

British exploited their colonies

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## **Thesis**

As British colonizers were acquiring colonies, they did so not only for purposes of ruling other states, but also for their economic gains. For example, British exploited their colonies to gain economic and military superiority above other colonizers. During the 18th century, there were increased activities by the British to acquire colonies, workers for their plantations and attain economic supremacy to conquer their enemies and acquire more territories. During this era, the British took the advantage to exploit their colonies for profits. Therefore, in this paper, there is an examination of both historical and mathematical analysis to show that British exploited their colonies to gain profits.

## **Introduction**

The long eighteenth century that stretched from Glorious revolution until the waterloo was the duration when the British rose to a dominant position as compared to other European trading and colonizing empires. It also became the leading industrialized nation in the western region. The extent at which the economy changed between 1688 and 1815 may be discerned via the glimpse of the social situations at homes, economic status as well as the growth of empires and trade during the beginning and the end of this period of colonization. For example, in the year 1688, Wales and England had the population of 4.9 million and their internal economies were still mainly based on production and agricultural works.

During the 18th century, the British domestic industries flourished whereby the majority of workers pursued dual occupations in agriculture and on a seasonal basis in industries. The British societies contained a highly flourishing and an extra extensive middling sector as compared to any other Western Union, which offered a robust platform for settlement in and

commerce with the far-flung territories. Their merchants were sending out ships to trade with the West Indies and North America whereby the British colonizers had established their network of colonies. This was following on from an acquisition of Barbados in 1625 and the permanent settlement by Virginia in 1607. Moreover, in 1686 only, these British colonies had shipped goods and services that were worth over \$ 1 million to their territories from the territories they colonized (Brown, 1999). The exports that they sent to their colonies included mainly woolen textiles while the imports involved tobacco and other tropical groceries, which had an increasing consumer demand.

The increased slave trade that had started and was taking place as the colonizers acquired their colonies began supplying the British colonies with the African labor that worked on rice, tobacco and sugar plantations and was based around activities of Royal African Company that had its headquarters in London. There was an overseas commerce that was conducted within a framework of mercantilist of Navigation Acts that stipulated that all commodities of trading were supposed to occur in British ships that were to be manned by the British seamen. The trading was also to take place between the British ports as well as those that were within their empires.

## Reference

Brown, Little, (1999). *The Illustrated Rise and fall of the British Empire* by Lawrence James.