



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - September 2000



Revolt and rebellion:
the other side of the slave trade and slavery.
Collection UNESCO: The Slave Route

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The newsletter provides a brief account of the activities carried out under *The Slave Route* project along with further information about the project's various partnerships.

EDITORIAL

As history's first system of globalization, the transatlantic slave trade and the slavery born of that trade constitute the invisible substance of relations between Europe, Africa, the Americas and the West Indies.

In view of its human cost (tens of millions of victims), the ideology that subtended it (the intellectual construction of cultural contempt for Africans, and hence the racism that served to justify the buying and selling of human beings as, according to the definition of the French Code Noir, "chattel"), and the sheer scale of the economic, social and cultural destructuring of the African continent, that dramatic episode in the history of humanity demands that we re-examine the reasons for the historical silence in which it has for so long been swathed. In this matter it is vital to respond to the claim voiced by Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel that "the executioner always kills twice, the second time through silence".

Hence, the issues at stake in the Slave Route project are essentially: Historical truth, peace, development, human rights, memory, intercultural dialogue.

The challenge that this project, whose approach is resolutely scientific, has set the international community is to link the historical truth concerning a tragedy that has been wilfully masked to the concern to illuminate the intercultural dialogue born of the enforced encounter between millions of Africans, Amerindians and Europeans in the Americas and West Indies, as well as in those overlooked areas of slavery, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

In the final analysis, the Slave Route project is a return to the future. The scientific investigation and ethical inquiry into the history of the slave trade and slavery aim to clarify the evolution of the societies that are concerned, here and now, to build a true pluralism, one that is not only an acknowledgment of diversity but also the recognition, promotion and respecting of that diversity, and that hence takes into account the interactions generated by history, geography and culture.

*Doudou Diène
Director, Department of Intercultural Dialogue
and Pluralism for a Culture of Peace*



*Slave House on Gorée Island (Senegal),
©Éditions Gacou.*

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

It was on the proposal of Haiti and the African countries, the initiators of this project, that the General Conference of UNESCO approved, at its 27th session in 1993, the implementation of *The Slave Route* project (27 C/Resolution 3.13). The project was officially launched in 1994 in Ouidah, Benin.

While the concept of a *route* reflects the dynamics of the movement of peoples, civilizations and cultures, that of *slave* focuses not on the universal phenomenon of slavery but, specifically and explicitly, on the transatlantic, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean slave trades.

The Slave Route project has a twofold objective: on the one hand, to put an end to the silence by bringing to universal attention the issue of the transatlantic, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean slave trade and slavery, elucidating through scientific research their underlying causes and *modus operandi*, and, on the

other, objectively to highlight its consequences, and in particular the interactions between all the peoples of Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean concerned thereby.

STRUCTURE

1. The Secretariat

The supervision, coordination and follow-up of the project's activities are undertaken by the Department of Intercultural Dialogue and Pluralism for a Culture of Peace, under the direction of Mr Doudou Diène, who is directly in charge of *The Slave Route* project, and of his team.

2. The International Scientific Committee

Composed of some 40 members appointed in a personal capacity by the Director-General of UNESCO, the International Scientific Committee is chaired by Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow,

himself a former Director-General of the Organization. The Committee, which is not an inter-governmental body, works in close collaboration with the project's Secretariat at UNESCO. It is responsible for ensuring that an objective, consensual approach is taken to the Slave Route issue, and for advising UNESCO on the project's main lines of emphasis. The Committee is multi-disciplinary, and its members include experts from Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean.

3. The national committees

In order to mobilize the populations concerned, including intellectuals, researchers, artists and scientific institutions, and to ensure their involvement in the project, a number of national committees, networks of researchers and scientific institutions, have been set up. Their mission is to ensure that the Slave Route project reflects the historical, real-life experience and the specific problems of the countries concerned by the slave trade, slavery and its consequences.

INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS

Since the launching of the project in 1994, the International Scientific Committee has held four sessions:

1. Ouidah, Benin, 6-8 September 1994

(Launching of the project by Mr Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, President Nicéphore Soglo of Benin and the members of the International Scientific Committee).

2. Matanzas, Cuba, 4-6 December 1995

(Definition of priority activities).

3. Cabinda, Angola, 6-8 November 1996

(Setting up of institutional and research networks to be responsible for carrying out the project).

4. Lisbon, Portugal, December 1998

(Review of the implementation of the project and, in particular, the nature of the networks, and the question of the ideological and legal foundations of slavery and the slave trade).

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The project's main priorities were proposed in Matanzas, Cuba, in 1995, and reviewed by the International Scientific Committee at the 1998 meeting in Lisbon. The overall structure for the project's implementation through its different programmes is presented in a diagrammatic form overleaf.

