Slave trade and slavery on the Swahili coast (1500-1750)

Thomas Vernet

CEMAF - Centre d'Etudes des Mondes Africains

Abstract: This paper offers a reappraisal of the slave trade networks linked to the Swahili Coast before the mid-eighteenth century. It is based on extensive research carried out in Portuguese archives and other material.

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Contributeur: Thomas Vernet <thomas.vernet@univ-paris1.fr>

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The slave trade, centered on Zanzibar, developed on an unparalleled scale in Eastern Africa, and an actual slave mode of production became widespread on the coast. Conversely, very few publications have dealt with the slave trade for the period from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Almost all deal with the second part of the eighteenth century, mostly from the 1770s onward. During this time the French from the Mascarene Islands developed an intense slave trade with the Swahili coast, mostly from the port towns of Kilwa and Zanzibar, giving new momentum to the slave trade in East Africa. About Hemispheres. Africa Enslaved. Swahili Coast: 1. How do the numbers of slaves exported from Zanzibar compare with the numbers of slaves exported from other parts of Africa? 2. Produce a line graph depicting the total number of slaves exported from different parts of Africa in the 15th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. How do the numbers change in each part? Do they go up in some places and down in others? What effect did they have on the West African slave trade? On the East African slave trade? Slavery In Brazil Although the Portuguese arrived in Brazil in 1500, it took over half a century for them to establish an economy. Portugal's other dominions in Africa and Asia were more profitable and garnered more attention. 2006 “Slave trade and slavery on the Swahili coast (1500-1750),” in Paul Lovejoy, Behnaz A. Mirzai and Ismael M. Montana (ed.), Slavery, Islam and Diaspora, Trenton, Africa World Press. Revised and expanded version of 2003 article. 2004 “Le territoire hors les murs des cités-États swahili de l'archipel de Lamu, 1600-1800,” Journal des Africanistes, 74 (1-2), pp. 381-411. 2004 “La splendeur des cités Swahili,” L'Histoire, 284, pp. 62-67. 2003 “Le commerce des esclaves sur la côte swahili, 1500-1750,” Azania, 38, pp. 69-97. 2002 “Les cités-États swahili et la puissance omanaise (1650-1720),” Jou