

# Slavery and slave Trade Activities: The case of Blackbirding in the Pacific Ocean and Interiors from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries period

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**Keywords—** Poor, conditions. Plantations. Pacific. Oceans, enslavements, Blackbirding, trade, slaves. Brutalize, millions, lost, lives, combating, sea, ills.

**Abstract—** Poor conditions at sugar and other plantations in the Pacific Oceans as study territory or area tells, led to the outbreaks of disease and deaths in massive rate or amount. This was a form of human labour enslavements hence slavery and slave trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Here, we are interested to find out, to know what Blackbirding is all about and what surrounds the word. From considerable operations, of investigations, documents and internet research, we unveiled all the slaving activities as characteristics of this phenomenon from 1800 to 2019. Furthermore, this paper rotates on the axis of Blackbirding, some samples that deed on tables, statistics and others and the applications of laws that helped change the course of events as this history is concern. Our analytical presentation of materials gotten from documents and investigation sources serve as methods. To add more, we drew our result from the substance that, the trade on slaves hence Blackbirding actually existed in this part of the continent, possible means were used to bundle and erase the action that brutalize humanity and simplify their vitalities. Many millions of people lost their lives and properties. What should be noted is the fact that efforts were made, is currently going on combating these sea water ills.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Region Slavery, (Blackbirding) started because or due to the fact that other countries abolished it. Aboriginal people were blackbirded and used in the pearling, sugar cane sheep and cattle industries. They suffered terrible abuse and were denied their small or no wages. slavery is “the condition in which one person is owned as property by another” and the owner has “absolute power” over their “life, liberty, and fortune”. Such people are usually forced into work “in harsh conditions for low pay”. During the period of Blackbirding, Australia’s slaves Blackbirded worked in all essential industries, from the 1840s through to the 1970s: The first slaves to reach Australia from the South Sea were used as shepherds on properties in southern New South Wales, but died like the red Indians but due to cold. When the American Civil War cut off the world's cotton supply,

Australian slaves were used to establish cotton plantations in southern Queensland. A strong male Blackbirded would cost the modern equivalent of between \$5 and \$19, while women, particularly Tahitians, who were regarded as the most attractive, often fetched \$32. Between 1842 and 1904 more than 60,000 men and boys from the South Pacific islands, and an unknown number of women and girls that make the economy vibrant, were kidnapped and brought to Australia to work as slaves on the sugar plantations that still dot the country's north-east coast. Between the 1860s and the 1970s, aboriginal people of all ages were taken from their homes and sent to work on cattle and sheep properties or farming all across Australia. Several such schemes were run by colonial and State Governments mostly from Europe, theoretically to protect aboriginal Australians from mistreatment. Mistreatment was abundant and rife. The Government of Queensland

files proves and shows that, from the early 1900s, for 20 years there were no limits on how many hours aboriginal people worked, how hard was the labour, how bad was the treatment or the provision of food and living quarters. Minimum situation or conditions, introduced in 1919, were greatly and wildly ignored in the absence of any inspections in the Pacific region. In the Pacific, more than 1,000,000 people are thought to have been blackbirded, meaning manipulated, dribble and tricked, coerced or forced into indentured labour or slavery at this time called the blackbirded, a practice that is thought to have ended over a century ago but still mingles in the Pacific region and others. There are calls for a formal system to help the descendants of blackbirded Pacific Islanders find their relatives.<sup>1</sup> Here, the question posed is how was slavery and slave trade activities carried out like the case of Blackbirding in the Pacific Ocean Region and the interior in the nineteenth and twentieth first centuries? To answer this question, it will be interesting to rotate on the following points: Conceptual issues in the Pacific Ocean slavery and slave trade affairs, 'Blackbirding', The Population, Horrific sampling of Blackbirding, Research tables and additional Severe Rift Attacks on Blackbirding Activities (Tables), statistic and Data Collection. Representations in tables. And Protecting the Ability to Trade in the Indian Ocean as preventive Responses to Blackbirding

#### **A. Conceptual issues in the Pacific Ocean slavery and slave trade affairs, 'Blackbirding'.**

Blackbirding is an etymological oretymology which is a term, may have been formed directly as a contraction of "Blackbird catching" thus "Blackbird." This was a slang word or term used by the local indigenous people referring to the capturing of persons and forced them into slavery passing them into or via slave trade. The first major Blackbirding activity was conducted out of Twofold Bay in New South Wales, found in Australia. In later periods it extended to other areas within and out of the Pacific Ocean. It is well noted that areas like Samoa, Hawaiian islands and the United State of America suffered severely with extreme death rate, followed by Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Fiji, French

Polynesia, Mexico and Guatemala, New Caledonia, Peru, America and others.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Jens Korff, *Australia has a history of Aboriginal slavery*. Last updated: 29 June 2020.

(Pacific Vanuatu). Jacob Miley, *Was John Mackay a black birder?* Dailey Mercury News, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017, (7:00AM).

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<sup>2</sup> Etymology is the study of the origin and history of words and their meaning or the origin and history of a particular area.

*Picture: Slaves in America, 'The Blackbirded'*

**Source:** Henry P. Moore, American Slave of General-thom as f drayton-g

Blackbirders; This involves the owners captains and crew of the ships involved in the acquisition of these labourers as slaves. The word blackbirders demanded for cheap labour or nothing as reward that principally came from European colonists in New South Wales, Peru, Queensland, Samoa, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, Mexico, and Guatemala.<sup>3</sup> Blackbirded; They were the caught or in other words slaves. They were used labouring in sugarcane, cotton and coffee plantations in this lands, hence they were also exploited in other industries.

