A Survey and 5-point Analysis of Modern Day Human Trafficking

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There are several systems in place in society that have created and perpetuated the serious issue of Human Trafficking. These systems include globalization, capitalism, instability, environmental degradation, and colonialism. This essay will focus on these systems and how they have allowed for and contributed to human trafficking.

Human trafficking can be defined as, “the illegal trade in human beings for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor, a modern-day form of slavery” (What-is-human-trafficking, 2011). Human trafficking can take on many different forms such as labor, abuse of domestic workers, compulsory work, etc. These forms of human trafficking may times seem like they do not affect people in a day to day way, but daily choices that consumers make affect human trafficking. Whether it’s the coffee you buy in the morning to jump-start your day or the shoes you wear to walk to work, you could be contributing to the horrific billion-dollar industry of exploiting human beings.

A graph to show the percentages of the different sectors of human trafficking (CJaye, 2007-08).
The term “human trafficking” is a euphemism that hides the horrors of our past. Slavery has been a skeleton in humanity’s closet for some time now and we do not want to have the current history of the world also be contaminated by this atrocity. The truth of the fact is though, that there are more slaves today then there have been at any other point in the world’s history. The Not For Sale Campaign estimates that the current number of people enslaved in the world is 27 million. That is a shocking number considering the fact that there are not many people who are aware of the present issue. (Slavery, 2011).

**Types of Human Trafficking**

One form of human trafficking is through forced labor. Forced labor is another way of saying slavery. For the sake of argument, I will use the term “Slavery” for both the mental and emotional feelings the word provokes. The definition of slavery “is to be controlled by another person or persons so that your will does not determine your life's course, and rewards for your work and sacrifices are not yours to claim” (Slavery and Forced Labor, 2011). Kevin Bales, one of the world’s leading experts in modern day slavery, explains that, “people are enslaved by violence and held against their wills for purposes of exploitation” (Slavery and Forced Labor, 2011).

According to International Labor Organization (ILO), there are eight different kinds of forced labor. These types of forced labor are found all over the world. Some are more common and prolific than others. The first is that the ILO lists is Slavery, which they define as “A physical abduction followed by forced labor” (Types of Forced Labor). This is the most broad of all the types listed by the ILO. The second type listed is “farm and rural debt bondage (Types of Forced Labor)” or as the ILO explains that many
workers in debt for many years because their wages go to paying for all the daily fees (transportation, food, shelter) and have no funds left over to being paying off the debt (Types of Forced Labor).

The third type is closely associated with the latter and is called “bonded labor” (Types of Forced Labor). The ILO explains it by saying that is similar to farm and rural debt, but differs in that the debt holder continues to add more and more debt onto the original loan (Types of Forced Labor). This usually occurs in societies where there is a large gap between the rich (those who can give loans) and the poor (those who rely on loans). The fourth is under the title of people trafficking which is when “Individuals are forced or tricked into going somewhere by someone who will profit from selling them or forcing them to work against their will, most often in sexual trades. Many countries are both ‘origins’ and ‘destinations’ for victims” (Types of Forced Labor). Meaning, not all trafficked people leave their home country.

The fifth is “abuse of domestic workers,” or when “maids and other domestic servants are sold to their employers or bonded to them by debts” (Types of Forced Labor). This is when a domestic job turns into something that is forced instead of something that is chosen. The sixth type of forced labor is prison labor or the “contracting out of prison labor or forcing of prisoners to work for profit-making enterprises” (Types of Forced Labor). While this is self-explanatory, it is also a type of forced labor that isn’t always looked upon as so. Many people never think twice about the prison conditions and the exploitation that goes on within the walls.
The seventh category of forced labor is titled “compulsory work” (Types of Forced Labor) and is when “people are required by law to work on public construction projects such as roads and bridges” (Types of Forced Labor). Just like the sixth category, this one many times gets overlooked because it is more or less condoned by the institution it is found within. The last type of forced labor that the ILO mentions is military labor, which is when “civilians are forced to do work for government authorities or the military” (Types of Forced Labor).

Forced labor is a travesty that is sweeping across the world. Human trafficking has increased tremendously in the past decades, but the media and awareness of the issue haven’t been in the forefront. In 2007, the New York Times wrote an article about the issue in China. The story goes as such:

Su Jinduo and Su Jinpeng, brother and sister, were traveling home by bus from a vacation visit to Qingdao during the Chinese New Year when they disappeared.

