Secondary Source 1

To make sense of Atlantic history we still have to break out of the materialist paradigm and focus on the cultural not the economic or, to put it another way, to make sense of the economic, scholars should reexamine cultural patterns.… The explanation for the racial exclusivity of labour regimes and the transatlantic flows that supplied the labour itself must have been that Europeans were prepared to enslave Africans or use black slaves that other Africans have deprived of their freedom, but were not prepared to subject other Europeans, even despised minorities such as Jews, Huguenots and Irish, to the same fate…The expansion of the Old World into the New resulted in violence, exploitation, and unprecedented economic growth…but it was the merging and transference of values and cultures that made this happen, not the resources of the New World, or the transfer of capital and labour from the Old.

David Eltis, “Atlantic History in Global Perspective,” 1999

Secondary Source 2

Slavery in the Caribbean has been too narrowly identified with the Negro. A racial twist has thereby been given to what is basically an economic phenomenon. Slavery was not born of racism: rather racism was a consequence of slavery. Unfree labor in the New World was brown, white, black, and yellow; Catholic, Protestant and pagan…Racial differences made it easier to justify and rationalize Negro slavery, to exact the mechanical obedience of a plough-ox or a carthorse, to demand that resignation and that complete moral and intellectual subjection which alone make slave labor possible…Here, then, is the origin of Negro slavery. The reason was economic, not racial: it had to do not with the color of the labor, but the cheapness of the labor... It was not a theory, it was a practical conclusion deduced from the personal experience of the planter. He would have gone to the moon if necessary, for labor.

Eric Williams, “Capitalism and Slavery,” 1944

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time Period 2: 1607-1754** | **Learning Objectives:** | **Key Concept: 2.3.I.A** |
| Europeans and American Indians maneuvered and fought for dominance, control, and security in North America, and distinct colonial and native societies emerged. | WXT-1, WXT-4PEO-1ID-4, WOR-1CUL-1 | The growth of an Atlantic economy throughout the 18th century created a shared labor market and a wide exchange of New World and European goods, as seen in African slave trade and the shipment of products from the Americas. |

Source: *Interpretations of American History* Vol. One, 8th Edition (Bedford St. Martins), 2009