



Centre for
Human Rights and
Restorative Justice

REFERENCES TO SLAVERY OR SLAVES

Liberia Truth Commission

Abstract

A list of references to slavery and slaves in the Liberia Truth Commission.

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Links to Data Visualization

This section contains links to all data visualization for the Liberia report.

Comparison Charts

- [References to Slavery and Slaves chart](#)
- [References to Slavery and Slaves excel list](#)

Word Trees

- [Slavery](#)
- [Slaves](#)

References to Slavery and Slaves

This section contains all references to slavery and slaves from the Liberia report.

<Files\\Truth Commission Reports\\Africa\\Liberia.TRC_Report-FULL> - § 68 references coded [2.21% Coverage]

Reference 1 - 0.01% Coverage

law, including war crimes violations.

4. All factions engaged in armed conflict, violated, degraded, abused and denigrated, committed sexual and gender based violence against women including rape, sexual slavery, forced marriages, and other dehumanizing forms of violations;
5. A form of both

Reference 2 - 0.01% Coverage

or surrendered enemy combatants, etc.

4. All factions to the conflict systematically targeted women mainly as a result of their gender and committed sexual and gender based violations against them including, rape of all forms, sexual slavery, forced marriages, forced recruitment, etc.
5. Reparation is a desirable

Reference 3 - 0.03% Coverage

deprivation of freedom and livelihood.

The TRC has determined that GHRV are generally but not exclusively committed by state actors, may take place during times of peace or armed conflict, and can be directed against individuals or groups of people. GHRV abrogate preemptory norms of international human rights law such as: (1) Murder; (2) Extermination; (3) Enslavement; (4) Torture; (5) Rape; (6) Sexual Slavery; (7) Enforced Prostitution; (8) Enforced Sterilization; (9) Sexual Violence; (10) Enforced Disappearance of Persons; (11) Persecution; (12) Deportation or Forcible Transfer of Population; (13) Imprisonment or other Serious

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Deprivation of Physical Liberty

Reference 4 - 0.05% Coverage

emblems of the Geneva Conventions.

Protocol II states, '...all persons who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, are entitled to respect for their person, honor and convictions and religious practices.' It requires that such persons always be treated humanely, 'without any adverse distinction.' Protocol II strictly prohibits any order that there 'shall be no survivors' as well as the following acts against persons: (1) Violence to the life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder as well as cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any form of corporal punishment; (2) Collective punishment; (3) Taking of hostages; (4) Acts of Terrorism; (5) Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced

prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual violence and any form of indecent assault; (6) Slavery and the slave trade in all their forms; (7) Pillage; (8) Sentencing or Execution Without Due Process; (9) Using, Conscripting or Enlisting Children in Armed Conflict; and (10) Threats to commit any of the foregoing acts.

For a list of definitions

Reference 5 - 0.02% Coverage

6 to 18—were recruited.

Children suffered some of the most horrific crimes committed during the Liberian Civil War and LURD and MODEL insurrections. They forced to kill friends and family members including their parents, rape and be raped, serve as sexual slaves and prostitutes, labor, take drugs, engage in cannibalism, torture and pillage communities. Many were force to be ‘juju’ controllers, ammunication carriers, spies, armed guards, arm bushers and so on.

Perhaps, the most shocking crime

Reference 6 - 0.06% Coverage

meetings and other sources.

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Women Nearly 26,000 or 28% of reported violations were against women. While as a group men comprise a larger victim category than women, Liberia’s various armed conflicts excessively affected women in various ways. As previously noted, women disproportionately suffered from sexual violence including gang rape, sexual slavery, outrages upon personal dignity, and torture, among others. Girls and women aged 15-19 comprise the largest category of reported cases of sexual violence. Women as old as eighty-years old were perversely dehumanized through gendered violence by, for example, being forced to have sex with their sons or male relatives and by having taboo objects such spoons, sticks, hot pepper and rifle buds forced into their vaginal and rectal areas. Women were kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery only to be passed around as ‘wives’ of roaming combatants. They were also forced to engage in hard labor making them both sex and labor relegating them to the status of chattel slaves. Women suffered the indignity of having the children that they bore after being raped and held as sex slaves summarily taken away from them by combatants at the end of armed conflict. Many women that testified before the TRC either through statement taking or the hearings gave thousands of heart breaking narratives about how they were brutalized during armed conflict.

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V. FINDINGS

A. The

Reference 7 - 0.03% Coverage

characterized by the various

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socio-cultural and political antecedents to the Liberian polity and conflict. The first section spans from 1822-1847, comprising the official settling of free blacks and freed slaves from the United States and recaptives in Liberia, up to the time the country achieved independence from the American Colonization Society. The second section spans 1847-1989, including three significant developments: (1) the first time the settlers were directly in charge of making policies for Liberia; (2) the rise of oligarchy, authoritarianism and state repression; and (3) the development of a culture of constitutional subversion

and political violence. The final period described in this section spans 1990-2003, when conflict exploded on the Liberia soil.

ii. Historical Antecedents to Liberian

Reference 8 - 0.02% Coverage

Native Liberians: Historical Mutual Misconceptions

One of the major historical and festering antecedents to conflict in Liberia was the enormously disparate socio-political and cultural norms and practices of the Americo-Liberians, who began settling in Liberia in 1822, and indigenous Liberians, also known as the natives comprising of sixteen ethno-linguistic groups. Another complex dynamic was the nature of wars between native Liberian groups that reach and apex during Europe and America's infamous Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Contrary to wide perceptions about

Reference 9 - 0.03% Coverage

the ACS as the natives.