Cheated out of their money when they sought to buy a ticket for the final leg of their journey home, they were taken in by a woman who offered them warm shelter and a meal on a cold winter night, and then later a chance to earn enough money to pay their fare by helping her sell fruit. The next thing they knew they were being loaded onto a minibus with several other children and taken to a factory in the next province, where they were pressed into service making bricks. Several days later, the boy, who is 16, escaped along with another boy and managed to reach home, enabling his father to rescue his 18-year-old sister a few days later (French, H. W., 2007).
This story is only one among thousands about the trickery and deceit that goes into exploiting young children for the sake of cheap labor. The New York Times article goes on to explain that the trend swept across central China in large proportions. The article continues by saying that trafficking occurs with people, “as young as 8, who have been forced to work under brutal conditions - scantily clothed, unpaid and often fed little more than water and steamed buns - in the brick kilns of Shanxi Province” (French H. W.).

Many parents are not as lucky as the father in the previous story. Another story features Zhang Xiaoying, a 37 year-old mother, who lost her 15-year-old son in 2007 (French, H. W.). She visited more than 100 brick factories “during a handful of visits to Shanxi Province to search for him. ‘You just could not believe what you saw,’ Zhang said. ‘Some of the kids working at these places were at most 14 or 15 years old’” French, H. W.). She continued he story by saying, “The local police, she said, were unwilling to help. Outside one factory, they demanded bribes” (Parents’ Outrage, n.d.). When she got into the factory she described the scene as this:

We finally got into that place, and I saw people hauling carts of bricks with great difficulty,” Zhang said. “Some of them were very small, and the ropes they pulled left tracks of blood on their shoulders and backs. Others were making bricks, standing by the machines. They had to move the bricks from the belt very quickly, because they were hot and heavy and they could easily get burned or hurt by the machines (French, H.W.).

Another story told in the same article about the horrors within China was about a father named Cai Tianliang. Cai’s son was kidnapped and trafficked to a distant town’s brick factory. After several failed attempts at getting inside the brick factories, Cai finally
convinced the police to let them in. Inside of the “Zhengiie Brick Factory,” Cai found his son. Cai described the reunion:

My son was totally dumb, not even knowing how to cry, or to scream or to call out 'father,' ‘ he said. ‘I burst into tears and held him in my arms, but he had no reaction. He was in rags and had wounds all over his body. Within three months he had lost over 10 kilos,’ or 22 pounds (French, H.W.).

This precious story has both a pain and joy to it. Another story took place more recently, and can be attributed to the popular social networking website called “Twitter.” National Public Radio featured a story back in February of 2011 about a man named Peng Gaofeng and his son Xinle. Gaofeng’s son was taken when he was three years old and reunited with him 3 years later. NPR featured the article about how Gaofeng “crisscrossed China [for three years] searching for [Xinle]” (Lim, L. 2011). and even protested outside the Olympic stadium with a sign that read, “If China can manage to host the Olympics, why can’t my child be found” (Lim, L.)? When his efforts turned void, Gaofeng turned to the Internet: “He blogged and he flooded weibo — the Chinese equivalent of Twitter — with his son's photo” (Lim, L.). He also got help from “Journalist Deng Fei from Phoenix Weekly, who has 100,000 followers on weibo” (Lim, L.). Deng would post pictures of the young boy around the time of big festivals since people would be traveling to the countryside to celebrate (both Deng and Peng believed Xinle had been sold to someone in the countryside).

Around the time of the Chinese New Year in 2011, a internet user recognized the boy in the town of Pizhou. The internet user contacted Peng, who contacted the police, where they then traveled to the town. When Peng arrived he
was nervous that it would be a false alarm, but when he saw a small boy come outside the police station, he immediately burst into tears. The child told the policemen, “That man crying is my dad” (Lim, L.). The emotional response continued when Peng called his wife, crying uncontrollably while saying, “I’ve seen him…It’s our son” (Lim, L.). Peng described the first moments with his son by saying, “I had no words. I just held him and cried. Three years of pain and pressure just exploded. I couldn't speak, I just held him” (Lim, L.). The little boy reacted by saying, “I missed him…I recognized him” (Lim, L.). This amazing story not only gives hope to situations that seem hopeless, but also pays credit to the technology of the present era and how useful it can be to solve global issues.