*Picture: The Blackbirded of South Sea Islanders in a Sugarcane Plantation*

**Source:** The sugar labour trade: <https://dl.nfsa.gov.au/module/364>

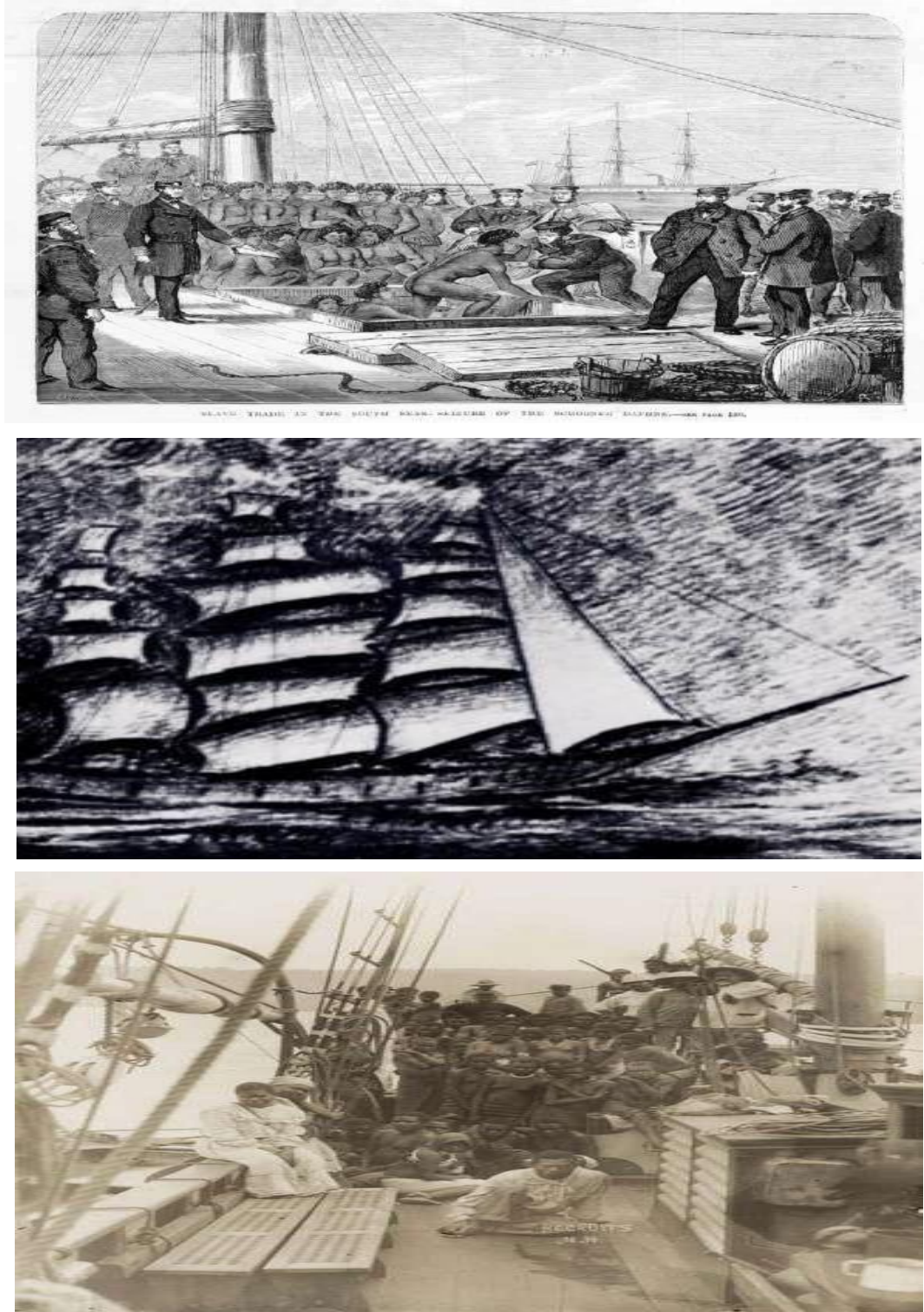
Blackbirding ships; These are large sea and Ocean vessels that began operations in these areas and the Pacific Oceans from 1840s which continued into the 1930s. It should be noted that blackbirders from the Americas sought or search for

<sup>3</sup> Emma Christopher, Cassandra Pybus and Marcus Buford Rediker, *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the making of the Modern World*, University of California, press, pp. 188-190



workers for their plantations and to mine the guano deposits on the Chincha Island, thus the organised blackbirding trade took place in areas like some colonists; Queensland, Fiji and New Caledonia that used those that has been blackbirded as labourers at various plantations especially or particularly those producing sugar-cane. (see pictures).

*Pictures: Blackbirding Ships in The Pacific Ocean (Daphne, Virginia)*



**Source:** Authors Research Photos

The word blackbirding could also mean a reserve underground Rail road, but this is not related to account of

all aspects of blackbirding in the Pacific Seas and Oceans that link America, South and North Eastern Asia not

leaving out Australia and her close Vicinities. Therefore, Blackbirding can be confined as an involvement of coercion of people through deception and kidnapping to as unpaid or poorly paid laborers' in countries distant to their native land. The term has been commonly applied to the large scale taking and carrying of people as such indigenous to the numerous islands in the Pacific Ocean during the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Those that were blackbirded were people, they were taken from places such as the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Niue, Easter Island, Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu and the Islands of the Bismarck Archipelago amongst others.<sup>4</sup>