Many other events generated by the project have taken place throughout the world:

1. Erection of a monument to "The Cimarrón" in El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba) in 1997.

2. Ceremonies in April and May 1998 (lectures, symposia, seminars ...) to commemorate the hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the abolition of slavery by France and in the French West Indies.

3. *The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition* was marked in several countries on the first two occasions, in particular in Haiti on 23 August 1998 and in Gorée (Senegal) on 23 August 1999. Cultural events and debates were held.

By his circular letter CL/3494 of 29 July 1998 addressed to Ministers of Culture, the Director-General of UNESCO invited all Member States to organize events on 23 August of each year.



*Monument to The Cimarrón
El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba)
(Photo: Alberto Lescaj Merencio, sculptor)*

THE SLAVE ROUTE: PLURAL AND COMPLEMENTARY

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The backbone of *The Slave Route* project is the scientific programme on the slave trade (transatlantic, in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean), and slavery.

This programme is carried out through thematic research networks, as for example:

The development of an African diaspora: the slave trade in the Nigerian Hinterland (1650-1900);
 The ideological and legal basis of slavery and the slave trade;
 The diaspora: languages and forms of artistic expression;
 Religions;
 Slavery, economy and labour;
 Maroonage and forms of resistance;
 Impact of the slave trade on Senegambia;
 Women and slavery;
 Slavery in the Mediterranean;
 Bantu culture in the Americas and the Caribbean: languages, religions and society;
 Documentary sources: archives, oral traditions, iconography;
 Slavery in the Indian Ocean;
 Slavery, race and society;
 Archaeological research (on land and underwater);
 Slavery, museums and exhibitions;
 Slavery, tangible and intangible heritage and cultural tourism focused on remembrance of the past;
 Slavery and interculturality.

The research carried out under this programme serves to fuel the other parts of the project.

EDUCATION AND TEACHING PROGRAMME

The silence surrounding the slave trade related initially to history and education.

This programme, which is structured around an international *Task Force*, is fuelled through the preparation of national programmes and by the results of scientific research.

UNESCO's Education Sector, through the Coordination Unit of the Associated Schools Network, is responsible for running the education and teaching programme, in close liaison with the Department of Intercultural Dialogue and Pluralism for a Culture of Peace.

The programme is linked to the scientific programme, inasmuch as the research carried out under *The Slave Route* project fuels the preparation of teaching materials.

The "triangular" character of the Transatlantic Intercultural Slave Route Education project was illustrated by the holding of three subregional workshops: the first in St-Croix (United States Virgin Islands), from 2 to 5 December 1998; the second in Nantes (France), from 28 to 30 January 1999, and the third in Accra (Ghana), from 15 to 19 February 1999.

PROGRAMME ON THE PROMOTION OF LIVING CULTURES AND ARTISTIC AND SPIRITUAL FORMS OF EXPRESSION

The slave trade, which lasted for over four centuries (from the sixteenth to the nineteenth), was the most massive deportation in history. "It generated interactions between Africans, American Indians and Europeans on such a scale that a crucial issue for the third millennium is perhaps being decided today in the ferment of the Americas and the West Indies: cultural pluralism, that is, the capacity and potential for cohabitation inherent in peoples, religions and cultures of different origins, the recognition of the wealth of distinctive features and the dynamics of their interactions" (Doudou Diène).

The goal of the programme is to promote **cultural and artistic activities and forms of spiritual expression born of the interactions of the slave trade in the Americas and Caribbean that are bound up with African traditions, that is, the intangible common heritage of African, Amerindian and European peoples whom the slave trade forced to live together in plural societies.**

PROGRAMME ON THE MEMORY OF SLAVERY AND THE DIASPORA

The ignorance that surrounds the slave trade makes it one of the most radical forms of historical negationism. For the purpose of keeping alive the memory of that trade, the Slave Route project is launching two sub-projects: the cultural tourism programme focused on the Slave Route and a programme to set up museums of slavery.

Following the Accra Declaration of 4 April 1995, UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) have been working together to launch the **Cultural Tourism Programme in Africa and the Caribbean**. The main objective of this programme is to identify, restore and promote sites, buildings and places of memory linked to the slave trade and slavery in order to develop a tourist trade focused on remembrance and to promote economic development through tourism.

The **programme to set up museums of slavery** in countries wishing to do so is concerned with the tangible and intangible heritage of African peoples and of the diaspora. It represents the other aspect of the duty of memory.

