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, traversed different regions and continents: Africa, the Arab World, Asia, 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 in the Americas.

The history of this dismembered tragedy, its deeper causes, its modalities and consequences have gradually been brought to light. It is the objective that the UNESCO’s member states set for the "Slave Route" Project. The issues at stake are: historical truth, human rights, development, for the "Slave Route" Project. The issues at stake are: historical truth, human rights, development, and oral traditions. It will then be possible to set up by UNESCO, continue to bring to light the extent that the theme networks of researchers, trade and slavery, they should be completed to gather data by Joseph Harris (USA) about the slave trade. Based on currently available historical data, the slave trade map not only lends substance to this early form of international trade, but also, by showing the courses it took, illuminates the impact of the system.

These slave trade maps are only a "first draft". Based on currently available historical data gathered by Joseph Harris (USA) about the slave trade and slavery, they should be completed to the extent that 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. In the middle of the 18th century it can be estimated that the black slave trade forms the very backbone of the European and Arab-African, the Army World, Europe, the Indian Ocean, Asia, the Americas and the Caribbean.

The Coordination of the Slave Route Project

**THE SLAVE ROUTE**

**DEPORTATION FLOWS, 15th-16th Centuries**

**17th Century**

**18th Century**

**19th Century**

**THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE POPULATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

| Average number of deportees from the 15th to the middle of the 19th century for all slave trades | 24 million at least. Total African population in the middle of the 18th century: 100 million |

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*Historical personalities who fought against the slave trade: Slave traders on the flanks of slavery (abolitionists, and others).*