Reserves underground rail road blackbirding; This as noted took place in the United State of America since before colonial and colonial period from 1800 to 1919. The reverse underground rail. Road existed to capture free Africa-Americans and Fugitive slaves and sell them into slavery which was and has been prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during and after when the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was outlawed.<sup>5</sup> This was outlaw same or similar as that of the Pacific Ocean slave trade. In Africa those groups that were implicated in supplying and most slaves, were the Aro, Oyo and the Hausa which they also experienced internal crisis and struggling and Yoruba city-states ended up engaged in interceded wars for control of the slave trade. This paralleled almost inline of prevalent operation in the reverse underground railroad, blackbirding that tantamount to conflict. From Bell Richard Counterfeit Kin: Kidnappers of colour, the Reverse Underground Railroad, and the origins of practical Abolition, people of Africa and Mixed ancestry commonly took part in these operations in order to make a living. Some worked under white employers, playing instrumental roles in deceiving fellow African-Americans and luring them into traps, while others pointed slaves. Owners to the location of their escaped slaves to the got bounty on the slaves head. The kidnappers were recorded to have acted against their family members in addition to others members of the community. Their careers also tended to be long due to African-Americans particularly children being more inclined to trust them than white people. Successful kidnappings mainly relied on the blackbirders developing

a connection to target by using their shared racial and cultural identities.<sup>6</sup> However it was and still prevailed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. New York, California, Philadelphia, and others were particularly prominent places for these kidnappers to work, causing fear of being kidnapped by anyone to become prevalent. In case of being kidnapped some lost their lives for enslavement refusal, while those captured, by those who captured become practical blackbirding slaves.<sup>7</sup> The British Pacific highlights in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in particular experience or witness an imperial connections between the French and the British on the perspective of, on Blackbirding for an Anglophone audience as experience and recounted by an author Georges Baudoux's. New Hebridean mining employees went on when Anglophone, Francophone and Pacific inhabitants or people interacted, exchanged and moved in and out of each other's lives, perhaps more frequently than today but all entails the Pacific history of blackbirding as seen with the slave workers, for example the Queensland Kanaka workers. The frequent episodic actions from Blackbirding gave rise to anti Blackbirders which imagine could no longer bare the aforementioned activities, freed some passengers in 1869, HMS Rosario, seized the blackbirding schooner Daphne with several slaves onboard. (see first picture of Daphne above). Areas such as Australia, America, the Philippines, Hawaiian, and Tapan including the entire Pacific oceanic took part in the slave trade in line with notion of blackbirding which has become a historical jargons or parlance of historical tales presentation.<sup>8</sup>

#### **B-The Population, Horrific sampling of Blackbirding, Research tables and additional Severe Rift Attacks on Blackbirding Activities (Tables), statistic and Data Collection. Representations in tables.**

According to census carried out in the 1900s, the Pacific Region made up of more than 20 countries and above 250 Islands supplied Blackbirded to work in Pacific Plantations as a replacement of slaves that were liberated after the abolition of the slave trade. Moreso, areas like New Guinea, The Philippines Islands, Singapore, New Zealand, Fanning Island, Solomon Island and the American Islands down to The South Sea Islands and the close interior of the Asian and American continent. Hence all these Islands and countries supply labour via Blackbirding method in the Pacific Ocean. The below table shows exceptionally the population of South Sea Islander where the majority of Blackbirded originated.

<sup>4</sup>. Materials from Willoughby, Emma, "Our Federation Journey 1901-2001"// <https://web.archive.org/web/20060625205722/http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/Federation/pdfs/multiv.pdf> May 4, 2020

<sup>5</sup> Bell Richard, Counterfeit, Kin : Kidnappers of color, the Reverse Underground Railroad, and origins of particular Abolition." in <http://web.b.a.ebscohost.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/host/pdfviewer/pdviewer?vid=28&sid=da822a84-6674-44f6-a849-ea21124de0a%40Sessionmgr4008.EBSOHOST>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Shineberg, Dorothy, The people trade: Pacific island labourers and New Caledonia, 1865-1930 (Pacific Islands Monographs series)

## II. THE POPULATION

*Table: Population of South Sea Islanders*

American Samoa	56,700
Cook Islands	15,200
Fiji	888,400
French Polynesia	277,100
Guam	172,400
Kiribati	120,100
Marshall Islands	55,500
Micronesia (Federated States of)	105,300
Nauru	11,000
New Caledonia	285,500
Niue	1,520
Northern Mariana Islands	56,200
Palau	17,900
Papua New Guinea	8,558,800
Pitcairn	49
Samoa	196,700
Solomon Islands	682,500
Tokelau	1,400
Tonga	100,300
Tuvalu	10,200
Vanuatu	304,500
Wallis and Futuna	11,700

### Source: Authors Research Table

From the above table showing the population of the South Sea Islanders, Papua New Guinea registered 8,558,800 people as the highest population which might have come because of Much slaves entering the Island to work in Plantations and finally when stay above twenty years could obtain citizenship. Also, Tokelau Island register the least population of 1,400 people which might be as a result of over drained of the population due to Blackbirding activities.

## III. HORRIFIC SAMPLING OF BLACKBIRDING

The Horrific sampling of blackbirding. (A global view analysis is preferable at this juncture). The first major blackbirding operation in the Pacific was conducted out of a Bay in South Wales. This was also the first of its kind was horrific due to reports of violence, kidnap and murder. In Australia, New South Wales, about 65 Melanesian labourers loaded in a ship finally stopped at Boyd Town on the 16 of April 1847 on board the ship *Velocity*. Under the command of Captain Kirsopp. Another personality of Benjamin Boyd engaged with two financed loads of 70 and 57 for Sydney arrival in September 1847 and October 1847 but not long from workplaces as observed, starving and destitute on the streets of Sydney hence the experiment of labour exploitation was discontinued in Australia, Robert Town and Queensland in the early 1860s.<sup>9</sup>

As events continued to unfold another incident took place in 1863 at Robert Town where the American civil war gave rise or raised blackbirding, to help as labourers in planting about 160 hectares of cotton in Robert Towns. The ships *Don Juan* brought 73 South Sea Islanders in 1863 at the port of Brisbane. In the vessels *Uncle Tom* and *Black Dog* 400 Melanesians came to supply labour as slaves of Blackbirding. In 1866 the *Blue Bell* brought from the south sea labour to the port. The labourer were paid in trinkets not cash in terms of money at *kanaka* as such claimed, blackbirded labourers were savages and known as use of money.

