of the southern coast.

Slavery was never widespread in the North, but many of the region’s businessmen got rich on the slave trade and investments in southern plantations. Between 1774 and 1804, all of the northern states abolished slavery. Even though the U.S. Congress outlawed the African slave trade in 1808, the domestic trade flourished, and the slave population in the U.S. nearly tripled over the next 50 years as shown in Table 1. More than half of them were living in the cotton-producing states of the South. (http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)

6.1.2 The treatment of slaves

Most slaves lived on large farms or small plantations. Many masters owned less than 50 slaves. Slave owners made their slaves completely dependent on them. They were prohibited from learning to read and write, and their behaviour and movement was restricted. Many masters took sexual liberties with enslaved women, and rewarded obedient slaves with favours, while rebellious slaves were brutally punished. Slave marriages had no legal basis, but slaves did marry and raise large families. Most slave owners encouraged this practice, but did not hesitate to break apart slave families by sale or removal. (http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)

The treatment of slaves in the United States was usually characterized with brutality, degradation and inhumanity as shown in Picture 3. Scourging, executions and rape were a common appearance. As in all things, there were some exceptions as well. Everything varied, depending on the owner. There were brutal sadists who tortured and punished their slaves every day and there were people who politely referred to their slaves (mostly on smaller economies). There were black slaves who hired white workers, slaves - doctors who treated white patients from the upper classes and the slaves who rented their work. Slaves were usually deprived of the opportunity to learn to read and write in order to
prevent the desire for escape or revolt because of what they have learned. Medical help was provided to them mainly by other slaves or slaveholding family members.

![Picture 3 The scars from whippings](https://en.wikipedia.org)

The most common forms of punishment were flogging, mutilation, burning, hanging, and in some cases it was simply a prison sentence. Slaves were punished for various reasons. Partly, this was due to slow work, running away from plantations, neglecting work and stealing. Slavery in the United States included frequent slave rapes. (Ramsay, 1784)

Many female slaves have tried to defend themselves and many have died by doing so, while others remained with psychological effects from the attacks. Sexual abuse of a slave is partly rooted in the patriarchal southern culture that treats all women, both black and white women as property or movable property. Sexual relations between men and women, black race men and white females were unacceptable and often sanctioned, while the same relations between a white man and a black woman were accepted and a common appearance. After several generations, there were many descendants of mixed race
(mulatto) kept in captivity. At the same time, southern society strictly prohibited sexual relationships between white women and men black race to protect the racial purity. (Finkelman, 2002)

In the beginning, slaves had no rights and their conditions were far below average. In 1740, these conditions partially improved by prohibiting work on Sundays, and working time being limited to a maximum of 15 hours per day in summer and 14 hours a day in winter. Usually the owners gave their slaves small bonuses for Christmas, and some owners even allowed their slaves to keep the profit made by gambling. It is known a case of a slave Denmark Vesey who won $1,500 in 1799 in the lottery and bought his freedom.

Slavery, as a very important institution, required certain laws. Slave laws were laws of each state defining the status of slaves and slave owners’ rights. These regulations gave slave holders absolute authority over the African slaves. (Egerton, 2004)

In 1811, Arthur William Hodge was the first slave owner executed for murdering a slave in the British West Indies (the present day Caribbean Islands). But he was not the first who had been lawfully executed for the murder of slaves. Records show at least two cases that occurred before that. In 1739 in Williamsburg (Virginia), two whites, Charles Quin and David White, were hanged for the murder of a male slave. In 1775, William Pitman was also hanged due to the murder of his own slave. (Hodge, Belisario, 1812)

However, laws brought to punish the whites for punishing their slaves were generally poorly implemented and could easily be avoided.

6.1.3 Cotton gin

In the late 18th century, the South faced an economic crisis, and the continued growth of slavery in America seemed uncertain. Around the same time, the textile industry in England led to a huge demand for the American cotton, a southern crop whose production was unfortunately limited by the difficult task of manually removing the seeds from raw cotton fibre. In 1793, a young schoolteacher Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a simple mechanized device that efficiently removed the seeds. His device was widely copied, and
within a few years the South would transition from the large-scale production of tobacco to that of cotton. (http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)