MEETINGS

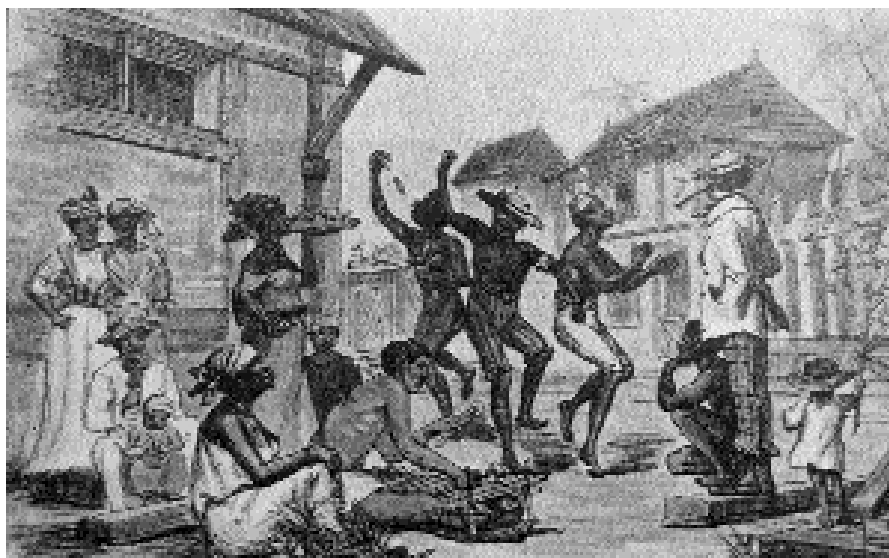
Memory of slavery and cultural tourism

- Meeting of Experts in Alcalá de Henares (Spain) on *The Iberian Archives on the Slave Trade*, 1995
- Meeting in Accra (Ghana) on *The WTO-UNESCO Cultural Tourism Programme on the Slave Route*, 1995
- Twenty-ninth meeting of the WTO Commission for Africa on the implementation of the UNESCO-WTO Joint Cultural Tourism Project on the Slave Route, Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire), 10-13 June 1996
- International Conference on Cultural Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana (Cuba), 18-22 November 1996
- Symposium on *Oral Traditions and the Slave Trade*, Conakry (Guinea), 24-26 March 1997
- Round Table on *L'insurrection de la nuit du 22 août 1791 à Saint-Domingue*, Port-au-Prince (Haiti), 8-10 December 1997
- International symposium on the topic *Entre histoire et mémoire des deux rives : la route de l'esclave*, Le Lamentin (Guadeloupe), 16-21 December 1997
- Meeting of Experts on *The European Archives on the Slave Trade*, Copenhagen (Denmark), 5-8 February 1998
- International symposium on *L'esclavage et ses séquelles : mémoire et vécu d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*, Port-Louis (Mauritius), 3-9 October 1998
- Seminar on *The ideological and legal basis of the slave trade and slavery*, Lisbon (Portugal), 1998
- Launching of the Cultural Tourism Programme on the Slave Route in the Caribbean, St Croix (Virgin Islands), 28-30 June 1999
- International Seminar on *The African Diaspora: languages, artistic expression and religion*, Kingston (Jamaica), 23-27 February 1999
- Thirty-third meeting of the WTO Commission for Africa, Accra (Ghana), 3-5 May 1999
- Symposium on *Esclavage et réparations*, Fort-de-France (Martinique), 21 May 1999
- International Symposium on *The Slave Route: The Long Memory*, New York (United States of America), 5-9 October 1999
- Symposium on *Diasporas noires, traces et présences de l'Afrique aux Amériques et en Europe : de l'esclavage à l'émigration*, Brussels (Belgium), 2-4 December 1999
- Meeting of officials in charge of sites linked to the memory of the transatlantic slave trade, Mulin-sur-Mer (Haiti), 28 February-1 March 2000
- Second meeting on the UNESCO-WTO Cultural Tourism Programme on the Slave Route in the Caribbean, Bridgetown (Barbados), 2-4 August 2000

Promotion of living cultures and forms of artistic and spiritual expression

- Symposium on *Cultural interactions, national identities and society* on the occasion of the Festival of the Caribbean, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba), 4-5 July 1997
- Seminar on *Africanité et hispanité sur la route de l'esclave*, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba), 2-9 July 1998
- International seminar on *Slavery and the slave trade in the history of humankind*, Brasilia (Brazil), 18-22 August 1998, 19-20 February 1999

Slaves making music and dancing (Photo: Collection UNESCO: The Slave Route)



- Symposium on *L'esclavage et les sociétés post-abolitionnistes*, Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, Schoelcher (Martinique)
- Symposium on *African Diaspora: languages, artistic expression and religion*, University of the West Indies, Kingston (Jamaica), 23-27 February 1999
- Festival of the Caribbean: Seminar on *Bantuité ibéro-américaine*, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba), 3-7 July 1999

Education and teaching

- Meeting of the project's Expert Group, Port-au-Prince (Haiti), 20-24 August 1998
- Subregional workshop, St Croix (Virgin Islands). Launching of the project for the Americas and the Caribbean, 2-5 December 1998
- Subregional workshop for experts, Nantes (France), 28-30 January 1999
- Subregional workshop for experts, Accra (Ghana), 15-19 February 1999
- Young people's forum on the slave trade and the world heritage, Gorée Island (Senegal), 21-27 August 1999
- Subregional seminar on the slave trade in the Indian Ocean, Saint-Denis (Réunion), 27-30 September 1999
- Subregional seminar on *Breaking the silence concerning the Teaching of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the United States*, New Orleans (United States of America), 18-21 August 2000

FINANCING

The project is financed by UNESCO's regular budget and by contributions from countries, various institutions and private individuals. Norway, through the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), and Italy have to date made substantial contributions to the project.