<sup>9</sup> Bennett A « immigration, blackbirding, labour recruiting. 2 The Hawaiian experience 1877-1887” Journal of Pacific History. 11(1):3-27. Doi 10. 1080/00223347608572288(<https://doi.org/10.1080/00223347608572288>)



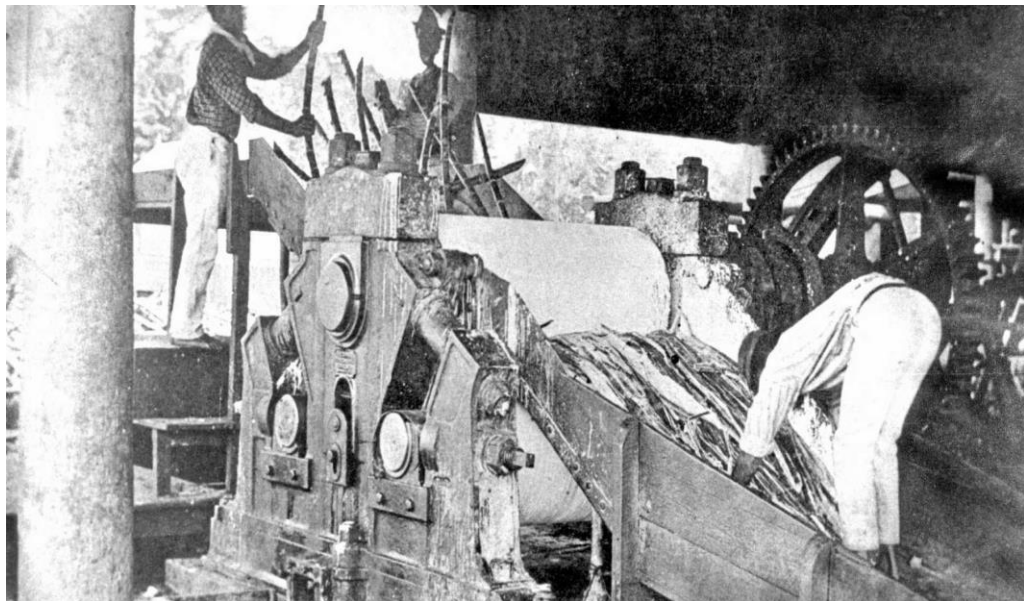
*Picture: Blackbirded Working in Newly Planted Sugarcane Field at Queensland.*



**Source:** Authors Research Photo

They were exploited and sold for a minimal sum of £2 each and that kidnapping was at least partially during recruitment, hence raised fears of a burgeoning new slave trade. Blackbirding as pointed out, here, is that some villages were ravaged like Lifou. In 1868 a ship *Siren* with 24 dead Islander recruits, the remaining 90 onboard were taken by force and deception, at Brisbane when the ship *Siren* anchored. The *Siren* debacle made Queensland Government invested in labour trade, kanakas actively working on their land holdings. Here, the engagement on kidnapping with violence was real. The London Royal Navy with base in Australia station in Sydney gathered momentum and shattered this event.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> «Like an African slave ship» was compared to *Daphne* that was under the command of Captain Daggett and licensed in Queensland to Henry Ross Lewin. This ship's activities were like those of the African type like *Dradong*, *Rogulo* and others. What should be noted here is the fact that humanitarian action of a senior officer of the Royal Navy, gave them their legitimacy to the blackbirding trade out of Queensland.

*Picture: Blackbirded working in a Sugarcane mill*

**Source:** Jacob Miley, *Was John Mackay a black birder?* Dailey Mercury News, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017,(7:00AM).

Furthermore, other slave ships such as spunkie, Jason Lyttona carried kanaka boys aged 12 and 15 years for the plantations. It was also noted that some and others rape like a pubescent Islanders girl which later the girl was sold for £20 in Brisbane. Most of those under the Blackbirding worked or were used in Canfields, sheep stations, pearl dowers being subjected to violent and neglectful treatment, hence kanakas would fight back and kill their overseas, they were hunted down and shot by the Native police. It should be noted that there existed some River plantation in the 1870s. Moreso, more samples, sampling the fact that Blackbirding actually existed are ships evidence engage in this business; Woodbine, Christina was owned by James Merriman who held the position of major of Sydney. Isabella, Flora, May Queen, Dancing Wave, Margaret Chessel, Mystery were checked for their attacked and shooting carried out, not leaving out the Royal Navy who delivered severe summary punishment upon killing blackbirding crews as examine. Others instance in the 1870s at this juncture involve HMS Beagle, HMS Wolverine, Sybil went killings of blackbirding crews through indiscriminate bombardment of villages, raids by marines, burning houses, destruction of crops and the hangings of Islanders from the Yardarms.<sup>11</sup>

#### IV. RESEARCH TABLES AND ADDITIONAL SEVERE RIFT ATTACKS ON BLACKBIRDING ACTIVITIES (TABLES), STATISTICS.

This aspect could be classifying or drawn from several levels within the 1880s; the early conflicts in 1880s the conflicts involving the Age of the slave trade 1800 to 1882 and the later years. The Blackbirding spin-up till witness Great violent act at Queensland with its intensification in 1880s. Vessels that were involved, that runs through the beginning and the end could or were as follows including their owners. It should be noted that their fire arm shave increases and robust or vigorous.

