*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 were forcibly transported to the Americas in what became known infamously as the Middle Passage. Dreadful working conditions & 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 - mulatto - mixed African / Indian / Spanish descent.