Before Whitney’s gin entered into widespread use, the United States produced roughly 750,000 bales of cotton, in 1830. By 1850, that amount had exploded to 2.85 million bales. This production was concentrated almost exclusively in the South, because of the weather conditions needed for the plant to grow. Faster processing of cotton with the gin made it profitable for landowners to establish large cotton plantations across the South. But harvesting cotton remained a very labour-intensive undertaking. Bigger cotton farms meant the need for a larger number of slaves. The slave population in the United States increased nearly five-fold in the first half of the 19th century, and by 1860, the South provided about two-thirds of the world’s cotton supply. Picture 4 shows slaves working on the cotton plantation. Southern wealth was completely dependent on slave-labour. (http://www.civilwar.org/resources/civil-war-history-how-the.html)

![Slaves working on the cotton plantation](http://theoryrepublic.files.wordpress.com)

Source: [http://theoryrepublic.files.wordpress.com](http://theoryrepublic.files.wordpress.com)

### 6.1.4 Abolition movement
Before the official abolition of slavery in 1865, there was a movement that fought for the same goal, called the abolitionist movement. Abolitionists were fighters against slavery system and their goal was the abolition of the slave trade and liberation of all slaves.

From the 1830s to the 1860s, the movement gained strength in the northern United States. It was led by free blacks such as Frederick Douglass and their white supporters such as William Lloyd Garrison, founder of the radical newspaper The Liberator, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, who published the bestselling antislavery novel "Uncle Tom’s Cabin" (1852).

Free blacks and other antislavery Northerners were helping the fugitive slaves escape from Southern plantations to the North through a loose network of safe houses as early as in the 1780s. This practice is known as the Underground Railroad. It gained a real momentum in the 1830s and it may have helped anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 slaves to reach freedom. The success of the Underground Railroad helped to spread abolitionist feelings in the North. It also increased some sectional tensions, convincing pro-slavery Southerners of their Northern countrymen’s determination to defeat the institution that sustained them. (http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)

In 1807, the British had already banned the import of African slaves in their colonies, and the United States followed their example and banned the importation of slaves in 1808. In Britain, slavery was entirely abolished in 1833, while in the United States the abolition was achieved very hard in 1865, after four years of the Civil War. (Ferrell, 2006)

6.1.5 American Civil War

Only 80 years after the unification and gaining independence from England, the American country made war with each other and seriously threatened the survival of the union. The war lasted from 1861 to 1865, and was led due to several disputes, among which was the question of slavery. In the Northern states slavery was forbidden, while in the South it was still allowed. The reason for the war was the election of Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860. Lincoln tried to stop the spread of slavery and hoped that it would disappear in the South. But the Southern states did not accept these proposals, and they broke from the
alliance and established a confederation of the American States led by President Jefferson Davis. South Carolina was the first country to declare secede (late 1860), and was soon followed by Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas (beginning of 1861). (Večernji list d.d., 2009)

The war shown in Picture 5 began in April 1861. It was very cruel and by the 1865, a great part of the Southern states was completely devastated. South suffered great human and material damage. Due to heavy losses on both sides (more than 600,000 dead) and brutality unseen by that time in which the war was led (including losses of the civilian population and the destruction of personal property) Civil War became deeply buried in the consciousness of the Americans. After the war first trial in history against war criminals was held (to southern commanders from prison camps).

In September 1862, Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation, and on January 1 1863, he made it official that "slaves within any State, or designated part of a State in rebellion, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free". (http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery)
The 13th Amendment, adopted late in 1865, officially abolished slavery. Former slaves received the rights of citizenship and the "equal protection" of the Constitution in the 14th Amendment (1868), and the right to vote in the 15th (1870), but the provisions of Constitution were often ignored or violated, and it was difficult for former slaves to gain a foothold in the post-war economy thanks to restrictive black codes and regressive contractual arrangements such as sharecropping.

The United States after the war rapidly industrialized and became the world's leading superpower. After the winning of the North slavery was prohibited in all States, but hostility between the North and South continued to smoulder for years.

6.2 Slavery and racism

It is commonly assumed that racism is as old as the human society itself. As long as human beings have been around, they have always hated or feared people of a different nation or skin colour. In other words, racism is a part of human nature. Racism is a particular form of oppression. It stems from discrimination against a group of people based on the idea that some inherited characteristic, such as skin colour, makes them inferior to their oppressors.

In a society that treated human beings as property, enslaved people could have no expectation of maintaining even the deepest, most elemental human connections. To the dominant culture, absolutely nothing about the life of black people was sacred. They were human beings, and the desire for personal integrity, the impulse to create and maintain a family life, to build a community and be a part of it, and to express spirituality in some manner were as present within the community of slaves as in all other human societies. It is significant that it was black people who were treated with such inhumanity. For American slavery was racially based, and sought to stamp an entire race of people with a mark of inferiority. Slavery nurtured not just "un freedom," it promoted and sustained a doctrine of

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3 The Black Codes were laws passed by Southern states in 1865 and 1866, after the Civil War. These laws had the intent and the effect of restricting African Americans' freedom and of compelling them to work in a labour economy based on low wages or debt.

