

* 3 months was
common in Caribbean.

involvement, - many African nations & communities held soldiers captured in battle as slaves. But European demand how transformed a traditional practice beyond recognition. Between 1500 & the abolition of the trade in the 19th Century, as many as 12-15 million Africans ^{2/3} were forcibly transported to the Americas in what became known infamously as the Middle Passage. Dreadful working conditions ~~at the low cost of slaves~~ and brutal treatment combined with environmental factors to produce astonishingly low life expectancy rates for African slaves in the New World*. High mortality rates combined with low costs to encourage continued demand for slaves.

Effects

① Africa - Forced exodus of so many people generated acute labor shortage in W/Central Africa & devastated traditional Economy

② Slave trade altered political structure of many W. African Kingdoms - many of whom now developed highly sophisticated systems designed to provide slaves for European traders - this encouraged the growth of tension & conflict in the region, as rival Kingdoms competed for access to slaves.

Americas

- Introduced Africans into Americas - led to the creation of new, distinct cultural & ethnic identities - mulattos - mixed African / Indian / Spanish descent