

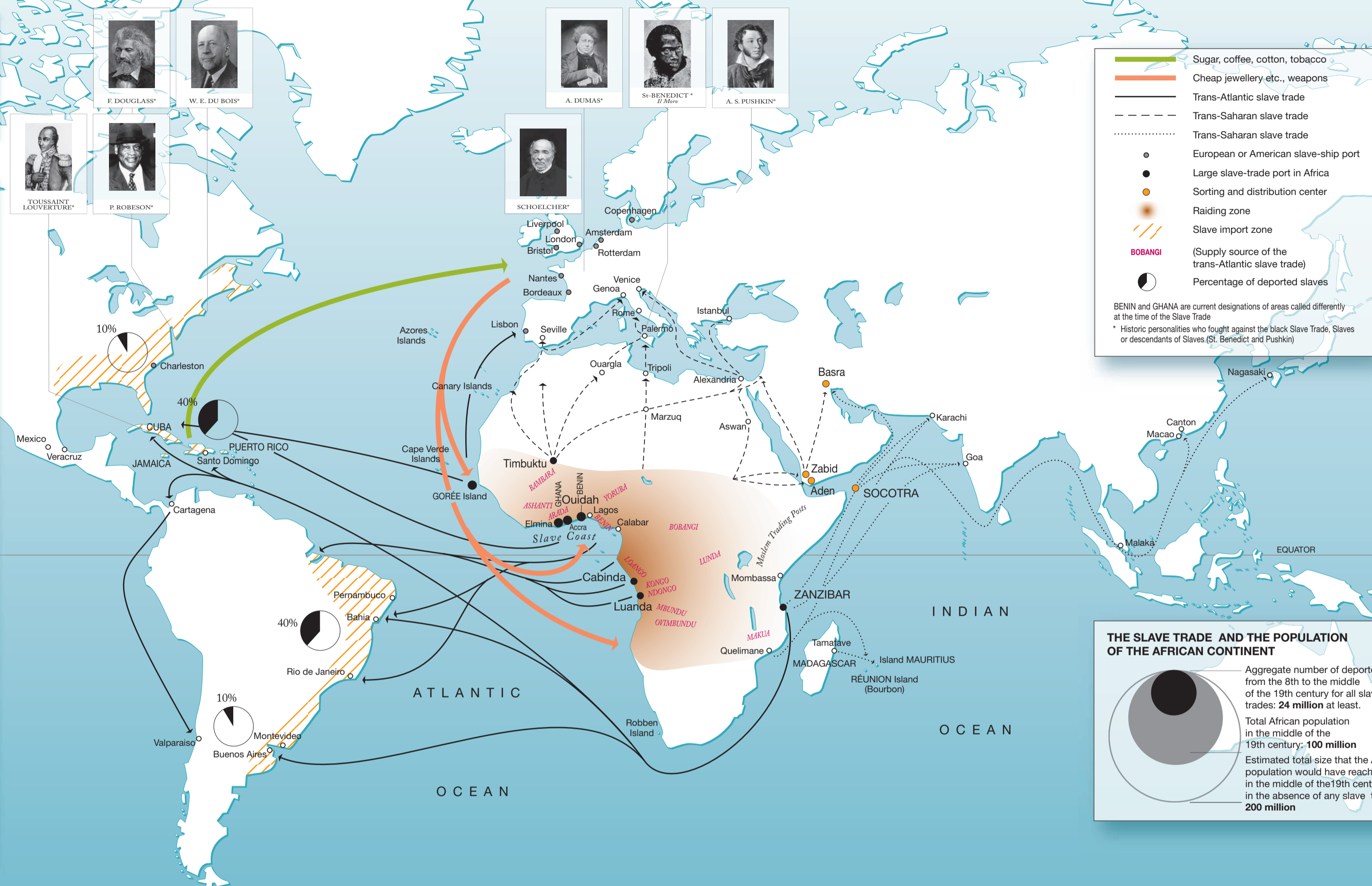
THE SLAVE ROUTE

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: 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 dissimulated tragedy, its deeper causes, its modalities and consequences have yet to be better elucidated: This is the basic objective that the UNESCO's member states set for the "Slave Route" Project. The issues at stake are: historical truth, human rights, development, identity and citizenship in the modern multicultural societies. The idea of "route" signifies, first and foremost, the identification of "itineraries of humanity", i.e. circuits followed by the slave trade. In this sense, geography sheds light on history. In fact, 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. It will then be possible to understand that the black slave trade forms the invisible stuff of relations between Africa, the Arab World, Europe, the Indian Ocean, Asia, the Americas and the Caribbean.

The Coordination of the Slave Route Project



- Sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco
- Cheap jewellery etc., weapons
- Trans-Atlantic slave trade
- Trans-Saharan slave trade
- Trans-Saharan slave trade
- European or American slave-ship port
- Large slave-trade port in Africa
- Sorting and distribution center
- Raiding zone
- Slave import zone
- BOBANGI (Supply source of the trans-Atlantic slave trade)
- Percentage of deported slaves

BENIN and GHANA are current designations of areas called differently at the time of the Slave Trade
 * Historic personalities who fought against the black Slave Trade, Slaves or descendants of Slaves (St. Benedict and Pushkin)

THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE POPULATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Aggregate number of deportees from the 8th to the middle of the 19th century for all slave trades: **24 million** at least.

Total African population in the middle of the 19th century: **100 million**

Estimated total size that the African population would have reached in the absence of any slave trade: **200 million**