Notwithstanding, the ACS' authoritarian and coercive approach to government ensured that relations between black settlers and indigenous Liberians would be hostile, not excluding the fact that the founding principles upon which they lived were juxtaposed. The new settlement was anti-slavery, pro-trade, predominantly Christian and highly centralized; whereas, most coastal native groups were proslavery, commercial tradesman, non-Christian and lived under decentralized authority structures. Hence, the likelihood of any form of union between the settlement and native nations was highly unlikely. This explains why conflict between the settlers and natives

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during the period arose

Reference 10 - 0.04% Coverage

the settlers and natives

66

during the period arose mainly due to competition over slavery, trade, land, and political legitimacy, rather than as a result of internal colonialism.

In spite of this, native kings did not consider the settlers a serious threat during this period, and there is significant evidence that shows that there was mutually beneficial cooperation between them. For instance, tribal kings such as Bob Gray, Young Bob and Yellow Will had very good relations with the settlers. It was often the voracious, aggressive, commercial crusades of such native rulers as King Joe Harris that often disturbed this equation. The Bassa-Settler War of 1835, for example, was a consequence of King Joe Harris's aggressive war against the new settler in Edina and Port Cresson. These ports were the king's major trading enclaves, where he sold his own people in slavery to Europeans who considered it impolitic to carry on their slave-trading activities close to the settlement in Monrovia.

Considerable insensitivity by the U

Reference 11 - 0.02% Coverage

induced or age-related incapacity.

,Sexual Slavery' The perpetrator exercised any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over one or more persons, such as by purchasing, selling, lending or bartering such a person or persons, or by imposing on them a similar deprivation of liberty. The perpetrator caused such person or persons to engage in one or more acts of a sexual nature.

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,Enforced Prostitution' The perpetrator

Reference 12 - 0.01% Coverage

fundamental rules of international law;

(f) Torture; (g) Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;

(h) Persecution against any identifiable

Reference 13 - 0.04% Coverage

existence of an armed conflict.

d. ,Sexual Slavery' The perpetrator exercised any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over one or more persons, such as by purchasing, selling, lending or bartering such a person or persons, or by imposing on them a similar deprivation of liberty. The perpetrator caused such person or persons to engage in one or more acts of a sexual nature. The conduct took place in the context of and was associated with an armed conflict not of an international character. The perpetrator was aware of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict.

It is understood that such deprivation of liberty may, in some circumstances, include exacting forced labor or otherwise reducing a person to servile status as defined in the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956. It is also understood that the

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conduct described in this

Reference 14 - 0.03% Coverage

are also in daily use.

The modern nation of Liberia, as it exists today, was partly shaped by the transatlantic slave trade to the United States. In the early 1800s, a group of prominent white Americans developed a plan to return freed blacks to Africa. Beginning in 1822, freeborn black Americans, freed slaves of African descent, and Africans freed from captured slave ships were settled by the American Colonization Society on lands which later became Liberia. This group of a few thousand settlers, never more than 5% of the Liberian population, became known as Americo- Liberians. They dominated the political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation for over a century.

While Liberia has often been

Reference 15 - 0.01% Coverage

including war crimes violations.

3.

All factions engaged in the armed conflict, violated, degraded, abused and denigrated, committed sexual and gender based violence against women including rape, sexual slavery, forced marriages, and other dehumanizing forms of violations;

4.

Both individual and community

Reference 16 - 0.01% Coverage

surrendered enemy combatants, etc.

4.

All factions to the conflict systematically targeted women, mainly as a result of their gender, and committed sexual and gender based violations against them, including rape of all forms, sexual slavery, forced marriages, forced recruitment, etc.

5. Reparation is a responsibility

Reference 17 - 0.03% Coverage

deprivation of freedom and livelihood.

The TRC has determined that GHRV are generally but not exclusively committed by state actors, may take place during times of peace or armed conflict, and can be directed against individuals or groups.

GHRV abrogate preemptory norms of international human rights law such as: (1) Murder; (2) Extermination; (3) Enslavement; (4) Torture; (5) Rape; (6) Sexual Slavery; (7) Enforced Prostitution; (8) Enforced Sterilization; (9) Sexual Violence; (10) Enforced Disappearance of Persons; (11) Persecution; (12) Deportation or Forcible Transfer of Population; (13) Imprisonment or other Serious Deprivation of Physical Liberty; (14) Genocide; and (15) Crimes Against Humanity. Articles II and IV of the TRC Act encompass the aforementioned GHRV. For a list of definitions, please see Annex 3.

3.4.3. "Serious" Humanitarian

Reference 18 - 0.05% Coverage

of the Geneva Conventions.

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Protocol II states, '...all persons who do not take a direct part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, are entitled to respect for their person, honor and convictions and religious practices.' It requires that such persons always be treated humanely, 'without any adverse distinction.' Protocol II strictly prohibits any order that there 'shall be no survivors' as well as the following acts against persons: (1) Violence to the life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder as well as cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any form of corporal punishment; (2) Collective punishment; (3) Taking of hostages; (4) Acts of Terrorism; (5) Outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual violence and any form of indecent assault; (6) Slavery and the slave trade in all their forms; (7) Pillage; (8) Sentencing or Execution Without Due Process; (9) Using, Conscripting or Enlisting Children in Armed Conflict; and (10) Threats to commit any of the foregoing acts.

In the final analysis, the

Reference 19 - 0.04% Coverage

as the controlled vocabulary.