After reading these powerful stories about the weight of the present day issue, I am now going to analyze 5 systems in society that allow for and contribute to the issue of human trafficking. The analysis of these issues are intended to shed light on the factors that lead to this issue so that human trafficking can be cut off at the source, a solution that will hopefully be sustainable and not temporary.
System #1: Globalization

The first system I will discuss that has allowed for human trafficking to exist and profit in society is capitalist globalization. Globalization is “is the closer integration of the countries and peoples of the world ...brought about by the enormous reduction of costs of transportation and communication, and the breaking down of artificial barriers to the flows of goods, services, capital, knowledge, and people across borders” (Globalization: Definition, 2011). The globalization being referred to in this essay is when developed countries (such as, the United States and Britain) open up trade with less developed countries (such as, Jamaica and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and interrupt their economy by the import of goods and services that take away from the local economy. According to the International Monetary Fund Economic (IMF), “financial globalization and the expansion of world trade have brought substantial benefits to countries around the world” (Globalization: IMF Key Issues, 2011). The IMF goes on to explain that “there is substantial evidence, from countries of different sizes and different regions, that as countries ‘globalize’ their citizens benefit, in the form of access to a wider variety of goods and services, lower prices, more and better-paying jobs, improved health, and higher overall living standards” (Globalization: IMF Key Issues).

While the IMF speaks highly of globalization, the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) says otherwise. The IFG says that, “the benefits of globalization have gone to the few at the exclusion of many” (About The IFG, 2011) meaning that the rich and dominant countries benefit from globalization while the less developed countries...
suffer from this “global connectedness” (About The IFG). Janie Chuang, author of
Beyond a Snapshot: Preventing Human Trafficking in the Global Economy, agrees with
the IFG in saying that “globalization has bred an ever-widening wealth gap between
countries, and between rich and poor communities within countries” (Chuang, J. 2006).
Chuang goes onto say that, “[globalization and the ever-widening gap] has created a spate
of ‘survival migrants’ who seek employment opportunities abroad as a means of survival as
jobs disappear in their countries of origin. The desperate need to migrate for work,
combined with destination countries tightening their border controls (despite a growing
demand for migrant workers), render these migrants highly vulnerable to trafficking”
(Chuang, J.). This vulnerable state that globalization puts less developed countries into
allows for trafficking to happen and one might even say that it encourages trafficking to
occur. Chuang also focuses on how this specifically allows for females to affected in the
sex trafficking industry. Chuang says that, “most portrayals—particularly of sex
trafficking—depict trafficking as an act (or series of acts) of exploitation and violence,
perpetrated by traffickers and suffered by desperate and poverty-stricken victims” (Chuang,
J.), but Chuang challenges that, “the problem of trafficking begins not with the traffickers
themselves, but with the conditions that caused their victims to migrate under circumstances
rendering them vulnerable to exploitation. Human trafficking is but an opportunistic
response to the tension between the economic necessity to migrate…and the politically
motivated restrictions on migration” (Chuang, J.).

Chuang draws attention to the idea that the system set in place by
globalization is causing this forced migration to occur. In order to tackle to issue of
human trafficking, citizens must admit and critically question why people are
moving into or out of that country. Looking specifically at women, they are the most
trafficked. According to Chuang’s research, Radhika Coomaraswamy (the former
U.N. Special Reporter on Violence against Women),
“explains [that] gender discrimination underlying these migratory flows is maintained through the collusion of factors at the market, state, community, and family levels. Women’s role in the market tends to be derived from traditional sex roles and division of labor, e.g., housekeeping, childcare, and other unpaid/underpaid subsistence labor. At the community level, women face discrimination through uneven division of wage labor and salaries, citizenship rights and inheritance rights as well as certain religious and customary practices, which, reinforced by state policies, further entrench and validate the discrimination and perpetuate the cycle of oppression of women” (Chuang, J.).

Coomaraswamy argues that women are trafficked in much higher numbers because of the oppressive factors placed upon them at all levels of society and reinforced upon them by the state and governments—which in turn pressure them to leave their home country to find a better state. This pressure usually leads to their vulnerable situation to be taken advantage of and in turn trafficked into forced labor.
System #2: Capitalism

