The Slave Trade

- Estimate scale of slavery is 15 million people in three and a half centuries
- Largest sea force migration
- However there was a decline in slavery in the 18th and 19th century (abolition 1807 and 1833)
- Chattel Slavery is something to own and to use as you see fit
- Bondage is forced labour to pay for debts
- Aristotle – some rule, some are ruled

Barbary Pirates

- 20,000 Irish Captured
- Sahara Desert well established trade routes
- Zang - land of the blacks exploited people around them

Europe and Slaves

- Portugal was the first European country to get involved with slavery
- 10,000 slaves – 10% of the population in Lisbon were African slaves
- John Hawkins was the first British man to sell slaves in 1550
- The hunter myth – that hunting Africans strayed too far from the tribe with a net and were captured
- John Thorton however admits that there is not enough evidence or records to determine this
- 1660 Royal African Company seeks gold and the crown gets a share
- 5-10,000 slaves traded a year
- African King (not sure which one) controlled the supply of slaves
- 3 ways for people in find themselves in slavery: warefare – official by state during and after war by the losing country/tribe; punishment for crimes by the state- such as adultery, theft; and enslaved by bandits – illegal
- When are war, civilians in the losing community they lose warriors and therefore become vulnerable
- African countries at war would turn to European countries for finance, however funds were given to both sides – invested interest in gaining slaves
- Local power, Kingdom of Benin, King controlled slaves and invited Europeans to buy slaves but rules had to be ruled which were set by the African King
- King later decides not to sell slaves but kept a trading relationship
- Pepper Coast, Gabon and Congo did not sell slaves
- King of Congo was Catholic and refused to enslave Catholics

The ‘Williams Thesis’

- It was only ever an economic investment
- Eric Williams ‘capitalism and slavery’