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The TRC developed a controlled vocabulary based on the types of abuses specific to the Liberian conflict and the TRC's analytical objectives. Benetech and other advisors to the TRC provided input and feedback on working drafts. The TRC's controlled vocabulary includes the following twenty-three violation types: forced displacement, killing, assault, abduction, looting, forced labor, property destruction, robbery, torture, arbitrary detention, rape, exposure/deprivation, sexual abuse, extortion, forced recruitment, missing, gang rape, sexual slavery, ingesting taboo item, cannibalism, drugging, multiple rape, and amputation. The TRC hired a Coding Supervisor and three Data Coders in January 2007, an additional eight in October 2007, and twelve more in March 2008. At its peak, the Coding team consisted of three staff Data Coders, a Coding Supervisor and thirteen contractors.

It was also necessary to

Reference 20 - 0.03% Coverage

as a medium of exchange.

The third group of people who arrived and settled in Liberia migrated quite recently. They were the krus, Bassa, Dei, Mamba and the Grebo tribes. They came from the east where the Republic of Ivory Coast is situated. Population pressure, due to the mass emigration of tribes from the western Sudan where the medieval empires had declined after their conquest by the Moroccan Army, led to tribal wars. The Krus arrived in the early 16th Century by sea as the Grebos later did. The Krus traded with Europeans along the coast and later became slave traders. The Krus worked as laborous on plantations and overseas.

These Grebo who took the

Reference 21 - 0.02% Coverage

and gifts of discernment.

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Domestic slavery was a part of the system of governance and practiced widely throughout pre Liberia. A slave was obtained by capture in war and was a part of the leader's wealth because they were used to work the land and till the soil. They supplied valuable labor at a time when competition and wars over land, its acquisition, distribution, access, control and conquest were major sources of intratribal, ethnic and multi-cultural conflicts, which were often deadly.

Another feature of pre-Liberia

Reference 22 - 0.04% Coverage

part of the training program.

Before the arrival of the settlers in 1822, extensive contacts and interactions existed between the indigenes at the coast and the interior. Economics, trade and social interests including intermarriages dominated their dealings and creating a big family of in-laws. For defense purposes, they formed alliances and common defense pacts which were enhanced by membership to the Poro or Sande societies as institutions of socialization, acculturation, stature, honesty, trust, common ancestry and brotherhood. These separate nations were not always at peace. They fought wars among themselves. If one group felt stronger, they invaded the weaker one, captured their women and young men. Those who resisted were either killed or made prisoners. The conquered territories were annexed and the prisoners of war were used on the farms or sold into slavery.

Contacts with the outside world

Reference 23 - 0.01% Coverage

Palmas and Cavalla Rivers.

69

The Portuguese were followed by the English in the 15th interested in rice, gold and slaves. The Dutch followed in the late 16th

Century. The English were Century

Reference 24 - 0.02% Coverage

The English were Century. Dutch

accounts speak of the Kingdom of Quoja, located between Dukor and the region around the Mano River. The French came in 1725, the Swedes 1776. These visits laid the foundation for more exploration in the interior of West Africa. Soon a new trade, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, would eclipse the trade in tropical goods.

5.1.1. The Transatlantic and Trans Saharan Slave Trade

The modern Liberian state was an offshoot of slavery and the anti-slavery movement of the 19th century. A combination of fortuitous

Reference 25 - 0.09% Coverage

in exploring back-toAfrica schemes.

Slavery was once a universal behavior that existed even in biblical times. It was practiced by Greeks, Romans and black Africans. It was the most vicious of all forms of servitude. It reduced a human person to nothing but a thing or property in servitude for life with little hope of freedom. Before the transatlantic slave trade, what existed in Africa was domestic slavery in which freedom was won when one married a free person or was a warrior or artisan. One notable example of slaves rising to leadership was Kakura of the Songhey Empire who became emperor.

The Atlantic Slave trade originated in 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas. In this age industrialization was expanding and the demand for raw materials and labor was high. The raw materials for food, liquor, clothes grew abundantly in the 'new world' - America- which was sparsely populated and the native Indian population was both too small and too weak to toil in the heat for long periods of time. The Europeans turned to Africa for labor.

In the early days of the trade, prisoners of war were the main subject of slave trading in Africa. When the leaders could no longer meet the growing demand of the slavers or slave buyers, they were substituted for the prisoners of war. Towns and villages were pillaged by either their own neighbors or chiefs as agents for the Europeans slavers. The main actors now became Europeans who came with ships to buy slaves and the African chiefs who sold their kinsmen. Middle men often mulattos and resident Europeans, bought and sold slaves at very high prices. One of such middlemen, John S. Mills was an interpreter whose mother was a local African woman and English father. His slave factory was in Gomez Island, opposite Providence or Dozoa Island in Monrovia. Arab involvement in West Africa is not well documented. The area lying between Togo and Nigeria was referred to as the Slave Coast, given the intensity of the trade in the area. Elmina in Ghana was another major slave post as was Senegal and its immediate environs and the Gore

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Island. Liberia's main route

Reference 26 - 0.07% Coverage

country to the Atlantic Coast.

The Grain Coast was not involved in the Slave Trade as other areas in the sub region due to its rough and rocky coast; most inhospitable to slave vessels and traders. The major slave trading countries were Portugal, England and Holland. The Portuguese captured three Africans near Cape Verde in the 1400s and many Africans regard this as the beginning of the great trade. In 1551 the English slaver, John Hawkins arrived to the pre Liberian coast for slaves. He paid his second and last visit in 1552. Two resident European slave traders on the Liberian coast were Don Pedro Blanco and Theodore Canot. They were Italians operating on and off in Bassa and Cape Mount. On the plantations, life for the slave was lonely and horrible. While most of the slave women served as domestic servants they were also used unwillingly as concubines to their slave masters and had children (mulattos) many of whom migrated to Africa to form the new states. It is speculated that many of the first presidents of Liberia, including Roberts, originated from this stock.

