

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 5 Historians have different views about the reasons for the abolition of the slave trade. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How convincing do you find the view that the slave trade ended because of the opposition of British industrialists?

(20)

The Slave Trade was abolished in 1807 but it was not because of the opposition of British industrialists, but rather humanitarians and the effort of SEAST.

It can be said that the slave trade (ST) ended because of the opposition of British industrialists as they believed it had become less profitable. Williams, creator of the decline thesis, ~~state~~ argues "slavery was 'inefficient and increasingly unprofitable method of production'. This is reinforced by Adam Smith's publication in 1792 arguing the slaves didn't benefit the economy as they had no spending power. However, Williams is wrong to argue that 'businessmen who had built their wealth on ... slaves ... destroyed the slave trading system in the name of the free market' as ships continued to participate in the ST until abolition in 1807 and a ~~1~~ third of the ST carried on after the Foreign Slave Trade Act 1806. The ST was 5% of GB's ~~of~~ GNP in the 1790s. Although Hilton agrees that the ST was very profitable as 'the property value of the slave colonies had doubled since 1784'. ~~The~~



(Section C continued) Whilst British industrialists were important in abolition, their reason for it was flawed as the ST remained profitable.

It can be argued that the ST ended due to humanitarian efforts. Williams ^{argues} states 'abolitionists highlighted the cruelty of slavery' and this can be reinforced by the efforts of SEAST to cause abolition. Clarkson's illustration of the inhumane conditions on the slave ship 'Brooke' shocked people as ~~condemned~~ the slaves were packed into extremely small areas. Clarkson even got 10,000 out of 50,000 inhabitants of Manchester to sign a petition against slavery in 1797 when he gave a speech illustrating the horrors of the ST the year before. Williams states 'the abolitionists were humanitarians' and this is supported by Wilberforce's effort in Parl. to get abolition with his yearly Bills from 1791-99. Wilberforce kept abolition an issue and got Pitt and later Grenville on his side. Even Pitt ~~Hilton~~ admits 'trade with Europe had been badly hit by the war with France.' The Napoleonic Wars assisted ~~humanitarians~~ humanitarians as France reintroduced ST in 1802 and this made Britain go against it, passing the Foreign Slave Trade Act 1806 to abolishing two-thirds of the ST.

In conclusion, the slave trade did not end because of the



(Section C continued) opposition of British industrialists but rather humanitarians as they were the first abolitionists in 1789 when SEAST was founded and continued until 1807 abolition. Their ability to 'highlight the cruelty of slavery' gained much British support, and gave