The root issue of trafficking comes from the idea that human beings are a commodity that can be bought and sold to consumers. Where does this original view of human beings come from? It comes from the very source America thrives off of, the way we make our country’s economics work, and the way we pull ourselves up from our bootstraps: Capitalism. Capitalism is, “an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state” (Capitalism, n.d.). This means that people control the trade and industry aspect of a country and there is little state involvement in regulating those sectors. One of the first critics of capitalism was Karl Marx, a German philosopher, social scientist, historian, and revolutionary. In his famous work, The Communist Manifesto, he explains the relationship between the upper class (the Bourgeois) who own the “means of production” and the working class (the Proletarians) who work for wages. He writes, “the Bourgeois has left no other bond between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous ‘cash payment’” (Marx & Engels, 2008 p. 11). Marx was one of the first to comment on society’s interaction with itself and with the profit sector. He was very critical of the control that the bourgeois had over the economy. He believed that believed that the bourgeois had “resolved personal worth into exchange value, and in place of
numberless indefeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single, unconscionable freedom—free trade” (Marx & Engels, p. 11). Marx is claiming that free trade and the ruling class have taken away personal worth and value from society. He goes onto say that this exploitation has “torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced that family relation to a mere money relation” (Marx & Engels, p. 11). Marx is making a bold statement about the way that capitalism has affected societies that operate out of that mode of production. He makes radical statements that express a love for money to be in much higher value than anything “sentimental” (Marx & Engels).

The root of the capitalist ideology is about the ability to create the most profit and to control the means of production. This ideology has infected the minds of the world and allowed for human beings to be viewed as an opportunity to make a profit. When people are consumed by the desire to make the most profit, they will create a system that allows for the production of goods to be as cheap as possible, no matter who is affected. This is what Marx means when he talks about resolving personal worth into exchange value—human trafficking is exactly that. Marx understood that the capitalist mindset would legitimize humans being reduced to prices and profits. Whether capitalism allows for a corporation to pay employees under minimum wage in order to maximize profits, or it allows for the justifying of modern day slavery, this ideology has pervaded the world and allowed for corruption to be legitimized.
System #3: Instability

When countries experience instability (economically, politically, etc.), it often times creates an environment that puts citizens at risk to be trafficked. On January 10th, 2010 the country of Haiti experienced a 7.0 earthquake that left the country devastated in ruins. This devastation cost the country anywhere from $8 billion to $14 billion and took 316,000 Haitian lives. Conditions before the earthquake were not ideal either. According to the World Bank, “Haiti's economy has declined by an average of 0.2% per year during the 1980s, and shrunk by 0.4% per year in the 1990s” (Schifferes, S. 2004). Additionally, the country’s average per capita is $480 per year and the GDP per capita growth rate is -3.8% (Schifferes, S.).

On top of this economic disaster, President Aristide, who has now fled the country, was a political figure who “didn't have the skill or the will (Schifferes, S.)” to lead Haiti. He initiated several “pyramid investment schemes(Schifferes, S.)” known as “co-operatives” where citizens were sold cars and other valuables because they were convinced by promises of earning 10% interest (Schifferes, S.). In the end, Haitians lost about $200 million dollars after investing in these scams (initiated by their President).

Additionally, Haiti has been highly dependent on foreign aid ($165 million annually), but recently the United States cut off their aid claiming that 70% of the funds were being channeled to corrupt officials. On top of the foreign aid being disproportionately dispersed, the bigger issue in Haiti is that “the huge wealth gap between the impoverished Creole-speaking black majority and the French-speaking
mulattos” has gone unaddressed. The mulattos consist of about 1% of the population, yet they own nearly half the country's wealth (Schifferes, S.).

This economic and political instability on top of the environmental disaster has created vulnerability within Haiti to allow for trafficking to occur. According to Milena Stateva and Nadya Kozhouharova, co-authors of * Trafficking in Women in Bulgaria: A New Stage*, “Economic instability, corruption and the lack of stable institutions and functioning legislation created conditions for the flourishing of organized crime, and the most profitable business proved to be trafficking in persons” (Stateva, M., & Kozhouharova, N. 2004). While this essay is in regards to Bulgaria, the same conclusion can be drawn to most countries that experience these symptoms. In fact, after the earthquake happened in 2010, Unicef warned against adopting any orphans from Haiti after the disaster because they suspected that thousands of children were being trafficked out of the country and reported that some children are being taken from hospitals to be trafficked (Addley, E. 2010). Carol Smolenski, Executive Director of ECPAT-USA was also quoted saying that the devastating earthquake created “social and political chaos that disrupt families and severely impact the ability of law enforcement agencies to maintain civil control. Criminal elements move in to exploit the situation at a time when governments and normal social safety nets are at their weakest” (Earthquake Leads, 2010). While this essay focused on one country in particular, the same repercussions occur in most countries when the state is experiencing instability.
System #4: Environmental Degradation

Looking at obvious factors such as economics and capitalism can help us understand why trafficking occurs, but sometimes it is also good to address less obvious causes. One of the causes that I believe has gone largely overlooked is the role that the environment can play in the causes of trafficking.