COOPERATION WITH THE MEDIA

Cooperation with the media is a key dimension of the project. It enables the general public, intellectuals and researchers both to remain abreast of and to take part in its implementation. Moreover, the media are urged to play a major role in the sphere of cultural tourism and in the establishment of photographic and iconographic documentary sources. The publication of articles and interviews in the press and participation in radio and television broadcasts all illustrate the importance of such cooperation.

The press

A number of French dailies, including *Libération*, *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro*, weeklies such as *Jeune Afrique Economie*, *VSD*, *Amina*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *La Revue de la francophonie* and *Actualité des religions*, and also newspapers representing the international press, like *Le Mauricien*, the *Herald Tribune*, *Le Soleil* (Dakar), *O Estado* (São Paulo) and *Bohemia* have been publishing articles on the project since 1994. For its part, *La Repubblica* (Italy) has played a pioneering role in presenting *The Slave Route* project.

Radio

RFI, Africa No. 1, the BBC, Média Tropical, France-Culture, Fréquence Protestante, Radio Nova, Radio Nations Unies, WIB New York...

Television

"Thalassa", FR3 broadcast on *The Slave Route* (1998), TV5 (1998), CNN-UNESCO, ARTE...

Films

The project has also sponsored and given support to various artistic productions:

- *Amistad* by Steven Spielberg, 1997. Professor Harris, member of the International Scientific Committee of *The Slave Route* project, acted as a consultant for the production.
- The film *Beloved* by Jonathan Demme benefited from the project's sponsorship at the time of its French preview, at the request of the Gaumont Corporation.
- The film *Sucre amer* by Christian Lara.
- The television film *Schoelcher* by Paul Vecchiali, broadcast by Canal + in 1998.
- The French *Festival de l'histoire et de l'image* (Rueil-Malmaison, France, 1998).
- The *Racines noires 1998* Festival provided a venue for representatives of the Black film industry.
- The film *Allons Marrons* by Raymond Philogène (1998).

- *Les illuminations de Madame Nerval*, documentary by Charles Najman, broadcast by ARTE in 2000.
- *Le passage du milieu*, documentary by Guy Deslauriers (France 2000).

On the occasion of the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the abolition of slavery by France in 1998, the project supported and sponsored a whole range of events (visual arts, dance performances, plays, music, poetry, photography exhibitions, literary festivals ...), as well as conferences, lectures, symposia and seminars organized in France and abroad:

- *La route de l'art sur la route de l'esclave*, a travelling exhibition of contemporary art, organized by the Association Culturelle de l'Habitation (Fond Saint-Jacques, Martinique);

- *Fest'Africa 98*, the sixth North African arts festival (Lille, France);
- *The Middle Passage*, a picture book by Tom Feelings, Dial Books (New York, United States);
- Exhibitions by the Brazilian painters Carybé and Dias Nascimento;
- The trip to Africa for children reporters organized by the *La baleine blanche* Association.
- *Soirées musiques du monde* (29-30 June 1998); *La marche des enfants*, stopover at UNESCO before going on to the United Nations, Geneva, (23 August 1998), organized by the Secours populaire français.
- *People Begin to Fly*, exhibition/dance, by the artist Nikunja, Paris, UNESCO (December 1998).
- International tribute to James Baldwin, UNESCO (3 December 1998).

*Saint Benedict the African "Il moro",
Patron saint of the city of Palermo (Italy)*



Key figures from the worlds of the arts and sport, including Grace Bumbry, Gilberto Gil, Lilian Thuram, Susana Rinaldi, Jacques Martial, Danny Glover, Olodum and Ile Aye, are also taking an interest in the project, and a number of cooperative activities have taken place or are planned.

