

Representations of Brazil on Outside by the Slave History Museum, in Nigeria

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Abstract

The Atlantic slave trade has integrated lively the worldwide economic development and sociocultural changes on Americas and Africa, but especially in Brazil. Meanwhile, despite the various regions that sent slaves to Brazil, the Bight of Biafra, in particular the southeast part of Nigeria had fundamental importance at this trade development, being the third African region that sent more slaves to the ports of Americas, but is still understudied. In view of the importance of museums in the representations of this period, this research proposes to understand the representations of Brazil at the Slave History Museum, located in Calabar, Nigeria, relating to the process of African diaspora which happened from centuries XVI to XIX and was an important migration event that contributed to the cultural formation of Brazilian people. Considering that the Museum has been founded in 2007, it is important to analyse if there is any relation with the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (date established in 1997 by UNESCO initiative to honour the victims for their resistance to the slavery) and the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade by the British; because from this premise the opening of the Museum may be relating to an attempt of historical remission with the Africans, immortalizing the memory about that period. For these purposes, it is needed to examine the historical sources about the slave trade, to understand how occurred the slave trade in Nigeria and analyse the exhibitions of the Slave History Museum, envisioning its intentionality while memory space and cultural heritage of a society. This research still proposes as a result to be achieved, a significant contribution to the academic discussion about the History of Brazil and Africa, which surely are not dissociated but complement each other.