Slave Trade and the Economic Development of 18th-Century Lancaster

by Melinda Elder

The importance of domestic plantation slavery increased during the 19th century due to the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. Many African states dependent on the international slave trade reoriented their economies towards legitimate commerce worked by slave labor.[3] The medieval slave trade in Europe was mainly to the East and South: the Christian Byzantine Empire and the Muslim World were the destinations, Central and Eastern Europe an important source of slaves.[19] Slavery in medieval Europe was so widespread that the Roman Catholic Church repeatedly prohibited it; or at least the export of Christian slaves to non-Christian lands was prohibited. at, for example, the Council of Koblenz in 922, the Council of London in 1102, and the Council of Armagh in 1171.