<sup>11</sup> The above mention ships were under the auspices of the following personalities; Captain de Houghton, Commodore John Crawford Wilson, Captain Satim and Davidson (plantation owners)



Table: Blackbirding Vessels and Owners or security and companies in the Pacific Ocean

<b>Ships or Vessels involve</b>	<b>The Owners or Concern (Areas or Country)</b>
Esperanza	Sambo(Area)
Pearl	Rendova Island
May Queen	Ambae Island
Stormbird	Tanna
Janet Stewart	Malaita
Isabella	Espiritu Santo
<b>Officers of Royal Navy Warship attempting punitive action</b>	
HMS Sandfly	Lieutenant Bower (five others)
HMS Cormorant	Luckcraft
HMS Emerald	Captain W.H. Maxwell
HMS Miranda	Captain Dawson
HMS Diamond	
HMS Dart	Commander Moore
Ship Borogh Belle	Captain Belbin (killed)
HMS Undine	Patrolled Blackbirding ship
Vessels Ceara	Labour recruits (matiries)
Slaves ship Lavinia (Blackbirding operation 1882)	George E.Morrison(crew, physician)
Alfred Vittery	Blackbirding crew (Griffith)
Stanley	Captain Joseph Davies
Jessie Kelly	Captain Millman
Ethel	Captain Loutit
Forest King	(owners)
Hopeful	Crew
Young Dick	The crew members
Eliza Mary	Crew
Helena	Captain A.R Reynolds
Para, Lochiel, Nautilus Rio loge, Roderick Dhu, William Manson,	/, /, /, /, Robert Cran (Sugar Magnel) Vos and Crew.
Sea witch etc.	William Hilton Hovell etc.

**Source:** Authors Diverse Research Materials Collection

Statistically, the Transportation of Slaves in the Western Pacific: Towns of Islands and Labourers-slaves transported, British Queensland 62.500, Fiji 27.000, French New Caledonia 15.000, Tahiti 2.500, German

Samoa 12.500, Hawaii 2.500, Peru 3.600, Guetamala 1.100. Making a total of 126.700 slaves. At Somoa, much engagement was centered at selling and exacerbating factional conflict. In 172 agricultural plantations,

expansion was done on over 100.000 acres due to blackbirding operations works in the farm plantation. Men, women and children of alleges were taken, separated and sent to work in harsh conditions with many succumbing to illness and poor diet. Here, the known German company “Deutsche Handels und plantagen Gesellschaft (DHPG) expanded Samoan plantations. Later all German asset after the First World War went to New Zealand. It should be noted that large British and American plantations which owned blackbirding vessels and exploiting blackbirder labour exist much and widely in the colonial Samoa.<sup>12</sup>

In the Haawailia Islands about 50% male able-birded indigenous Hawaiians were used as workers on the plantations. Approximately, about 200 people came from Tahiti, Caroline Islands and line islands were recruited, to work in Hawaiian plantations owned by Europeans colonists. Ships or blackdirding vessels like Stormbird recruited 85 people from Rotuma, Norounti, Mariana and Tabiteuea. The death rate was 20% and the mortality related at over 10% for each year were protection was less and the death rate was much higher when compared to the United States of America.

In the United States, since the colonial era, underground railroad blackbirding was reversed and the African-Americans worked under white employers, playing instrumental roles in deceiving fellow African-Americans. Successive kidnapping mainly relied on the blackbirding blackbirders, hence coursing fear of being kidnapped by anyone to become prevalent, thus ships were several and in varied sizes for slaves transportation involving their captains, who also participated in capturing the slaves, or blackbirders.<sup>13</sup>

## V. DATA COLLECTION REPRESENTATIONS IN TABLES.

This study has got clear evidences from statistics as has been mention above and as well as, here we find some datas in a table form how the existed some forces againstslavery or Blackbirding and against Blackbirding ships.

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<sup>12</sup> Statistic on Blackbirding in the pacific ocean  
[https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458\\*/pq=statisticston](https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458*/pq=statisticston)

<sup>13</sup>.What is blackbirding  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-17/blackbirding-australias-history- of -kidnapping-p>

Table: Blackbirdingships and their Vessels Captains in the Pacific Region

Blackbirding ships	Vessels or ships captains
Lavinla	Blackbirding operation (Queensland)
Lizzie ( burns Philip company)	William T. Wawn
Hopeful Ereuo Cessel (burns Philip)	Captain Lewis Shaw
Sea witch	William Hilton hovel
Loung Australian	Commander hovel
Bring Carl	Dr. James Patrick Murray being ship recruiter and Joseph Armstrong and mate Charles Powden.
Peri (low in supplies and was blown Westwand)	Seen or spotted near to Hinchinbrook Island Queensland Coast by captain John Moresby
HMS Basilisk	Spotted the Ship Peri.
Donald Maclean	Captain Mcleod
Flirt	Captain McKenzie
Wild Duck	Captain Martin ( stole people from espiritu Santo)
Lapwing, Kate. Grat Harriet Arnytage, Frolic, Atlantic	Kidnapper Blackbirders ships e.g. Bully Hayes
Margavet Chessel, MariaDouglass and Marion Renny	The crew (not named)
Nukalau	Captain Finlay Mclever
Stanley(chartered by colonial Government)	Captain Lynch
Heather Belle	Captain John Daly
Leonidas	
Lord of Isles	CSR Sugar mill at Nausori
Winifred, meg Merrilies, dauntless and the Ovalau	Fijian registered ships.
Moavoa vessel ( French Potnesia)	Captain Blackelt
Rona	
Lucene	Government ships
Helen W. Almy	Captain Luttrell
Tahili ( bargue) always anchored al Drakes bay north of san Francisco	
Montserrat	Contract more Gilbert Islanders as slavery
Aoba Annelte, Venus, Aursralica, Vuka, Idaho, (new Caledonia) Ambround and the Effie Meikle	Captains and recruiters on the bladelonning for the New Caledonia market included James Toutant proctor “black tow” Jean-louis Villedieu, Martial Briault, Charles Peterson Stuart, Walter Champion, Gabriel Madezo and Captain H. Mckenzie. The company Joubert and Carter run by Didier Numa Joubert and Douglas Carter owned many of the blackbirding vessels in the early years of trade, new calederia well into the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Atlower rate and most violent manure but ended in 1980s towards world war II.
Adelante ( Peru)	Peruvian and Chilean ship