Children were recruited and sold into slavery as early as between 10 -14 years of age and with the family scattered and disparaged by this trade, they were never to see their parents again. Africans in slavery turned to Christianity in their period of sustained grief and despair. Africans turned to God for deliverance from their bondage and many pastors were masterminds of slave rebellions and insurrections in slave America. No wonder ,Christianization' and ,civilization' of the African homeland became a core part of what was later to be the American Colonization Society's (ACS) mission to Liberia.

5.1.2. The ACS

Reference 27 - 0.07% Coverage

25 years of its existence.

The ACS was a voluntary private organization (NGO) of colonists founded in Washington D.C., USA on December 16, 1816; both as an alternative and a consequence of the abolition of slavery in America. Founded under the principles of colonization, Liberia was never an American colony. The US Government provided US\$100,000 to the ACS without saying it was repatriation of freed slaves to Africa. As the name implies, the initial objective was to establish ,<a colony in Africa to take free people of color<residing in our country away from the United States...to Africa or such other places as congress may deem expedient'-(Rev Robert Findley, delegate to the ACS conference). Paul Cuffy ceded his back to Africa movement for the repatriation of freed black slaves to Africa to the ACS in 1816 before his death in 1817.

The ACS was formed by prominent men in the American society including politicians, former presidents of the USA, lawyers, church men, slave masters, humanitarian, etc. As they were of different backgrounds, so too were their motivations for relocating freed slaves. The slave rebellion which declared the independent Republic of Haiti as the first all black nation of former slaves was a wakeup call for abolitionist and colonists alike. The frequent and costly uprising by freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina in 1770, the Gabriel Prosser and Denmark Vesey Rebellions sent signals throughout slave America to do something about the question of freed slaves that were roaming about and causing chaos which led colonization advocates to speed up their repatriation to Africa plans.

The Legislature of Virginia enacted

Reference 28 - 0.02% Coverage

Island), nephew of George Washington.

There were those opposed to black and white mixing or integration, including Thomas Jefferson- author of the American Declaration of Independence who later became president of America and is widely believed to have fathered several children by Sally Hemings, herself a slave, holding the view that mixing will create a new breed of people as inferior as blacks. Hence, ,The American society for

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colonizing the free people

Reference 29 - 0.11% Coverage

The American society for

72

colonizing the free people of color of the United States' was inaugurated December 28, 1816 to establish a colony (Liberia) for freed slaves in Africa. Many of them, especially Southerners supported emigration to Africa in order to get rid of the freed black population whom they perceived as a major threat to slavery in America. By eliminating free blacks, they thought they could guarantee indefinitely the perpetual system of slavery that essentially under girded their entire economic system.

While industrialization may have reduced the overwhelming demand for slave labor, there were those who held the belief that Africa was in need of religion and civilization since freed slaves have become Christians and adopted a measure of western civilization. Congregationists wanted freed slaves to come to Africa and preach the gospel. Samuel J Mills a leading member of the ACS said ,<we go to lay the foundation of a free and independent empire on the coast of poor degraded Africa<it will eventually redeem and emancipate a million and half of wretched men. It will transfer to Africa the blessings of religion and civilization<'. Many blacks were opposed to the back to Africa plan; others saw life in America as ,disagreeable and disadvantageous' and favored repatriation to Africa to obtain full, and not partial, freedom.

The basic objective of early Liberia was to establish an exclusive settlers' state in coastal enclaves and maintain control over trade and other developments in a wider surrounding area that consisted of several indigenous communities. Six internal deadly conflicts during this period shed light on two crucial developments – the impact and influence of autocratic and ethnocentric white leaders on incipient settler leadership, and the important bi-product of these developing norms for the political culture of the repatriate leadership to follow, perhaps beginning with Joseph Jenkins Roberts in 1841 as last governor of the Commonwealth, and subsequently as first president of Liberia. Also, as a settler society began to take shape on the littoral settlement at most 40 miles into the interior, a distinct pattern of settlers ,sphere of influence' began to emerge. Larger spheres followed in furtherance of commodity trade; terminating the Atlantic slave trade, and engaging in selective social contacts consistent with the civilizing and Christianizing mission.

Two global views were in

Reference 30 - 0.03% Coverage

a Settlers' Hegemony (1822 – 1847)

The first group of settlers that arrived in Africa under aegis of the ACS, sailed on the Elizabeth in 1817. On board were eighty-six men, women and children from New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. These were seen as pioneers who would help build the colony. After a few weeks stay in Freetown, they moved on to Sherbo Island where all the agents namely Samuel A. Crozier, Samuel Bacon and John P Blankson, and about half the population of the colonists were wiped out by malaria. Amidst initial constraints, they were able to resettle some 13,000 African Americans and several thousand recaptured African slaves known as Congos from 1821-1867.

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5.2.1. Settler's

Reference 31 - 0.06% Coverage

Colonies and Conflicts Over Land

Relief was sent by the society in 1821 to the settlers. Another agent named Joseph Andrus was sent by the society with thirty three settlers. The settlers moved from Sherbo Island and arrived in Bassa to negotiate for the purchase of land from the king, Jack Ben. The king and his people finally consented to sell their land to the settlers and they came to an agreement that was rejected by the Society. The reasons for the rejection was that the land was too expensive and the natives insisted that the settlement should in no way interfere with the slave trade in their country. This development significantly impacted the settlers' relationship with the natives and laid the foundation for historical deadly conflicts, mainly over land. The ACS changed its agents and the next effort was to transport another 33 freed slaves to Cape Mesurado or Ducor on the ,Nautilus' in 1821. The new agent, Dr Eli Ayers, a surgeon in the US Navy, began negotiations with King Peters and the Bassa and Dei Chiefs for the sale of their land to the colonists. Given the ancestral attachments of the people to the land, they would not sell and suggested that since the land was intended for the settlement of Africans who had returned, the settlers could have as much land as they desired once they accepted to live under the authority of the Kings and chiefs instead of being subjects of the colonist ACS, and therefore refused to sell land to the ACS.