Internet

A *Slave Route* website has also been set up, and may be consulted at the following address:
http://www.unesco.org/culture/dialogue/slave/html_eng/index_en.shtml

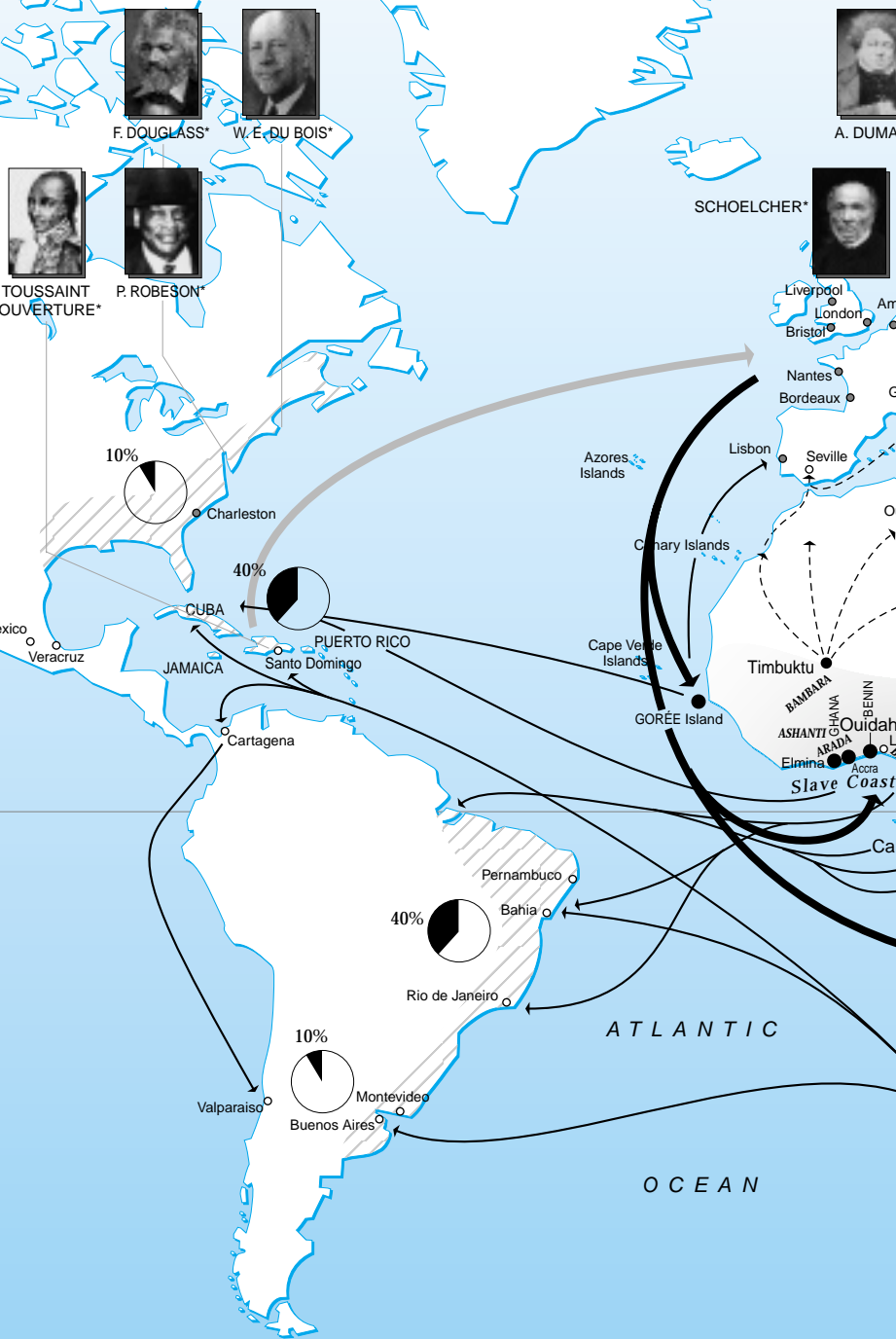
THE SLAVE ROUTE

The slave trade represents a dramatic encounter of history and geography. This four-century-long tragedy has been one of the greatest dehumanizing enterprises in human history. It constitutes one of the first forms of globalization. The resultant slavery system, an economic and commercial type of venture organization, linked different regions and continents: Europe, Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the Americas. It was based on an ideology: a conceptual structure founded on contempt for the black man and set up in order to justify the sale of human beings (black Africans in this case) as a mobile asset: For this is how they were regarded in the "black codes", which constituted the legal framework of slavery.