Rosa y Carmen	Captain Marutani
Tasmanian Whaler Greacian new slave trade profitable than Whaling	Captain Thomas James Mc Grath.
Tumbes ( Peruvian) ship	Warship
Upolu	The German blackbirding vessel
Ubea, Florida and Maria	W&A Mc Arthur company of the Anglo-Australia recruiting vessel
Mary Anderson, Aeale	Crew of the British blackbirding ship in charge of recruiting starving Gilbert Islanders.
Stormbird Vessel ( Hawaiian Islands)	Captain H.W Mirt of the royal Navy was employed to arrange a large recruitment of Islanders to be recruited for Hawaii- mist bought the vessel stormbird at Sydney and appointed another ex-navy officer in captain George Jackson to conduct the expedition.
Sea Waif	The government agent aboard the vessel, Henry Freeman, bought a boatload of Gilbert Islanders form another blackbirding vessel
Pomare	Captain Cadigan
Hazard	Captain Tierney ( labour supplying company Haiwai)
Kaluna, Elsinore, Hawaii, Nickolaus, Mana and Allieroue	Other ships involved ( recruiting voyage to the Pacific Islands for the Hawaii and plantation 1887 under commended captain Philips

**Source:** Authors Diverse Research Materials Collection.

Data collection indicates that, from the above table that clearly shows the blackbirding, blackbirders, and blackbirded, we could deduce the following historical analyses, it reveals and gave an insight to most aspects of the blackbirding activities in Australia and the Pacific Ocean. They, the South Sea Island were starving and became destitute on the streets of Sydney. About 55.000 to 62.500 in 45 years arrived Australia while 15.000 Kanakas died while working in Queensland and at gunpoint was acceptable for negotiation hence mortality rate was 30% which in the transatlantic slave trade indicated similar or close statistical percentage view.<sup>14</sup> In 1863 as time went on some recruiters amounting to 73 South Sea Islanders which about 24 died out of 90 on board the ship Siren. Recruitment was engaged in kidnapping with violence. It actually overrode the obvious humanitarian actions. Some captains like, Captain Coach, John Coach of the Jason and spunkier ship lost a total amount of 45 kanakas due to incurred bearings. Missionaries were also attacked killing an Anglican missionary Jogn Coleridge Patterson in 1871. Some ships were attacked causing the dead of about 47 kanakas, thus another large or huge mortality rate in 1892 and 1893 made up 50% of all deaths hence 20% of the total population in Bundaberg. From 1908, the Pacific Island Labourers Act led to the compulsion repatriation of

around 4.000 to 75.000 blackbirded or slaves. While statistics shows that about 1600 remained in Australia because of the fact that in 20 years. blackbirded, some were already married, own lands and have stay for 20 years and above. Around 350 of South Sea Islanders were banished from Queensland, were transferred to plantations in Fiji and on their journey at least statistics shows or proved that 27 of them died while being transported. The 1992 census in Australia indicated that around 10.000 descendants are in Queensland, and in 2016 census or count, 630 people declared in Queensland that, they were South Sea Islander labourers while in 2012 before this a seasonal workers ship was introduced that brought in 416 and 403 visas for Pacific Islander labour workers in the agricultural industry on fruits picking. By 2018 around 17.320 Islanders, mostly from variety Fijiand Tonga to work in farm in Queensland. It was marked with widespread exploitation, Intimidation and underpayment of workers with at least 55% of employers being non-complaints in regard to payments and conditions.<sup>15</sup> Blackbirding by Blackbirders, Blackbirded until it reached a climate of them opening a city called sailors city Queensland. They were the rich merchants who constructed houses from their rich or supernormal profits. (see picture below)

<sup>14</sup> The trade over the Atlantic water mass gave an estimation of about 33% slaves who died in the first three years of being imported to America.

<sup>15</sup> Poor access to clean water, adequate food and medical assistance has resulted in several deaths.

