

# The exploitation of labour



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The history of the Caribbean is the history of exploitation of labor discuss with reference to two of the following labor systems 1. Encomienda 2. Slavery 3. Indenture ship To properly analyze the above heading the definition of the keyword must first be found. The word exploitation can be defined as a situation in which someone treats someone else unfairly in order to get money or an advantage for themselves, while the word Labor means the effort of work especially physical work.

With that said we can now say that the history of the Caribbean is a history situations in which workers were been treated unfairly personal gain of their employers. The exploitation of labour with reference to the Encomienda labour system; it can be clearly seen that the Tainos were treated unfairly in this system seen that they were forced to work hard in the mines and on the plantations with little or next to nothing for payment, they were given no choice to choose to work or not they were in fact slaves.

The Tainos were taught Christianity in hope that they would subject to the Spanish rules, they were given little privacy see that the females were raped. The Encomienda system took a heavy toll on the Amerindian in that geographical area, they were treated like ‘ Dogs’ i. e. they were treated were beaten brutally beaten, they were kicked and whipped. The females were victims of rape and because of this they contracted venereal diseases. The Tainos also contracted other European diseases such as small pox, measles and cold.

With all said and done the exploitation of labour with reference to the Encomienda system cause genocide of the Indian race in the Caribbean

geographical region. The Exploitation of labour with reference to Slavery was another story by itself. Slavery was another means of enslavement used as control , people were taken from Africa and brought to the Caribbean where they became the possessions of a white ruler (planter). Slavery began as a result of the Sugar Revolution, as the need for sugar increased, as it replaced tobacco as the main export crop in the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

Sugar production needed lots and lots of labour, so the Spanish looked to Africa for the labour needed , because they were strong used to the climate in abundance and relatively cheap. Just as the Tainos , the Africans brought here had no rights what's so ever all their rights were taken away. They had no right to family life as they were always being separated as families were broken up and sold to other estates, their religion could no longer be practiced , they had no right to vote , no right to a career, all the could do was what they were told, work on the estates.

The planters were to feed, clothed and shelter the Africans but off course the received none of the above, instead they were fed improper diets and unsanitary living conditions. The Africans were severely overworked as they had to work over forty eight (48) a week, women were taken advantage off by the slave masters and could not do anything about it, young children and old people were forced to work as well. The slaves were beaten for anything they did that was not pleasing to the master and apart from being beaten they received no pay for their hard work; they were really exploited by the Europeans.

Many resisted the Europeans, they committed suicide and infanticide, and some ran away, some poisoned the masters, some destroyed equipments etc, but some seek more violent means of resistance, such as revolts and rebellions. Many died in the fight against the Europeans but after the success of the Haitian Revolution the exploitation of the Africans stopped as these slaves gain independence as the now became emancipated and were able to move away from such horrible experiences and were able to have new lives of their own.