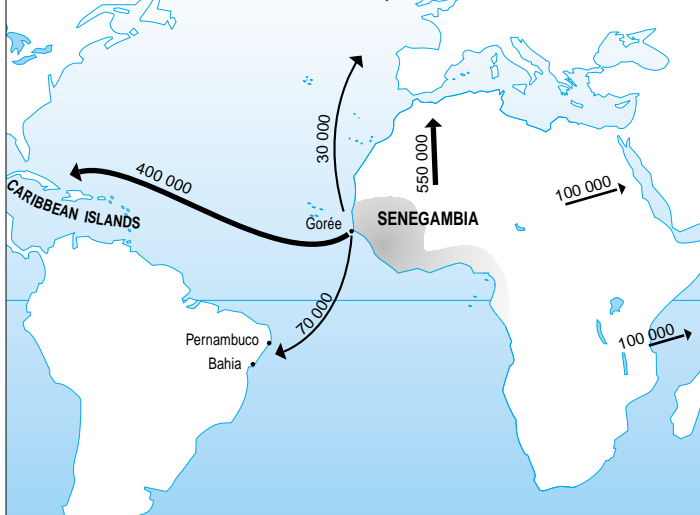
The history of this dissimulated tragedy, its deeper causes, its modalities and consequences have yet to be written: This is the basic objective that UNESCO's Member States set for the "Slave Route" project. The issues at stake are: historical truth, human rights, and development. The idea of "route" signifies, first and foremost, the identification of "itineraries of humanity", i.e. the circuits followed by the triangular trade. In this sense, geography sheds light on history. In fact, the triangular trade map not only lends substance to this early form of globalization, but also, by showing the courses it took, illuminates the motivations and goals of the slave system.

These slave trade maps are only a "first draft". Based on currently available historical data about the triangular trade and slavery, they should be completed as the theme networks of researchers set up by UNESCO continue to bring to light the deeper layers of the iceberg by exploiting archives and oral traditions. It will then be possible to understand that the black slave trade forms the invisible stuff of relations between Africa, Europe, the Indian Ocean, the Americas and the Caribbean.

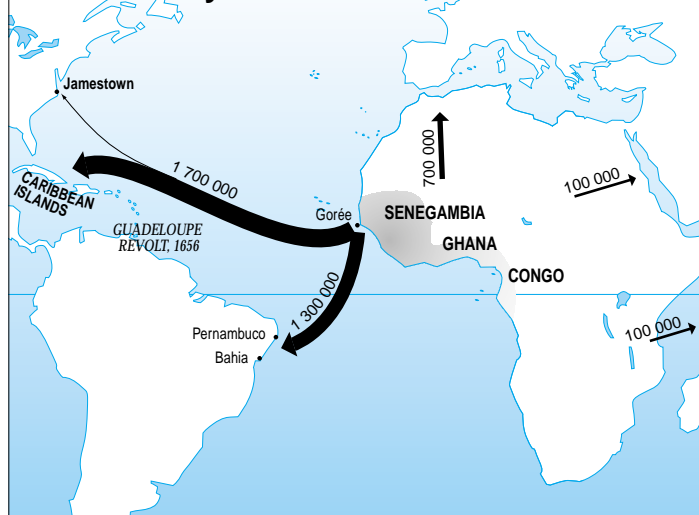
Doudou Diene
Director of the Division of Intercultural Dialogue



DEPORTATION FLOWS, 15th-16th Centuries



17th Century



**THE ASPnet
TRANSATLANTIC
SLAVE TRADE
EDUCATION PROJECT**

Text by
Elisabeth Khawajkie,
International Coordinator
of the Associated Schools
(ASPnet) project

Subregional workshops brought together ASPnet teachers and coordinators of the Transatlantic Slave Trade project, as well as members of the international expert group, in order to review current teaching on the slave trade, to add the final touches to the project and to agree on a study programme and joint framework for action.

**St Croix, Virgin Islands,
2-5 December 1998**

Experts, teachers and project coordinators from Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, Curaçao, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, St Croix and St Thomas, the Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as observers from Antigua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Ghana and France took stock of teaching on the slave trade,

such teaching being provided on a relatively extensive scale in many countries of the Atlantic world. Participants also visited such places of memory as the Christiansted and Fredriksted plantations, the Whim Plantation Museum and Salt River (the first land discovered by Christopher Columbus). One of the first recommendations of the workshop was to compile the writings of the slaves themselves, in order to draw the lessons from their sufferings and their struggles.

**Nantes, France,
28-30 January 1999**

Experts, teachers and project coordinators from Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, Jamaica, Benin and Ghana gathered together in what had been France's foremost slave-trading port. The municipality of Nantes hosted the workshop in its historic City Hall. Two NGOs, Anti-Slavery International and the Baleine Blanche Association, were also represented. Participants paid a visit to Feydeau Island, the quarter of the slave traders in the eighteenth century, where they attended the exhibitions *Haiti 2000* and *Mémoires des migrations*. Teaching about the

slave trade differs in Europe from one country to another, and participants were agreed that much remained to be done in order to "break the silence" so widely observed in certain countries; moreover, the scope of such teaching is still entirely a matter of individual initiative. The project timetable was presented at the workshop, as was the first version of the anthology *Slave Voices* prepared by the University of the West Indies.