*Picture: Sailors City Queensland*

**Source:** Authors Research photo

From the above picture we find out that the sailors go a roving the streets especially in the evening and night after their return on shore or land. Some walk struggling to organized methods to gain more slaves ready for their next take-off to the Islands for their plantation. Furthermore, Melanesia people were killed and buried and the early 21th century recruitment of labour under the unconnected 457 visa scheme blackbirder's treated no mourning and were buried in their farm, some were thrown in the seas after dead for the fishes to feed on them, while other were buried in the farm.to make the farm soil rich. History proved this harsh treatment above human reasoning for it is very difficult or hard to explain the treatment given to the stolen people or inhabitants of the Pacific Islands. At the time, this city was actually in the hands of sailors bringing the Blackbirded or taking them away to work in other Islands and close interiors in the Pacific. At Fiji, before annexation that took place from 1865 to 1874 slaves vessel or blackbirding ships, 03 Islanders were shot dead aboard the vessel slaves and the rest sold in Levuka for £3 to £6 per head for males and £10 to £20 for females and at the end the survivors were recommended by the government to go back. Here it should also be noted that some two Islanders crew were shot. What should not be forgotten was the fact that young girls were openly bartered for and sold into sexual slavery. A worker who returns or survived were able to return to their home Islands regarded as lucky,<sup>16</sup> still at Fiji every 1000 Islanders had at least about 20% death labourers. The mortality rate for blackbirder labour group at or was around 80%.<sup>17</sup>

At Mexico and Guatemala, New Caledonia, Peru Easter Island, Ata, Tuvalu, Samoa, Hawaiian Islands, United states of America and more others experience or witnessed and register some statisticson activities in figures of Blackbirding. As far as statistics in event surfaced and was retained, out to the Pacific, where captain Lautrec recruited 300 Blackbirded, At Gilbert Islanders they were offloaded in Mexico and sent to work at a coffee plantation close to Tapachula owned by an American named John Magee. On three years' contract established, in 1894 none of the recruited return home but it was found that only 58 were still alive. Other ships or vessels carried 370 Islanders involving 100 childrens. On reaching San Francisco at Drakes, but this slavery or blackbirding witnessed a change of captain yet the vessel capsized as discovered in 1892 which a few that has managed to survive drowned to death. At Guatemala 470 Islanders were brought with each worth £100 which they work in the plantation in an area of 70 miles which about 200 of them were infected and killed by disease.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> « South sea Islands » in <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60849109>.empire5027.newsouthwales, Australia, december31,1867 p.8.

<sup>17</sup> ibid

<sup>18</sup> Approximately 1200 Gilbert Islanders were recruited in three shipboards for the Mexican and Guatemala coffee plantation, survivors 250 only, with a mortality rate of 80% in two voyages in 196 to 1908

Table: Blackbirding with very low wages in shillings and pence

Origin of labour	Wages per month (shillings)	Bonus per month (shillings)	Overtime per hour (pence)
China	34 to 50	4	5
Caroline Islands	30	4	3
New Guinea	5 <sup>a</sup>	5	1.5

Source : “ Extract from letter to Chief Representative, Melbourne, 16 January 1922 ”, CO 225/188.

a. In addition, recruits from New Guinea received clothing and tobacco to the value of about five shillings a month.

Territory	“ All-in ” cost of native labour per day (in pence)	Daily task of cutting out copra (in lbs)
Fanning Island	36.0	300
Solomon Islands	20.5	450
Papua	12.8	450
New Guinea	9.2	520

Source : Encl. in A. K. Mackintosh to Secretary of State, 7 August 1936, CO 225/301/86276.

**Source:** Authors Research Tables

The above tables show that, China, Caroline Island and New Guinea took active part and participated in the Blackbirding activities system in the Pacific Region. Wages ranges from 5 to 50 shillings, while Bonus from 4 to 5 and Overtime worked ranges to 1.5 to 5pence and varies in the different countries. The second table explains incidence operational in Fanning Island, Solomon Islands, Papua and New Guinea which labour cost per day 36.5, 20.5, 12.8 to 9.2 respectively while daily task ranges on payment from 300, 450, 450 to 550 respectively. Furthermore, recruits from the New Guinea received some goods such as clothing and tobacco monthly in value of 5shillings as noted in an extract and Encl. of 16 January 1922 and 7 August 1936 respectively in the tables above. In New Caledonia, about 15,000 people were transported between 1865 to 1930s as some came initially in 1870, about 720 Islanders went to Caledonia to work in mines. Blackbirding wantonly increased which 06 years old were legally noted, were recruited, which the majority were children. Approximately 33% of the workers died while working in plantations, mining, pastoral, domestic servant and sailing, pearling and mailing industries(see **picture above on Cane mailing**). They were all in horrible conditions; subjected to inadequate food, poor shelter and harsh punishments while in New Caledonia, they were

impressed if not work as blackbirding or slaves and sold to the colonial government to further exploit them as unpaid labourers. They were sold on, and again to other colonists; if their original employer was bankrupt or death. This blackbirding altitude or manifestation only come to an end in the 1930s with the approach of world war II in 1939.<sup>19</sup>

In Peru, some racial backing, import blackbirded due to labour shortages, in which about 253 recruits of which more than half were women and children. Some of them worked as plantation labourers while others as domestic servants. Some other set out to make money on Polynesian labour. Easter Island, mass kidnapping was realized. About 1407 people were taken for the Peruvian labour trade which made-up third of the Island population, several vessels were involve in recruiting for Peru, kidnapped or deceptively obtained people throughout Polynesian. At Ata, mass-kidnapping was witnessed which about 350 people were living on Ata and about 144 people never return out of those who went or left for the plantation. By October 1863 the imprisoned Ata people

<sup>19</sup>.Statistic on Blackbirding in the pacific ocean  
[https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458\\*/pq=statisticston](https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458*/pq=statisticston)



died from neglect and disease while about 38 survivors were taken hence, where they might have died since nothing is known more about them. At Tuvalu about 180 went to Funafuti, while 200 were taken to Nukulae that some fewer left in number 100, of the 300 recorded in 1863 about 3,634 Polynesians were recruited and over 2,000 died from disease starvation or reflect either aboard the blackbirding ships. Due to outbreak of disease in Peru further death rate was registered to about 1,030 Polynesian labourers. To their home land epidemics and additional mortality was registered.<sup>20</sup>