After a long and protracted

Reference 32 - 0.05% Coverage

1832 1835 1838

1839-1840

The Commonwealth adopted the governing structure and social, political policies of the colonies and resisted slave trade just the same. The agents of the ACS were heads of the colony; powerful and authoritarian, embodying all the powers of executive, legislative and judicial functions. Ali Ayers was replaced by Elijah Johnson (Johnson Street) who held on for Jehudi Ashmun. Lott Carey (Cary Street) acted up to the arrival of Ashmun's successor, Richard Randall (Randall Street). Randall died prematurely and was replaced by Joseph Mechlin (Mechlin Street). Mechlin and his successor John B. Piney (a Presbyterian Minister) agencies were brief because the settlers were disgruntled with their authoritarian rule and rioted for greater voice in the affairs of the colony. Ezekiel Skinner succeeded Pinney who was accused of dictatorship and widespread opposition and illness forced him to resign. He was replaced by Antony B Williams, the last colonial agent who ruled until the colony became a Commonwealth in 1939. During the colonial period (1821

Reference 33 - 0.02% Coverage

in the *Liberian Studies Journal*).

The external impulse relates to circumstances in the United States, as earlier noted, that led to the formation of colonization societies and energized a debate between the colonists who were strong advocates of the back-to-Africa idea. In opposition were the abolitionists who were addressing a scourge in American society, slavery, and felt that the distraction of the colonists was unwarranted. Powerful forces in American society enabled the colonists to proceed with their project as we have come to know. In the unfolding process of

Reference 34 - 0.01% Coverage

for the punishment of crime<

The native African bowing down with us before the altar of the living God, declares that from us, feeble as we are, the light of Christianity has gone forth, while upon that curse of curses, the slave trade, a deadly blight has fallen, as far as our influence extends.

Therefore, in the name of

Reference 35 - 0.06% Coverage

power of judicial review).

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The Constitution specifically contains a preamble and five articles including the bill of rights (Article I), legislative powers (Article II), executive powers (Article III), judicial powers (Article IV), and miscellaneous provisions (Article V). Among the miscellany are clauses prohibiting slavery, protecting the property rights of women and decreeing that only 'persons of color' may be admitted to citizenship and granted the right to hold real property in the republic. Meaning, therefore that the natives were not considered part of Liberia or citizens of the Republic of Liberia.

There were fundamental contradictions inherent in the establishment of the new republic. While copying its national features and democratic values from the United States of America, the new republic maintained the vestiges of slavery and segregation in Liberia. The Liberian flag bears close resemblance to the flag of the United States, it has similar red and white stripes, as well as a blue square with a white star in the corner. The eleven stripes symbolize the eleven signatories of the Liberian Declaration of Independence. While the white star represents the freedom of the ex-slaves there are no symbolic representation of the natives. The dark blue background represents the dark continent of Africa generally. The Liberian seal is similarly

Reference 36 - 0.01% Coverage

or relations with the natives:

a. Apprenticeship system: method of socializing re-captives (intercepted Africans en route to slavery) and indigenes into settler culture by bringing

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them under guardianship of

Reference 37 - 0.06% Coverage

Minister of Internal Affairs.

e.

Contract Labor System appropriated by Government: Contract labor system in West Africa drew upon traditional indenture or pawning systems and led to organized shipment abroad of indigenous Liberian labor. One source cites 2,500 contract workers from Cape Coast and Cape Palmas recruited in 1875 and 1876. The Liberian government intervened in the process involving indigenous community leaders and European contract labor entities. In this way there was a government endorsement of the shipment of labor to work the Panama Canal. But the arrangement became a major source of conflict as, for example, the Kru resisted government-attempted control of ports on the Kru coast and of control of labor abroad. Legendary exploitation was associated with government involvement in the single best known case, that of the labor contract of 1928, the government itself had decided, because of exploitation and abuse, to

suspend contract labor specifically to Fernando Po. Private Liberians, notably including high government officials and a brother of President King, entered in an agreement with the Spanish ,Sindicato Agrícola de Guinea.’ The activities associated with this arrangement led to Liberia being censured by the League of Nations for engaging in activities akin to slave raiding and slave trading.

84

The repatriate sphere of

Reference 38 - 0.05% Coverage

raiding and slave trading.

84

The repatriate sphere of influence initiated at Cape Mesurado seemed destined to expand – into the hinterland beyond the earlier 40 mile limit from the Coast, and thus to the borders with European imperial powers. The European scramble for African territory impacted adversely on Britain-Liberian relations, hitherto friendly (Britain was the first to recognize Liberia’s independence, and provided material support in the fight against the lingering Atlantic slave trade). It soured further Franco-Liberian relations. While an uneven 1885 Anglo-Liberian Treaty ,settled’ one boundary, the other, still not settled as post-World War II decolonization gained momentum, was simply abandoned by the Liberian government because, as it reasoned, its dispute was with France, not its new African neighbors. Border settlement issues had pitted Liberia against powerful imperial forces. Though even the partial but significant resolutions signaled an end to imperial encroachment, it did not resolve the ongoing challenges of nation-making. How now would the governance of the indigenous majority be sustainably assured within the wider Liberian sphere of influence?

The process was slow. The

Reference 39 - 0.06% Coverage

being with Firestone in 1926.