4 Sharecropping is a system of agriculture in which a landowner allows a tenant to use the land in return for a share of the crops produced on the land.
white supremacy that has outlasted this peculiar institution\textsuperscript{5} itself. But slavery was a method of organizing labour to produce sugar, tobacco and cotton. It was not, first and foremost, a system for producing white supremacy.

Slavery was not born out of racism: rather, racism was the consequence of slavery. While slavery existed as an economic system for thousands of years before the conquest of America, racism as we know it today did not exist. The concepts of "race" and racism" are modern inventions. In the United States, the Civil War abolished slavery and struck a great blow to racism. Racism itself was not abolished. On the contrary, just as racism was created to justify colonial slavery, racism as an ideology was refashioned. It no longer justified the enslavement of blacks, but it justified the second-class status for blacks as wage labourers and sharecroppers. Racism also remained one of the main ways that the ruling class used to keep blacks and white workers divided. So racism is not part of some unchanging human nature; it was literally invented. (http://www.isreview.org/issues/26/roots_of_racism.shtml)

Slavery and racism were inextricably entwined. Although many are not willing to say it out loud (except for the most racist members of society), the quiet assumption will remain that whites are naturally in power and blacks are naturally out of it. The argument is that this minimizes the evil of slavery and obscures the guilt of slave owners who, by the very nature of their society, had the power of life and death over the enslaved.

One of the most ironic aspects of the modern view of slavery is that some black Americans were forced to feel ashamed of their ancestors' condition, when it is so clear that it is not black people who have anything to be ashamed of. They did the best they could with what they had. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/01/0131_030203_jubilee2.html)

6.3 Slavery builds economy

African people were captured and transported to the Americas to work. Most European colonial economies in the Americas from the 16\textsuperscript{th} through the 19\textsuperscript{th} century were dependent

\textsuperscript{5}"(Our) peculiar institution" was a euphemism for slavery and the economic ramifications of it in the American South. The meaning of "peculiar" in this expression is "one's own", that is, referring to something distinctive to or characteristic of a particular place or people.
on enslaved African labour for their survival. More than half of the enslaved African captives in the Americas were employed on sugar plantations. They also worked on cotton, rice, indigo and tobacco plantations. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/01/0131_030203_jubilee2.html)

Slavery played a critical role in the economic development. One crop, slave-grown cotton provided over half of all U.S. export earnings. By 1840, the South grew 60 percent of the world's cotton and provided some 70 percent of the cotton consumed by the British textile industry. Slavery also paid for a substantial share of the capital, iron, and manufactured good that laid the basis for American economic growth. In addition, precisely because the South specialized in cotton production, the North developed a variety of businesses that provided services for the slave-owning South, including textile factories, a meat processing industry, insurance companies, shippers, and cotton brokers.

Slavery was an economically efficient system of production, adaptable to tasks ranging from agriculture to mining, construction, and factory work. Furthermore, slavery was capable of producing enormous amounts of wealth.

On the eve of the Civil War, the slave South had achieved a level of per capita\(^6\) wealth not matched by Spain or Italy until the eve of World War II or by Mexico or India until 1960. As late as the 1850s, the slave system in the United States was expanding and slave owners were confident about the future. When the North waged war on slavery, it was not because it had overcome racism; rather, it was because Northerners in increasing numbers identified their society with progress and viewed slavery as an intolerable obstacle to innovation, moral improvement, free labour, and commercial and economic growth. (http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/slavery-and-anti-slavery/resources/was-slavery-engine-american-economic-growth)

During the colonial period in the United States, tobacco was the dominant slave-produced commodity. Concentrated in Virginia and Maryland, tobacco plantations utilized the largest

\(^6\)Per capita income, also known as income per person, is the mean income of the people in an economic unit such as a country or city. It is calculated by taking a measure of all sources of income in the aggregate (such as GDP or Gross national income) and dividing it by the total population.
percentage of enslaved Africans imported into the United States prior to the American Revolution. The American Revolution cost Virginia and Maryland their principal European tobacco markets, and for a brief period of time after the Revolution, the future of slavery in the United States was in jeopardy. Most of the northern states abolished it, and even Virginia debated abolition in the Virginia Assembly.

