

THE HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION OF "RACE" (ESPECIALLY IN NORTH AMERICA)

- I. 2 sources of racial thought, in its formative period (18th-19th century)
 - A. after-the-fact rationalization of slavery: did racism cause slavery or did slavery cause racism?
 - B. natural science

- II. European views of Africans prior to mass use of slaves in New World colonies
 - A. Before Europeans encountered Africans. (Frederickson: some positive, some negative)
 - B. Africans encountered in Africa through trade, including slave trade (Blum, p. 112: quote from Davidson)
 - C. Africans in the New World colonies, esp. "U.S."

- III. Why did Africans become the sole mass slave labor force in the (N. Am. & Caribbean) colonies? [slaves and indentured servants. Fred: 54]
 - A. Greed vs. racism: where is the morality?

- IV. Development of labor system into "racial" slave labor: degeneration of conditions for the African ancestry group in US colonies

- V. National differences in the treatment of Africans and Native Americans: English, Spanish/Portuguese, French. [see handout comparing English and Iberian systems of slavery]
 - A. differences in how "race" came to be understood, as result of differences in slavery and colonization systems. [see handout comparing English and Iberian with respect to "race"]

- VI. Role of Christian and Enlightenment "universalism" in the development of racial thought. Irony that greater belief in human equality among English than Iberians led to more degraded/less human view of "blacks."

- VII. Role of 18th century natural science. Scientific and religious forms of racism.

- VIII. role of American revolution. Abolition of slave trade in US in 1808.

- IX. Strengthening of slave system in South despite developments in VIII. Invention of cotton gin. When was a defense of slavery produced? How does this relate to issue of justifications of slavery in earlier periods?

- X. What "whiteness" means (Blum: 119)