But Liberia had hardly overcome international intrigue, including American highhandedness during the negotiations for the Firestone agreement when, in 1929, allegations of government complicity in a ,forced labor’ scheme were made. While the external component of the allegations related to Liberia’s competition for an African contract labor market in which European colonialists held a commanding role, the internal components reflected yet another consequence of policy choice by the Liberian leadership. Public officials and their associates reaping financial rewards from a system akin to slavery and forced labor involving indigenous Liberians was not a pretty sight. The Liberian state was censured internationally for complicity in a system that the League of Nations alleged was ,hardly distinguishable from slave-raiding and slave trading.’ The political fallout from that crisis, as we have seen, led to the downfall of the administration of President Charles D.B. King (1920-1930). To Edwin Barclay (1930-1944), his successor, fell the task of unraveling the internal and external complications of that sordid episode. Those European powers in the League that sought to abrogate Liberia’s independence by advocating mandate status were thwarted both, because of the contradictions in international relations as well as the determination of the Barclay administration to forestall that possibility.

The forced labor crisis deeply

Reference 40 - 0.06% Coverage

and a declining living standard.

Throughout the conflict period, the traditional roles of women shifted remarkably to being major breadwinners. Men were the natural targets of advancing, occupying or resisting arm factions and, were therefore in hiding all the time. Women had to step in; performing household chores, selling or trading in consumable items across factional lines, providing food, securing shelter, medical needs and clothing for family members, maintaining the farm, bearing children and cooking for the family in the midst of war, violence and massive atrocities against the unsuspecting general population. This, not only led to, but increased their vulnerability and exposed them to all manners of violence and abuse. They were caught up in an intractable state of victimization that dehumanized them and sought to deprive them of their womanhood; in many cases the perpetrators succeeded. They were abducted and accused of being enemy spies on espionage missions because they dare venture out when no one dare to; they were raped, and compelled to be house or bush wives for the armed men and would be accused of supporting 'rebels' of the opposing faction; they were also accused of being enemies for cooking for and serving the 'enemy' while in captivity as servants, slaves and 'infidels' or 'kaffli'. They were rejected by their own when liberated from captivity and returned home; husbands, children and relatives were condescending and suspicious; lacking in self-

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actualization and low morale

Reference 41 - 0.01% Coverage

town

The NPFL massacred five persons in Barclayville, because the men were of the Krahn ethnic group other Human violations was carried on by this group, such as sexual slavery, forced labour and looting/extortion properties
14 Nov 18, 1994 Massacre

Reference 42 - 0.03% Coverage

Resident of Fassama and Bopolu

During the period from 2001-2003, about 750-1000 civilians, comprising of pregnant women, children, of 12-18 years old, elderly people were taken from their hidden places (bushes) villages, Town and forest by LURD soldiers and forced to carry ammunition on their heads from Fassama to Mascenta and Bopolu. These civilians were not allowed to go further into Guinea, but some brave ones would escape. While many were killed whenever they complained about hunger or tireless while in enrooted. The content of consignment of goods and ammunition which weight about 50-75kg Another women and girls were used as domestic slaves to pound rice and cooked while other were sexual abused
20 July 28, 1996 Massacre

Reference 43 - 0.02% Coverage

and Harper City, Maryland County

The late John Hilary Tubman was a top businessman and prominent citizen of Maryland County. All his Money and other properties were taken from him and was later killed by Jack the Rebel of the NPFL would escape. While many were killed wherever they complained about hunger or tireless while in enrooted. The content of consignment of goods and ammunition which weight about 50-75kg Another women and girls were used as domestic slaves to pound rice and cooked while other were sexual abused.
23 Dec. 28. 1996 Massacre

Reference 44 - 0.01% Coverage

County

Residents of the town

The NPFL massacred five persons in Barclayville, because the men were of the Krahn ethnic group other Human violations was carried on by this group, such as sexual slavery, forced labour and looting/extortion properties

36 Nov 18, 1994 Massacre

Reference 45 - 0.03% Coverage

Resident of Fassama and Bopolu

During the period from 2001-2003, about 750-1000 civilians, composing of pregnant women, children, of 12-18 years old, elderly people were taken from their hidden places (bushes) villages, Town and forest by LURD soldiers and forced to carry ammunition on their heads from Fassama to Mascenta and Bopolu.

These civilians were not allowed to go further into Guinea, but some brave ones would escape. While many were killed whenever they complained about hunger or tireless while in enrooted. The content of consignment of goods and ammunition which weight about 50-75kg Another women and girls were used as domestic slaves to pound rice and cooked while other were sexual abused

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42 July 28, 1996

Reference 46 - 0.02% Coverage

and Harper City, Maryland County

The late John Hilary Tubman was a top businessman and prominent citizen of Maryland County. All his Money and other properties were taken from him and was later killed by Jack the Rebel of the NPFL would escape. While many were killed wherever they complained about hunger or tireless while in enrooted. The content of consignment of goods and ammunition which weight about 50-75kg Another women and girls were used as domestic slaves to pound rice and cooked while other were sexual abused.

45 Dec. 28. 1996 Massacre

Reference 47 - 0.02% Coverage

did not flee their homes.

The TRC also noticed that women are significantly overrepresented among rape victims and all victims of sexual slavery and sexual violence, as might be expected. In particular, the proportion of rapes with female victims aged 15-19 represents more than five times the proportion of women aged 15-19 in the general population. However, we see relatively more male than female victims for sexual abuse. The definition of sexual abuse included stripping the victim naked and was employed by many perpetrator groups to humiliate the victim.

