**Introduction**

Coercive labor relates to the scenario where a person works for another under various forms of compulsion, receiving little or no compensation. Slavery is one of the forms of coerced labor that dominated the precolonial economies. Slavery was termed one of the critical aspects that facilitated economic development, later industrial change and growth. Although slavery was one of the concerns among moralists, politicians, and scholars in the late 18th century, it was one of the factors that propelled the precolonial economies. . The slaves were sourced from Africa and shipped to areas they were required. It is important to note that the trade involving African slaves had begun in Europe long before developing the Atlantic route. Besides the arguments for or against the slave trade, some economic models supported the utilization of coerced labor to develop precolonial economies.

**Niebor-Domar Model**

The acute labor shortage is one factor that made scholars develop models that supported coercion such as slavery, indentured servitude, and serfdom. H.J Niebor is one of the people who developed a model to support the use of slaves . Niebor-Domar Model contains various assumptions.

* Firstly, labor and land are the only factors involved in production.
* Secondly, the land is of uniform quality, and this location is a non-factor.
* The third assumption is associated with constant returns in labor.

**Slavery as a form of coercion in Britain and economic benefits to Britain economy**

The first points relate to slavery as coercion and its benefits to Britain economy in the precolonial. In many cases around the world, slavery and servitude were some of the coercions mostly applied to spur the growth of the then economies. Slavery was applied differently in various countries that received slaves as trading commodities. In Britain, the merchants and business persons argued that slavery was one of the pillars supporting the country's economy. . During the hearing, the merchants involved in the slave trade submitted written letters to parliament, arguing that abolition of the slave trade was going to have massive effects on Britain's economy.

* . The merchants went ahead to lay various positive elements associated with the slave trade and their contribution to the country's economy.
* In particular, the assertions by the merchants and other people involved in the debate concerning the slave trade portrayed their critical positions offered by the slave trade. For instance, Britain was not going to industrialize in the absence of slaves.

**Serfdom and slavery in Russia**

The second element focuses on the role of serfdom and peasants in Russia during the pre-colonial period. Serfdom is another form of coercion that was applied to facilitate precolonial economies in Russia. During the 14th and 16th century, krepost was used in Russia referring to a legal document relating to sale, ownership or a loan. The document was particularly used to demonstrate or prove the rights of the landowner over the peasants. Primarily, the document provided the landowners with the powers to coerce the workers or laborers working on their farms. The existence of the document made the obligations of the peasants valid and thus restricted their movement. .

* Additionally, the individuals or peasants with the documents were considered to be long-established, and thus they were required to serve their masters for the period dictated in the document.
* The krepost provided a scenario designating both the peasants and the noble providing a certification that made it valid.
* Once the contractual agreement was entered, it gained the aspect of administrative value. Arguably, the existence of such documents is one of the elements that contributed to the institutionalization of serfdom in Russia.

**Debt bondage**

Debt bondage is another type of coerced labor that dominated India and other parts of Asia. Debt bondage relates to the agreement where a person was to work after entering into a debt contract and was required to continue working until the time to borrow funds was attained or debt repaid. If the borrower died before completing the repayment, the family was required to pay the money owed. The debt coercion played a critical role in the economy as the people working under could provide labor for a long time since the lenders extended too much credit or charged a lot of interest rates, making the debtors unable to clear the money.

* The borrower would be required to work for a long time or even their lifetime trying to repay the money.
* Debt bondage was particularly associated with the post-chattel slavery era, as evidenced in the 19th century in India. It was practiced in other areas such as Latin America, Southeast Asia, China and Africa.

**Summary**

In conclusion, labor was one of the factors that enhanced the growth of pre-colonial economies. Labor under coercion was also critical in lowering the costs of production for the products. Slavery, serfdom and debt bondage are some of the coercion approaches that were applied. For instance, slavery was termed as one of the critical pillars in the development and proliferation of Britain's economy. People under slavery worked hard to ensure the production of items for exports and other uses. Coercion could have worked as means of promoting the growth of the economy. However, the act dehumanized other people, including thus becoming overtaken by events.