

Hist 104, Lecture 07:
New World Economies: Sugar and the Atlantic Slave Trade

“I do not know if coffee and sugar are essential to the happiness of Europe, but I know well that these two products have accounted for the unhappiness of two great regions of the world: America has been depopulated so as to have land on which to plant them; Africa has been depopulated so as to have the people to cultivate them.”

— J.H. Bernardin de Saint Pierre (1773)

0. Keywords

mercantilism, Middle Passage, triangular trade, *asiento*

1. The Economic Logic of an Immoral Trade

- a. Why in America and not in Africa?
- b. Parts to an Answer
- c. The Heart of the Answer

2. Sugar Rush: The Plantation System in World Historical Context

- a. Model mercantilism
- b. Producing consumption, consuming production
- c. The plantation phenomenon as (agro-)industrial revolution?

3. Anatomy of a Sugar Plantation

- a. The land
- b. The structures
- c. The labor

4. The Winners and Losers