The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 gave slavery a new life in the United States. Between 1800 and 1860, slave-produced cotton expanded from South Carolina and Georgia to the newly colonized lands west of the Mississippi. This shift of the slave economy from the upper South (Virginia and Maryland) to the lower South was accompanied by a comparable shift of the enslaved African population to the lower South and West. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/01/0131_030203_jubilee2.html)

Cotton exports alone constituted 50-60 percent of the value of the nation's total exports, helping to pay for imports from abroad. And slave labour provided the raw material for New England's textile mills, helping to stimulate the nation's early industrialization. Slave-produced commercial crops required a host of middlemen to sell and transport them to markets as well as to finance and supply the slave-owning planters. Southern cities such as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, Memphis and northern ports such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia depended heavily on the southern trade. Northern farmers and manufacturers found ready markets for their products in southern towns and cities, but especially on the southern plantations. (http://faculty.weber.edu/kmackay/economics%20of%20slavery.asp)

By 1850, 1.8 million of the 2.5 million enslaved Africans employed in agriculture in the United States were working on cotton plantations.

Each plantation economy was part of a larger national and international political economy. The cotton plantation economy is generally seen as part of the regional economy of the American South. By the 1830s, "cotton was king" indeed in the South. It was also king in

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7New England comprises six states of the North-eastern United States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.
the United States, which was competing for economic leadership in the global political economy. Plantation-grown cotton was the foundation of the antebellum southern economy. But the American financial and shipping industries were also dependent on slave-produced cotton, and so was the British textile industry. Cotton was not shipped directly to Europe from the South. It was shipped to New York and then transhipped to England and other centres of cotton manufacturing in the United States and Europe.

As the cotton plantation economy expanded throughout the southern region, banks and financial houses in New York supplied the loan capital and/or investment capital to purchase land and slaves.

Enslaved Africans in the United States also became an important economic and political capital in the American political economy. Enslaved Africans were legally a form of property commodity. Individually and collectively, they were frequently used as collateral in all kinds of business transactions. They were also traded for other kinds of goods and services.

The value of the investments slaveholders held in their slaves was often used to secure loans to purchase additional land or slaves. Slaves were also used to pay off outstanding debts. When calculating the value of estates, the estimated value of each slave was included. This became the source of tax revenue for local and state governments. Taxes were also levied on slave transactions.

Politically, the U.S. Constitution incorporated a feature that made enslaved Africans political capital; to the benefit of southern states. The so-called three-fifths compromise allowed the southern states to count their slaves as three-fifths of a person for purposes of calculating states' representation in the U.S. Congress. Thus the balance of power between slaveholding and non-slaveholding states turned, in part, on the three-fifths presence of enslaved Africans in the census.

Slaveholders were taxed on the same three-fifths principle, and no taxes paid on slaves supported the national treasury. In sum, the slavery system in the United States was a
national system that touched the very core of its economic and political life. (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/01/0131_030203_jubilee2.html)

Slavery did not end in America overnight. People first needed to see that the economic benefit was overshadowed by the repugnance, immorality and inhumanity of slavery. (http://www.ushistory.org/us/12a.asp)

6.4 Impact of slavery

The long-term economic exploitation of millions of black slaves was to have a profound effect on the New World's history. Most fundamentally, it produced deep social divides between the rich white and poor black communities, the consequences of which still haunt American societies now, many years after emancipation.

The divide was reinforced by the determination to segregate black and white communities and discourage intermarriage, and by the reluctance to liberate black people from slavery from one generation to the next. This contrasted with the experiences of African slaves who were sent to the Middle East, where both intermarriage and slave liberation were more common.

One of the most outstanding results of the slave trade are large numbers of people of African descent living in the Americas, which strongly affects the demographics and culture of many countries and is a very positive factor in these dire circumstances: the creativity with which, gradually, the black communities of the Americas developed new identities, drawing on a combination of African tradition, encounters with European culture, and experiences in the New World. For all the miseries of the slave years, this would prove to be a great enrichment of cultural life, and would contribute to the global culture of modern times. (http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history riches-misery-the-consequences-the-atlantic-slave-trade)

According to the US Census Bureau in the USA live 38.6 million African Americans, who make up 12.3% of the total population. Of these, 58.4%, according to the census from 2000, live in the American South. However, 88% of all African Americans also live in
large cities, so in some of them, like Gary, Detroit, Atlanta, Memphis and Washington DC, make up the majority. (http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afroamerikanci)