**Accra, Ghana,
15-19 February 1999**

The Accra workshop, representing the third point of the triangle, brought together experts, teachers and coordinators from Angola, Benin, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Jamaica, Norway and France, who exchanged views on the importance of the project, took stock of the status of teaching about the slave trade, in particular in Africa, finalized the timetable of work for 1999 and discussed its implementation. Visits were organized to the places of memory: Slave River, Elmina Castle and Cape Coast Castle, and to two local Associated Schools where pupils had prepared for the visitors a show on the subject of the slave trade.

**Gorée Island, Senegal,
21-27 August 1999**

Over one hundred young people and teachers from 35 countries took part in the International Youth Forum on the World Heritage and the Transatlantic Slave Trade held in Dakar (Senegal) from 22 to 26 August 1999.

The launching of the ASPnet Transatlantic Slave Trade Education project and the organization of workshops was made possible by the support of the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD).

"Haiti where négritude stood up for the first time". Aimé Césaire.
UNESCO Collection - The Slave Route.



**A truly triangular
exchange
First youth encounter
in Norway**

Three schools – in Ghana, Norway and Trinidad and Tobago – have joined forces on a project relating to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Pupils from the El Dorado comprehensive secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago, the Achimota College in Accra, Ghana, and the Saltdal secondary school in Norway are working on the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the way in which they are applied in their respective countries. This scheme should continue to the end of 1999. “We shall stop only once we’ve reviewed all the articles”, says Jon Moller, the project’s coordinator, who adds: “it will be only the first achievement of our little triangular partnership in the matter of the transatlantic slave trade”.

**PROJECT IDEA
Article 4 in my country**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4.



Elmina Castle, Ghana.

Teachers and pupils taking part in the ASPnet Project are urged to follow the example of these three schools by studying, if not the Declaration in its entirety, then the manner in which Article 4 is applied in their own country.

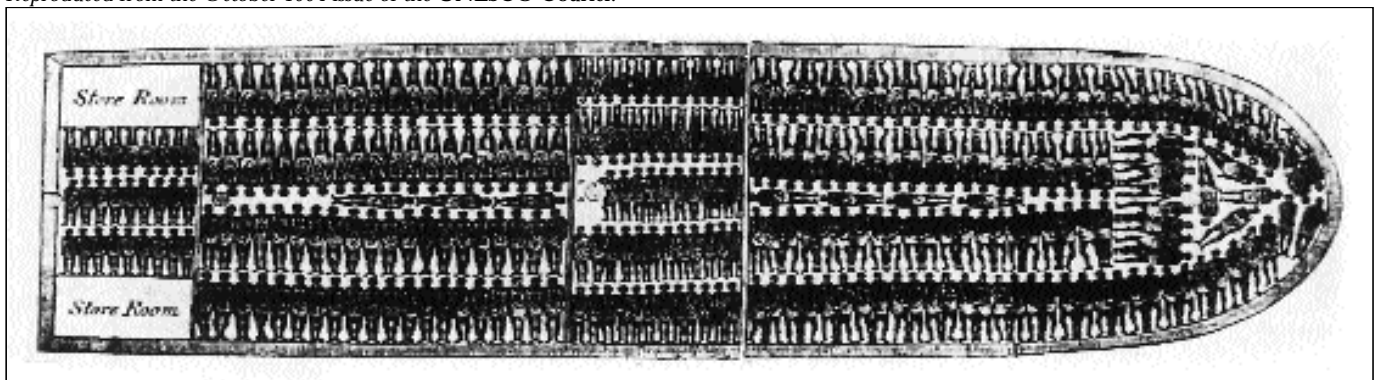
Poem: slavery

Véronique Flory, a pupil in the Arron secondary school in Guadeloupe, is the winner of the poetry competition organized on the topic of slavery by the poetry club of the *Quatre points cardinaux*. Her poem is reproduced below:

*The clank of chains echoes in the distance,
Yes, that's where suffering is,
The black man, the slave, has lost his dignity.
Brave though he be, his whole being suffers like a tormented beast.
He bows his back but grits his teeth against the master's whip.
The strength of his spirit guides his footsteps.*

*The clank of chains echoes in the distance.
Shapes surface from the pool of my memory,
Images glimpsed in archives make me fear the worst.
That age is gone, that leaf is turned, that book is closed.
The clank of chains echoes in the distance.*

*Cross-section of a slave ship, showing how the captives were crammed together between decks.
Reproduced from the October 1994 issue of the UNESCO Courier.*



PUBLICATIONS

Books

Les abolitions de l'esclavage, de L.F. Sonthonax à V. Schoelcher
Collection : Memory of Peoples
UNESCO, 1995, 416 p.

La société des amis des Noirs
Marcel Dorigny
and Bernard Gainot
UNESCO/EDICEF, 1998, 416 p.

La chaîne et le lien :
une vision de la traite négrière
UNESCO, 1998, 591 p.