### **C-Protecting the Ability to Trade in the Indian Ocean as preventive Responses to Blackbirding**

The notion here lay firm to the issue that, whether it be for this or for major international responses to natural disasters as this we saw in the Philippines and the Island in the past years. At the core of these types of international responses are relationships, relationships at the political level and for us relationships between our military forces. Events such as that of blackbirthing are crucial for the development of these relationships. From Some hopes we can further develop relationships between navies and each other over the next few days, so we can continue the important work we do. At the heart of the important work we do at sea is to protect our collective ability to. Everyone has heard shocking stories before sometimes and presently about the transatlantic slave trade, but this was hardly the only type of slavery in which Europeans were directly engaged. The Pacific slave trade involved the forceful enslavement of Pacific Islanders from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This particular type of slavery is often referred to as “blackbirding”. The primary focus of “blackbirding” was to supply cheap labour to sugar-cane plantations on Pacific plantations, particularly in Queensland, Fiji, New Caledonia, and the Samoan Islands. This was mainly achieved through methods such as trickery and kidnapping. They were frequently deceived about the length of time for which they were “contracted” and the nature of their “contract.” If all this failed, the Islanders were simply loaded onto slave ships at gunpoint. The captured Islanders were collectively known as Kanakas, which means Person or Man in Hawaiian. These workers were essentially treated as slaves, using the word Blackbirding, but officially they were referred to as “indentured labourers”. There have been debates as to

whether “blackbirding” was considered slavery, as the “labourers” were paid. Yet, it is worth noting that their wages were well below the wages of European workers just to shy away from the original slavery and slave trade situations.<sup>21</sup>

According to various studies, they work more than the normal rated time or period as first-year workers received a standard pay rate of six pounds per year. The pay rate was also fixed for 40 years without taking inflation into account. As slavery had already been outlawed by the British Empire, the minimal pay was used to justify the practice. “Blackbirding” can be seen as a euphemism, because the captured workers still worked in slave-like conditions. A person recounting their grandfather’s story explains how, he was told that once they were here, they were unable to speak their mother language, they were punished in terms of corporal punishment. They were also segregated from wider society just like African American slaves were in the US. In 1872 the British Parliament introduced the Pacific Islanders’ Protection Act which outlawed “blackbirding”. Yet, the practice still continued until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Act did provide for agents on British recruiting vessels, leading to stricter licensing procedure, and patrol of British-controlled Islands. The Pacific Islands were not the only area where “blackbirding” took place. The practice was also common in the United States after slavery was banned. Many US citizens used the Reverse Underground Railroads to capture free African-Americans and fugitive slaves and tricked or sold them into slavery. This practice in the United States was also known as “blackbirding” and relied on the same type of coercion and trickery. People of India and Africa or mixed ancestry frequently took part in these actions. While some worked for white employers, others helped slave owners with finding escaped slaves. For many tricking their fellow African-Americans was not a choice, but a necessity to survive. For their help they would receive a bounty. Their actions also resulted in more successful kidnappings, as “blackbirding” largely relied on developing a connection between the hunter and their target and for ex-slaves it was easier to trust a fellow African-American person.<sup>22</sup>

In 1807 Britain passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act and in 1862 Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, but this was hardly the end of slavery.

<sup>20</sup>.Statistic on Blackbirding in the pacific ocean [https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458\\*/pq=statisticston](https://books.google.cm/bookspid>kdzbAAAAQBA/8PG=PA458*/pq=statisticston). By 1866, only around 250 of those recruited had survived with about 100 of these remaining in Peru. The death rate was therefore 93%. Maude, H E, slavers in paradise in <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/114682>. ANUpresu.

<sup>21</sup>What is “blackbirding”? Posted by: Elles Hon: January 21, 2019 In: Breaking News, Australia

<sup>22</sup>Differential mortality of Asians and Pacific Island in Pacific labour Trade [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/Bf\\_03029360](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/Bf_03029360) Protecting the ability to trade in the Indian ocean, Figure 1: Indo-Pacific strategic overview

“Blackbirding” was simply one of the many ways in which people circumvented official laws to continue profiting from slavery.<sup>23</sup>

## VI. CONCLUSION

To conclude, the Population, Horrific sampling of Blackbirding, Research tables and additional Severe Rift Attacks on Blackbirding Activities (Tables), statistic and Data Collection. Representations in tables. And Protecting the Ability to Trade in the Indian Ocean as preventive Responses to Blackbirding has been the pivot of this studies. When the British assaulted slavery and slave trade, the scene was then transformed to another level where the traders,(blackbirders) deem it necessary to start using an advance method to give little compensation to the blackbirded as a means to avoid check on them. It is worth noticing that the little that was given was collected in the form of labour because the slaves or blackbirders still have no right of opinion to bargain on their salaries. They were taken out of their regions forcefully without their will or decision. Many of them toil in the plantations that was in Islands thus all was in vain. Some hard working Blackbirded were sold to other plantation merchants if the existed no job or transfer of ownership or business failures in the pacific to some plantations merchants. Some blackbirded end up dying not knowing where they originated due to the fact that they were, and are offspring of those who went to various direction during the capture of their parents. But it was only when Modern Slavery Act., criminal justice at the expense of victim protection, reversing the low risk and high pay out dynamic, the imposing of balancing the immigration policy and anti-slavery, victims identification and support to gain status and implication for promoters victims, increase protection for vulnerable groups, transparency in supply chains and bring out the hidden victims of modern, of the modern slavery Act hence looking forward in the application of more law canons in Human Right procedures. The debate here is for us to know; What are the internally and International implications of blackbirding and what methods and application worldwide can be use to put a total end to this calamities?

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