7. MODERN DAY SLAVERY

In some countries in the early 20th century, slavery was still legal. For example, in Morocco it ended in the 1930s, while in Saudi Arabia it lasted up to 1970. Slavery apparently disappeared throughout the world during the 20th century, but the truth is that slavery, stripped of its legal nature, went underground and still exists. It is believed that in Croatia there were one to two thousand slaves. (Bales, 2005)

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. It is an international crime involving a substantial number of source and transit countries. Organised crime groups systematically exploit large numbers of individuals by forcing and coercing them into a life of abuse and degradation. (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/328096/Modern_slavery_booklet_v12_WEB__2_.pdf)

Almost 30 million people live in modern slavery around the world, and the worst is the situation in Mauritania, Haiti and Pakistan, while Croatia is number 61 on the list, as shown on the global index of slavery which ranked 162 countries on the basis of the number of people living in slavery, the risk of slavery and effective government measures to combat slavery.

Walk Free Foundation first announced the global index of slavery with top positions occupied by countries where the problem is widespread. Mauritania has the highest percentage of people living in slavery in relation to the total population, while the top 10 belong to Haiti, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Moldova, Benin, Ivory Coast, Gambia and Gabon.

Mauritania has only 3.8 million inhabitants and it is estimated that in this country in modern slavery is between 140,000 to 160,000 people.

In Croatia which shared the 61st place with Poland and Slovakia, between 15 and 16 thousand people in contemporary slavery lives according to Walk Free Foundation. Among
the neighbouring countries, Montenegro has the lowest rank, which is at the position 53, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia share the 59th place, Slovenia is 67th, while the best is Macedonia with the 80th place, according to the results published on the Walk Foundation website.

In 10 countries there is 76 percent of the 29.8 million people living in slavery, such as Pakistan, India, China, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, UK, Ireland and Iceland, which are at the bottom of the list, are the least problematic. (http://www.glasistre.hr/vijesti/svijet/moderno-ropstvo-najgore-u-mauretaniji-hrvatska-61--426873, 2013)

7.1 Human trafficking

Human trafficking, among others things, represents a form of population migration. Two cases of irregular migration are trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. It is important to distinguish between these two offenses.

Internationally recognized definition of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants can be found in the United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish human trafficking, especially women and children, and in the Protocol of the United Nations against smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air. Trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants are defined:

"Human trafficking" means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat or using force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a vulnerability of position or giving or receiving of funds to the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploiting minimally involves the use of a person for purposes of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or indentured slavery or trade in organs.
"Smuggling of migrants" shall mean the commission for the purpose of direct or indirect financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a foreign country of which the person is not a citizen or a permanent resident.

It is difficult to determine the difference between trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Many victims of human trafficking begin their journey as smuggled migrants, and then after crossing the border continue to work for the traffickers to pay off the high cost of smuggling. (Aronowitz, 2009)

The term "human trafficking" is not considered as just trading people, transporting them across the border and selling them in another country, but it can also mean coercion and retention of people in forced labour with various threats. Victims are usually subjected to physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats and even death. (Joshel, 2010)

Nobody knows the exact figures when it comes to human trafficking, but it is assumed to be somewhere from 600 up to 800,000 people, mostly women and children sold abroad each year, and millions more are trafficked within their own countries.

Europe is faced with an increase of illegal migration and it is believed that each year 400,000 people from Africa, the Middle East and Asia illegally enters Europe. It is believed that since 2000, around 850,000 illegal immigrants arrived to the United States. Many of the mentioned immigrants pay smugglers to carry them across the border and cannot be considered as victims of trafficking, but very often those who use the services of smugglers, become victims of human trafficking quickly after crossing the border. (Shelley, 2010)

 Trafficking in human beings, unlike the former slavery, is in most cases limited to certain countries and regions. But victims of trafficking often travel to distant destinations where there is a great demand for cheap labour and sexual services, which is similar to former long journey of slaves in the global slave trade.

There are tourist trips that are organized in the richer countries of Western Europe, USA and Japan, where customers are allowed to travel in underdeveloped Asian countries so that there they can use sexual services of women and teenage girls (which is illegal in all developed countries), victims of human trafficking. All arrangements are made through
Internet, so that the client remains anonymous. Currently, 32 countries have extraterritorial laws that allow to prosecute their nationals who engage in such form of tourism, regardless of whether it is punishable in the country in which it operates.