In true American fashion, let’s begin with meat. Here in America, a meal without meat, seems to leave everyone with want. Studies have shown that, in order to truly be environmentalists, we may need to train our national appetite otherwise. According to Andrea Gordon, a journalist for Alternet.org, "There is a direct relationship between eating meat and the environment. Quite simply, you can't be a meat-eating environmentalist" (Brook, D. 2009).

What exactly is this “direct relationship” that Gordon is talking about? There are actually several explanations for how the consumption of meat directly effects the environment. One of these explanations is quite simply: the belching and flatulence emitted by livestock. The 2004 State of the World (a study done by the World Watch Institute) says that, “belching, flatulent livestock emit 16 percent of the world's annual production of methane” (Brook, D.). Methane is a powerful green-house gas that causes a warming of the earth. Green-house gases produce what is commonly known as the greenhouse effect. The Environmental Protection Agency’s website for kids explains it well, “The greenhouse effect is the rise in temperature that the Earth experiences because certain gases in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun” (Climate Change, 2009).

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Although the methane gas emitted from livestock is harmful, so is the animal waste. Studies have proven that the nitrous oxide found in animal is, “a greenhouse gas that has 296 times the warming effect [on the environment than that] of CO2” (Walsh, B. 2008). On top of all this gas emitted by livestock, they also take up a lot of space. “The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that about 20% of the planet's pastureland has been degraded by grazing animals” (Walsh, B.). This becomes a huge issue as deforestation automatically causes the planet to warm “because trees absorb CO2 while they're alive — and when they're burned or cut down, the greenhouse gas is released back into the atmosphere” (Walsh, B.).

These facts may seem unrelated to the causes of trafficking, but alas they are not. The focus will primarily be on the country of Thailand as we draw the connection between trafficking and environmental degradation. Thailand’s main source of economy comes from rice production. In fact, about 75% of Thailand’s exports consist of rice. Recently, Thailand has experienced a drought and a dramatic change in climate and agricultural conditions because of this. Chanchai Rakthananon, president of the Thai Rice Mills Association, predicted that 2010’s crop cycle was going to be 3 million tons less than the previous forecast. With this drop in the main source of the countries economy, citizens have no other choice than to pursue other means of supporting themselves and their family (Drought Threatens, 2010).

Sex tourism has been apart of Thailand’s economy since the Vietnam War. According to the Women's International Network News, the sex industry in Thailand
began to flourish when the country was used as a US base and Rest and Recreation destination for American Soldiers. The problem was created “after American troops withdrew,[and] sex tourism took over the existing sex-related infrastructure” (Thailand, 2003). Today, “Bangkok and Pattaya became sex havens for men from all over the world” (Thailand, 2003).

Human trafficking usually occurs when people seek out employment and are offered jobs that end up being different than what they had originally expected. The typical story of a trafficked individual follows a general pattern. For Irina, a 16 year-old girl from Russia, slavery was not a lifestyle she chose to live. When a family friend suggested that suggested that Irina go on a paid trip to pick up merchandise, she thought that it was a good opportunity to make some money. As soon as her trip began, she found out that her job had been upgraded to a waitress for twice the pay. Soon, Irina found out that she would not be a waitress of any kind, but that through abusive coercion and threats, she would now be forced into a life of prostitution (Melnikova, M. n.d.).

While this story is horrific, it is important to refocus back to the central idea of how the environment plays a factor in the cycle of torment. Irina was looking to support herself and ended up being manipulated and coerced into a lifestyle against her will. The story is the same for women in Thailand who are forced to look for other means of financial support do to the climate change affecting their main means of production.
A global representation of where it is legal/illegal and where it is rare or common (The New Security Beat).
System #5: Colonialism in Africa

There is fact to the saying that history repeats itself, and it is from that fact that we should learn from the mistakes of the past. When there are horrifying skeletons in a country's closet, you would imagine that the country would be deeply burdened to learn from the past and pave a new way for the future. Unfortunately, we have not learned from one of the worst skeletons in our closet: Slavery. There are more than 30 million slaves in the world today (Slavery), a significantly larger amount more than the approximated 10 million that were enslaved during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (Trans-Atlantic, n.d.). In fact, the past history of colonialism is one of the major contributors to the present day issue of human trafficking.

Colonialism was prompted by a new-found land of resources: Africa. Since Africa was unexplored, there was much to be explored and to be claimed.