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Unfortunately, the data include

Reference 48 - 0.03% Coverage

Child Soldiers to Youth Perpetrators

It is commonly acknowledged that children endured a disproportionate amount of sufferings induced by the civil conflict. Of the 23 kinds of violations reported to the TRC, at least 12 were committed against children. They include abduction, assault, forced displacement, killing, looting, torture, forced recruitment, forced labor, sexual violence, rape, sexual slavery and sexual abuse. As the statistics show, children (girls) between the ages of 15-19 were the main targets of sexual violence. Of these violations forced displacement ranks at the top accounting for a total of 6,680 victims

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or 36% of the

Reference 49 - 0.01% Coverage

most difficult challenges for Liberia.

Sexual slavery, another violation committed against children, was, from the statistics, suffered mainly by young girls, age 15-19 years and girls age 10-14 to a lesser degree.

Violations against young boys in

Reference 50 - 0.04% Coverage

with ingrained hostility and suspicion.

The age-targeting suggested by these graphs is that men of an increasingly older age were at greater risk for killing and looting violations than younger men. This is indicated by the relatively larger bars at the top compared to the bars on the bottom of the graphs for killing and looting. In contrast, the larger bars on the bottom of the graph for forced recruitment suggest that young men, between the ages of 15-19 in particular, were at greater risk for this violation. A possible interpretation of the killing and forced recruitment graphs is that perpetrators avoided young people for killing, targeting them instead for forced recruitment. As mentioned above, graphs for rape, sexual slavery and sexual violence suggest that young women were at significantly greater risk of suffering these violations.

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Men age 15-19

Reference 51 - 0.06% Coverage

support.

9.8. Liberian Diaspora

The West African nation of Liberia is recovering from years of conflict characterized by egregious violations of human rights that created the Liberian Diaspora. From 1979 until 2003, the Liberian people survived a bloody coup d'état, years of military rule, and two violent civil wars. The atrocities were the result of complex historical and geopolitical factors. The slave trade, U.S. efforts to return slaves to Africa, the abuse of the indigenous population by a ruling oligarchy, the looting of the country's substantial natural resources by its own corrupt government and by foreign interests, and the political ambitions of other African leaders all contributed to the conflict. The international community, including the United States, failed to take effective action to limit the bloodshed. Out of a pre-war population of three million, an estimated 250,000 people were killed, with as many as 1.5 million displaced. A mass exodus fleeing the fighting created Liberian Diaspora communities in many countries around the world, including the United States. An estimated 30,000 Liberians live in the state of Minnesota alone, but there are also tens of thousands of Liberians living in other U.S. cities, in the United Kingdom, and in refugee settlements in the West African sub-region.

The violence finally ended in

Reference 52 - 0.03% Coverage

of their birth and nativity.

The American-borne early leadership chose the latter option of building a separatist state as a political direction and philosophy. This choice of the latter is at the root of Liberia's as yet unresolved historical problem of political identity and legitimacy. The decision to adopt a Euro-American styled settlement with a civilizing and Christianizing mission in time alienated, marginalized, degraded not only the majority of the inhabitants of the Liberia area, but also the black-settlers, many of whom suffered slavery and harbored American colonialist sentiments. Such sentiments became the philosophical foundation on which white American colonial leaders established and ruled the Liberian entity for the first 25 years of its existence.

The engendered political culture was

Reference 53 - 0.03% Coverage

engaging under his appeasement policies.

Prior to what may be termed a 'ceasefire' after over half a century of violent conflicts and serious warfare, control of trading routes especially along the coast in goods and slaves was both competitive and contentious. The natives continued in the slave trade which the settlers will accept nowhere near their territories. Wars were fought over trading in slaves and control of the lucrative coastal trading routes which involved trading with the Europeans and opportunity of collecting trade levies on the part of the Settlers' government. These trade routes were high premium to both sides and the cost of maintain constant warfare hurt both parties interest and became unbearably expensive.

10.1.2. Antecedent Causes

Reference 54 - 0.07% Coverage

extended formal recognition in 1862.

A significant driver in the relationship between the United States and Liberia has been U.S. commercial interests. In the nineteen-twenties, U.S. demand for rubber was growing in conjunction with the growth of the U.S. auto industry. In order to break British dominance in the global rubber market, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company ("Firestone") sought, with assistance from the U.S. State Department, a concession from the Liberian government to tap Liberia's significant rubber resources. In exchange for a \$5,000,000 loan from Firestone (which Liberia subsequently used to settle its foreign debt), Liberia leased 1,000,000 acres for ninety nine years at a price of six cents per acre. According to some scholars, Firestone never carried out many of its promises to develop Liberia's infrastructure and the loan was designed to keep Liberia permanently indebted. In addition, the Firestone agreement gave the company ownership of any minerals or oil found in the leased area. In the late nineteen-twenties and early nineteen-thirties, Firestone, along with other international entities, was implicated in a forced labor scandal that led to a League of Nations investigation. The Liberian government was ultimately found to have used slavery-like practices to supply laborers to Spanish controlled plantations as well as to the Firestone rubber plantation. The commission found however, that there was "no evidence that Firestone Plantations Company consciously employs any but voluntary labor on its leased rubber plantations."

In 1938 the United States

Reference 55 - 0.02% Coverage

and from 1999 to 2003.

□ Consisting of members from all armed factions that operated during the Liberian wars, perpetrators specifically targeted children in the commission of gross violations of international law, including gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law. These violations included targeted killings and extermination, abduction and forced recruitment, forced labour, rape and other forms of sexual violence including sexual slavery and gang rape, forced marriage, and torture.

□ Children constituted of approximately 10

Reference 56 - 0.01% Coverage

rape, forced marriage, and torture.