Children are sometimes necessary to perform certain tasks, which is a good opportunity for making money in criminal groups. For example, Nepal children are sold into the carpet factory, because their little fingers allow them to weave intricate designs easily. In Ghana, on the Lake Volta, the children are used for knitting fishing nets. Often the children are trafficked to use them to beg in the streets. Children - beggars often suffer physical violence in the event of non-obtaining a certain amount of money in a day. In India criminals even cripple the children, often with the help by immoral and corrupt medical staff, in order to make them more effective beggars.

Everywhere in the world, the consequences of human trafficking are devastating both for the victims of trafficking, and for the community. The community is a victim because the democratic principle and respect for human rights are threatened. Degradation of women directly threatens their rights in trafficking, especially prostitution. (Shelley, 2010)

7.2 Money and modern slavery

In today's materialistic and superficial world material things give eternal love and happiness so people began to believe that money is the only way out of misery and problems. Most people put "money" as the first priority in their lives and therefore become members of the modern slave system.

It begins with parents who teach their children how to become successful, it continues through an education system that teaches how and who to become in order to succeed in life, and ends with the media. Media has a great influence and great power in terms of the perception manipulation of thought to the masses of people.

Through the media, corporations, banks and the government is determined what is socially acceptable and what is not. All of these four subjects normally work together hand in hand. Banks finance corporations, corporations are lobbying the authorities and politicians, the government controls the bank, or in many cases, as in Croatia, banks are separate from state
control and authority, and guided by collection collective of corporate executives. Corporations own the media, and in this way they can all be brought under the common denominator of "global governing elites" or only "elite".

Modern slavery is driven by the elite, especially the Government, which taxes hard-earned income and uses the proceeds for the benefit of the elite and themselves. They can use a smaller amount of those taxes to invest in the company, but most of these funds are used for their own benefit.

People today are mostly slaves of bankers and their loans. There is hardly a man who is free from that obligation. They are charged with some sort of bank credit, loan or other banking products. Loans and their garnering have launched a worldwide crisis. The global crisis created the world recession. In the emergence of the global crisis people began to lose jobs and their apparent independence. Banks seek theirs without asking. But finding work is getting harder every day so people become slaves of today. Stock changes, currency exchange rates, losses of jobs have caused people to become scared, labile, with a lack of self-confidence and as such ideal slaves.

Picture 6 Modern slavery

The result is that the system leaves less money in people’s pockets, and they must do more to provide the desired amount of money. Due to the economic crisis created in the world by banks this ratio has changed dramatically. Today it can be described in a way that people
have to work more in order to ensure basic conditions of life. All of these drove to eventually borrowing from banks even though they cannot afford it, shown in Picture 6. The result is that the rich are getting richer and the poor are becoming poorer. (http://www.portalsvijesti.com/teme/nwo/novac-i-moderno-ropstvo/)

8. CONCLUSION

Mankind has a long history. At the very beginning of men’s existence, gathering fruits, hunting animals and seeking shelter settled all of its primary and the only requirements. Over time, the need arose to possess additional value, that of material and financial nature. This final paper shows that such thoughts and their implementation into practice were the same in the ancient civilizations as are in today's modern organization in which slavery unfortunately has not disappeared. Slavery has been present from the very beginning of mankind; it has only changed forms.

Probably the most known slavery system is the slavery in America. There is no doubt that it has left great scars in people’s minds even today, because treating another being in such a cruel and beastly way cannot forgotten so easily. It is sad to even think that people actually were slaves; tortured, beaten and disrespected. They were treated like they had no value.

Ironically, in today’s system people are actually the ones who support slavery. They work daily to earn the money needed to pay for their obligations to others, and the money left is spent on the products that are not of vital importance and which in most cases are manufactured in the third world countries by "modern slaves" whose conditions of work today do not differ much from those while slavery was still legal. This system is based on exploitation of the weak by the strong or in this case the exploitation of the poor by the rich. (Brace, 2004)

The biggest culprit for this is today's consumerist lifestyle, where one buys more than they need and by doing so creates profit for the wealthy ruling elite. Modern man consuming modern technology has a lesser need for human companionship, so someone succeeds in
continuing to amass wealth, leaving an apparent picture of happiness and satisfaction, thereby separating people and making them less dangerous.

The only way out is the fact that people need to communicate and realize that slavery was bad back in history and that it is bad today. No banking systems, large corporations, or states can function without financial transactions, purchase and tax payments, but it is absurd to expect the long term exploitation. It is time for people to realize that there must be more equitable distribution of resources and goods. It is time to realize, based on tragic history that all people are made equal; black, white, rich or poor. But something buried so deep in the human conscience is very hard to change.
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