L'Afrique entre l'Europe
et l'Amérique : le rôle de
l'Afrique dans la rencontre de
deux mondes - 1492-1992
Elikia M'Bokolo (General Editor)
UNESCO, 1995, 188 p.

Los Códigos Negros de la
América Española, Manuel
Lucena Salmoral, 1996
UNESCO/Universidad de
Alcalá

General History of Africa
(UNESCO):
Volume V: *Africa from the*
Sixteenth to the Eighteenth
Century, 1992; Volume VI:
Africa in the Nineteenth
Century until the 1880s, 1989

Reports and papers, 2:
The African Slave Trade from
the fifteenth to the nineteenth
century (first published in 1985;
republished in 1999)

Reviews

"Slavery, a crime without
punishment", *The UNESCO*
Courier, October 1994

"When East meets West
and North meets South",
UNESCO Sources,
No. 7, June 1995

"The Slave Route: a memory
unchained",
UNESCO Sources,
No. 99, March 1998

"Breaking the Silence: The Slave
Route, the ASPnet Transatlantic
Slave Trade Education project"

Questions and Answers,
UNESCO, 1999
Cahiers des anneaux de la
mémoire.

Annual review published jointly
by the Association « Les
Anneaux de la Mémoire »

in Nantes and by UNESCO
(*The Slave Route* project),
Nantes, 1999, 331 pp. No 1:
« La traite esclavagiste, son his-
toire, sa mémoire, ses effets ».

The Slave Route (booklet). « Les
Anneaux de la Mémoire »,
UNESCO, 1998

The Slave Route (map). UNESCO
2000.

Work on the plantations. The slave, a working tool. (Photo: Collection UNESCO: The Slave Route)



Basic texts

27 C/Resolution 3.13 (of the UNESCO General Conference) approving the implementation of the interregional project on *The Slave Route*.

29 C/Resolution 40 (of the UNESCO General Conference) proclaiming 23 August of every year *International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition*.

Draft Resolution

30 C/COM.IV/DR.9* of 11 November 1999 concerning *The transatlantic slave trade and slavery: a crime against humanity*.

155 EX/Decision 3.4.1 (of the UNESCO Executive Board) relating to the *Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a duty to remember and to be vigilant. From slavery to the full attainment of human dignity*.

Accra Declaration on the joint UNESCO-WTO Cultural Tourism Programme
The Slave Route,
Accra, Ghana, 4 April 1995

**MEMBERS
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE OF
THE SLAVE ROUTE
PROJECT**

- Dr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, former Director-General of UNESCO, President of the Committee, Dakar, Senegal.
- Mr Samir Amin, Director of the African Bureau, Forum du Tiers-monde, Dakar, Senegal.

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- H.E. Mr Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, Africanist, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO.

Monument erected on the island of Haiti by former slaves in remembrance of their emancipation. (Photo: Collection UNESCO: The Slave Route)





Aleksander Sergeyevich Pushkin (1799-1837)
Russian writer, great-grandson of an African
renowned in Russian military and technical
history, Abraham Petrovitch Hanibal (1696-
1781) (Portrait: Bibliothèque de France)

WHAT THEY SAID

The executioner always kills twice, the second time by silence.
Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

It is time that the West and Africa agreed to look back together at their shared past, however painful some of its episodes may be. The dignity of all concerned depends upon recognizing a history that the West must no longer ignore or pass over in silence: that of the deportation of millions and millions of Africans over a period of more than three and a half centuries. For sugar and coffee, Europeans and Africans were prepared to tear free men and women from their lands and their families, and forced them to cross the oceans to work in the most

degrading slavery until they breathed their last. Our culture and our history are converging to break the conspiracy of silence that still shrouds the tragedy of the slave trade.

Jacques Chirac, Brazzaville, 18 July 1996

Its sheer scale and duration make the transatlantic slave trade the greatest tragedy in human history.
Jean-Michel Deveau, historian

Although slavery is a universal phenomenon, three factors made the transatlantic slave trade unique: its duration – almost four centuries, the racial identity of its victims – black African men, women and children, and its intellectual legitimization: the cultural denigration of Africa and of Blacks, in short, the construction of the ideology of anti-Black racism, and its legal organization embodied in the “Codes Noirs” (Black Codes).

Doudou Diène, UNESCO

It is today more than ever necessary to put history back on its feet; our complicity in the slave trade is well established, and our erring ways, our faults of management and blunders of government, and indeed the predatory conduct of many of those in power are manifest. The inescapable fact nevertheless remains: we shall understand nothing of the underdevelopment and extreme destitution of sub-Saharan Africa if we turn a blind eye to the scourge that has blighted her history for over four centuries.

Nicéphore Soglo, 10 November 1993

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http://www.unesco.org/culture/dialogue/slave/html_eng/index_en.shtml