□ Children constituted of approximately 10 to 20 percent of members of armed groups and were considered central to the armed groups' logistics and combat efforts in that they relied heavily on children to be porters, cleaners, cooks, scouts, domestic and sexual slaves, as well as active combatants.

□ Members belonging to each of

Reference 57 - 0.03% Coverage

norms that ruled their lives.

□ Armed groups systematically committed crimes of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery, and forced marriage against girls, some ten years of age or younger. Liberian girls suffered immeasurable physical and psychological pain and trauma from the widespread sexual violence and rape that was widespread and systematically committed during the war. Today, girls remain routinely targeted by sexual predators. Present and past perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence are rarely brought to justice and many former or recent victims of sexual violence still do not have access to treatment.

□ Children were also targeted by

Reference 58 - 0.04% Coverage

thought to have been eradicated.

□ In particular, the health of girls has been severely affected by the high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence. Sexual abuse, rape, multiple rape, and gang rape, and sexual slavery caused serious harm to girls' reproductive systems and have left many of them with chronic problems from obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted diseases or even infected with HIV. It is extremely worrying that the HIV infection rate among adolescent mothers is three times the average infection rate for the country. There is insufficient access to reproductive health care, HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, in particular in rural areas. Special outreach and educational programs on reproductive health and family planning are limited, although approximately half of all Liberian women give birth before they reach the age of 18.

□ More than a decade of

Reference 59 - 0.02% Coverage

Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia”

The TRC hereby recommends the establishment of an “Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia” to try all persons recommended by the TRC for the commission of human rights violations including violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, war crimes and economic crimes including but not limited to, killing, gang rape, multiple rape, forced recruitment, sexual slavery, forced labor, exposure to deprivation, missing, etc.

12.2. Nature, jurisdiction and

Reference 60 - 0.02% Coverage

political and economic ally.

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America’s policies in Liberia present Liberia as a dumping ground for free blacks and slaves from the US and receptive Africans on the high seas. The US and its corporate interests in Liberia have played complex and too contradictory roles as a conflict backer and an ambivalent and benevolent patron state. The TRC, in fact attributes this dichotomous relationship to Liberia’s chronic underdevelopment.

Lastly, the TRC strongly says

Reference 61 - 0.02% Coverage

induced or age-related incapacity.

6. “Sexual Slavery” The perpetrator exercised any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over one or more persons, such as by purchasing, selling, lending or bartering such a person or persons, or by imposing on them a similar deprivation of liberty. The perpetrator caused such person or persons to engage in one or more acts of a sexual nature.

7. “Enforced Prostitution” The perpetrator

Reference 62 - 0.04% Coverage

of an armed conflict.

iv.

‘Sexual Slavery’ The perpetrator exercised any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over one or more persons, such as by purchasing, selling, lending or bartering such a person or persons, or by imposing on them a similar deprivation of liberty. The perpetrator caused such person or persons to engage in one or more acts of a sexual nature. The conduct took place in the context of and was associated with an armed conflict not of an international character. The perpetrator was aware of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict.

It is understood that such deprivation of liberty may, in some circumstances, include exacting forced labor or otherwise reducing a person to servile status as defined in the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices

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Similar to Slavery of

Reference 63 - 0.01% Coverage

and Institutions and Practices

311

Similar to Slavery of 1956. It is also understood that the conduct described in this element includes trafficking in persons, in particular women and children.

v.

,Sexual Violence' The perpetrator

Reference 64 - 0.02% Coverage

income or corporate profit.

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among others, the following activities: fraud, narcotic drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting and any form of corrupt malpractices, illegal arms deal, smuggling, sexual slavery, human trafficking and child labor, illegal mining, illegal natural resource extraction, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractices including counterfeiting of currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic wastes and prohibited goods, and any other activity unlawful under domestic or international law.

Article 15 Individual Criminal Responsibility

Reference 65 - 0.01% Coverage

the crimes committed and the

particular sensitivities of girls, young women and children victims of rape, sexual assault, abduction and slavery of all kinds, special consideration shall be given to the appointment of prosecutors and investigators experienced in gender-related crimes and juvenile justice.

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6. No person may

Reference 66 - 0.03% Coverage

of generating illicit profit¹⁴

either

individually or collectively or in any organized manner by engaging in, among others, the following activities: fraud, narcotic drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting and any form of corrupt malpractices, illegal arms dealing, smuggling, sexual slavery, human trafficking and child labor, illegal mining, illegal natural resource extraction, tax evasion, foreign exchange malpractices including counterfeiting of currency, theft of intellectual property and piracy, open market abuse, dumping of toxic wastes and prohibited goods, and any other activity unlawful under domestic or international law.¹⁵

Economic Crimes in the Timber

Reference 67 - 0.03% Coverage

Advance Gender Equality in Liberia

This report has shown that Liberia 's 14 year civil war, buttressed by over a century of violence, oppression and inequality did not spare women and girls from being used, abused, killed, maimed,

mutilated, tortured, raped, gang raped, abducted, forced into sexual slavery and drugged. Their houses, property and possessions were destroyed and looted, they were internally displaced and turned into refugees and suffered the loss of their breadwinners and livelihoods. This report therefore finds that women and girls were violated in every category of violations and that the ensuing harms, impact and consequences of these violations extended far beyond their direct physical experience.

This report determines that through

Reference 68 - 0.02% Coverage

for women must be continued

* Scholarships must be provided to the children of women whose husbands, partners or breadwinners were killed * Individual reparation to be determined on a case-by case basis must be given to all women who either gave statements to the TRC or who testified at the public or in-camera hearings * GOL must facilitate the reunification of women who were used as sex slaves, bore children for fighters but whose children were