

NOTICIÁRIO

HRBEK, J. (Editor). *General History of Africa*. Vol. III, Africa from the Seventh to the Eleven Century. (Agridged Edition). Paris; UNESCO, James Currey, University of California Press, 1992.

SUMMARY

The period covered in Volume III is dominated by two movements of major and lasting significance in the history of Africa. The influence of Islam was increasing in the north and west; it was interacting with traditional African culture. In the south there was the Bantu expansion.

The book first places Africa in context of world history at the opening of the seventh century, before examining the general impact of Islamic penetration, the continuing expansion of the Bantu-speaking peoples, and the growth of civilizations in the Sudanic zones of West Africa.

Detailed chapters follow discussing the successive Islamic dynasties of North Africa and their wider contacts, Christian Nubia, the civilizations of the savannas, forests and the coast of West Africa, the Horn of Africa, the East African coast and the interior, Central Africa, Southern Africa, and Madagascar's internal development and international contacts.

Three concluding chapters trace the African diaspora in Asia, examine international relations and the spread of technology and ideas within Africa, and assess the overall impact of the period on Africa history.

MILLER, Joseph C. *Way of Death: merchant capitalism and Angolan slave trade 1730-1830*. London; James Currey, 1988.

SUMMARY

Joseph Miller's *Way of Death* is the first comprehensive history of Portuguese and Brazilian slaving in the Southern Atlantic. With extraordinary skill Miller explores the complex relationships among the separate economies of Africa, Europe and the south of Atlantic that collectively supported the slave trade. The grim history of the trade itself is placed securely within the context of the rise of merchant capitalism in the eighteenth century. It is within that special context that the reader realizes how significant it was when slaves-as-dependents became slaves-as-property.

Miller carefully traces the Portuguese slave trade from its origins in the heart of central Africa to the harbors of Brazil. He follows the movements of the slaves themselves as they passed through the hands of the warlords who first seized them, through the markets of the trading princes, to the caravans of Angolan traders. Miller also describes the Brazilian maritime industry that carried the slaves across the Atlantic middle passage and, in the final section, he describes the growth and the eventual decline of Brazil's role in the slave trade. He concludes by outlining Lisbon's engagement in southern Atlantic slaving as economic strategies developed against the background of British financial and commercial penetration of the Portuguese empire. Throughout *Way of Death* Miller illuminates the experiences of the slaves themselves, reconstructing what can be known of their sufferings at the hands of their buyers and sellers.

HOLMES, Timothy (Editor). *David Livingstone. Letters & Documents, 1841-1872. The Zambian Collection at The Livingstone Museum*. Lusaka, Indianapolis, London; Multimedia Zambia, Indiana University Press, James Currey, 1990.

SUMMARY

The wealth of the collection of David Livingstone's papers in The Livingstone Museum, Zambia has proved even greater than when this collection was first planned. As it proceeded, there were major finds of papers previously unknown even to the David Livingstone Research Project in Edinburgh. They provide evidence which would probably have affected some of the interpretations put forward by Livingstone's many biographers. His skill as a fund raiser is revealed with particular clarity. And his observations about political development in the United States during the Civil War period are of interest.

The papers are arranged in four sections each with an introduction and the notes so that the non-specialist can see them in the context of Livingstone's life and the history of the times.

The first part is about his period in Botswana. The second focuses on the Zambezi expedition (1858-64). The third section covers the time of his visit to Britain in 1864-5 when he was publishing *Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambezi*; it includes letters about his children and the death of his mother. The book brings new papers to light in the fourth part covering the last journey (1864-73).

CICIBA, *Facteurs Culturels et Projets de Développement Rural en Afrique Centrale*. Points de repère. Paris; L'Harmattan e CICIBA (Centre International des Civilisations Bantu), 1989.

SOMMAIRE

La fin du XXe. siècle est marquée par un débat aux issues incertaines sur le développement. Il est vrai que les cartes ont été brouillées depuis que le développement des jeunes Etats indépendants du tiers monde a été assimilé au décollage industriel et aux promesses technologiques de leurs aînés d'Occident.

L'objectif de ce travail est de mettre en lumière l'importance des réalités culturelles dans une aire donnée de l'Afrique bantu, et de donner des points de repère pour une mise en place plus appropriée des projets de développement.

En effet, il est urgent que ceux qui participent au développement prennent en compte le rôle primordial de la culture sous tous ses aspects: idées et croyances, institutions, coutumes.

Cet ouvrage esquisse d'une manière pragmatique les réponses aux enjeux que nous ne pourrions pas contourner à l'aube du troisième millénaire. Il aborde pour cela les secteurs clés du développement rural, à savoir: le domaine agro-pastoral, celui de la santé, les technologies, les petites et moyennes entreprises et enfin, éducation.

Un "guide" qui s'adresse à tous ceux, techniciens, cadres, formateurs africains et non africains, qui ont à intervenir dans les projets de développement rural.

OBENGA, Théophile et SOUINDOULA, Simão (Editeurs). *Racines Bantu. Bantu Roots*. Libreville (Gabon), Paris: CICIBA, Sépia, 1991.

SOMMAIRE

L'ouvrage "Racines Bantu" constitue un point de départ et une introduction générale fondamentale aux diverses activités scientifiques et culturelles que CICIBA (Centre International des Civilisations Bantu) entreprend dans le cadre des programmes de son musée.

"Racines Bantu" montre que la diversité des peuples déssiminés du Bahr-El-Ghazal des franges soudanaises jusqu'aux rochers du Cap, est issue d'une racine unique, génératrice de peuples unis par des parentés de sang, et de culture... "Racines Bantu", met en relief, les traits fondamentaux de cette parenté. En pénétrant la vie des ancêtres et en révélant leur personnalité et leur créativité, permet à tous, jeunes et moins jeunes, bantu et non bantu, de saisir les sentiments authentiques des Bantu, tels qu'ils sont appréhendés dans la condition humaine, (naissance, joie, tristesse, force, faiblesse, spiritualité) et à travers la dynamique de l'histoire. (Jean Emile MBOT, Ministre de la Culture du Gabon)