There was a rapid rush for European countries to claim territory in the resource rich land. King Leopold II of Belgium is known to have started what historians refer to as “The Scramble for Africa” (Uzoigwe, G. 1983), a short period of time in the late 1800’s when the territory was colonized by various European

![The colonies of Africa from 1885-1914](image-url)
countries. King Leopold II claimed the largest area of Africa and named it the “Congo Free State” (Uzoigwe, G.). Originally, he claimed that he was going into that territory to save the native people from Arab slavers and to bring Christianity to the un-chartered land. Instead, King Leopold II used the “free state” as a “massive labor camp, made a fortune for himself from the harvest of its wild rubber, and contributed in a large way to the death of perhaps 10 million innocent people” (Dummett, M. 2004)

King Leopold discovered the use of rubber in the early 1890s and quickly integrated it into the European economy. In order to manufacture this newly discovered commodity, King Leopold used local villages to gather the rubber from wild rubber veins in the rain forests. Many of Leopold’s “employees” were forced to work by severe beatings and lived in slave-like conditions. The workers usually received only “trinkets, such as beads or brass wire” (King Leoppold’s Ghost, n.d.) as payment. Many of the worker’s right hands were chopped off and some even died from being overworked (King Leopold’s Ghost).

This brutality was not a rare occasion among the other colonies in Africa. While this brutality of beatings and slave labor was consistent throughout the continent, colonialism did not last forever. Many European countries lost World War II and with the loss, also lost the territories they had control over in Africa. This caused an abrupt and
immediate withdrawal out of those colonies. While the exit of European control was a benefit to the immediate problem of colonialism, Africa is still experiencing repercussions from the abrupt evacuations.

One of the ways that Africa is still affected by the roots of colonialism is the territorial boundaries that were drawn during The Scramble for Africa. These boundaries were drawn without any consideration of people groups and tribes. These political boundaries brought “together many different ethnic people within a nation that did not reflect, nor have (in such a short period of time) the ability to accommodate or provide for, the cultural and ethnic diversity” (Shah, A. 2010). This ignorance to the cultural diversity has created civil war and/or ethnic tensions among many nations, constructing a weak state and making many nations vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation—ripe environments for human trafficking to occur.

In Walter Rodney’s essay, “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” writes about how the negative consequences of colonialism in Africa stems from the loss of power. Rodney explains that, “Power is the ultimate determinant in human society… It implies the ability to defend one’s interests…the extent to which one people respect the interests of another, and eventually the extent to which a people survive as a physical and cultural entity” (Rodney, W. p. 33). He goes onto explain that when a society loses or relinquishes power to another society, “that in itself is a form of underdevelopment” (Rodney, W. p. 34). This form of underdevelopment is what occurred all throughout Africa during colonization. When African countries lost power to Europeans, they immediately became underdeveloped and lost the ability to be self-sustaining. While European rule only lasted for roughly 70 years, the effects of the loss of power have been
devastating and have left the majority of African countries still struggling to regain power. For example, the Rwandan genocide sparked out of a power struggle between the two ethnic groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis. The struggle for power led to an ethnic cleansing on both sides. In a matter of weeks, 800,000 men, women, and children were slaughtered.

This genocide could have been spared altogether if the boundaries in the region had been drawn according to ethnic majority and if Rwanda had never lost control of power in the first place. The fight to regain power is what led to mass hatred and murder of entire people groups. This, among many other stories, are evidence to the fact that the history of colonization in Africa has led to instability of Africa, creating a gateway for trafficking to take place.
Conclusion

Human Trafficking is an urgent and prevalent issue to modern society and the issue needs to be viewed as such. Kevin Bales, an expert on slavery and President of “Free the Slaves,” tells of the price of slaves today:

“In a marketplace in the central region of the Ivory Coast our local researcher easily purchased two 19 year old agricultural workers for about $30 each. In India, bonded laborers were able to give me precise…cost[s] required to enslave their families…these ranged from as little as $10 to over $100… Even in Thailand, where teenagers were sold into prostitution, and a premium was charged for their virginity and attractiveness, prices rarely went over $1000” (Bales, K. 2006).

The world has sanctioned the buying and selling of humans for less than the price of disposable appliances. The systems of globalization, capitalism, instability, environmental degradation, and colonialism have all played key parts in allowing human trafficking to become such a modern day issue. The world has never seen slavery in such large proportions and it is time to look at the factors that play into this grave issue so that we may be aware of how to eliminate it. While this analysis does not provide solutions, it does provide reasons which give light into possible solutions. In the convicting words of the Not For Sale Campaign, “I am not for sale. You are not for sale. No one should be for sale” (Slavery).
Bibliography


