

For the Culture: Formation of the Black Church in USA



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Black Sacred Cosmos

W.E.B. Dubois – “The Negro church was born in the African forest.”

African Past

Western
Christianity

filter

Black Church(es)



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graph LR; A[African Past] --> F[filter]; B[Western Christianity] --> F; F --> C[Black Church(es)]
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The diagram illustrates the formation of the Black Church(es) as a synthesis of two cultural and religious traditions. On the left, 'African Past' and 'Western Christianity' are listed. Arrows from both point towards a central vertical line labeled 'filter'. From the right side of the filter, a large teal arrow points to the right, containing the text 'Black Church(es)'. The entire diagram is set against a dark blue background with a subtle, colorful, ethereal light effect on the left side.

Western Christianity

Catholicism

- 16th Century Reformation
- Anglicanism
(Church of England)
- 18th Century Revivalism
- Methodism (John and Charles Wesley)
- Racial Discrimination in Methodist Church
- African Methodism

African Past: Primarily, West Africa



Senegambia



Wolof



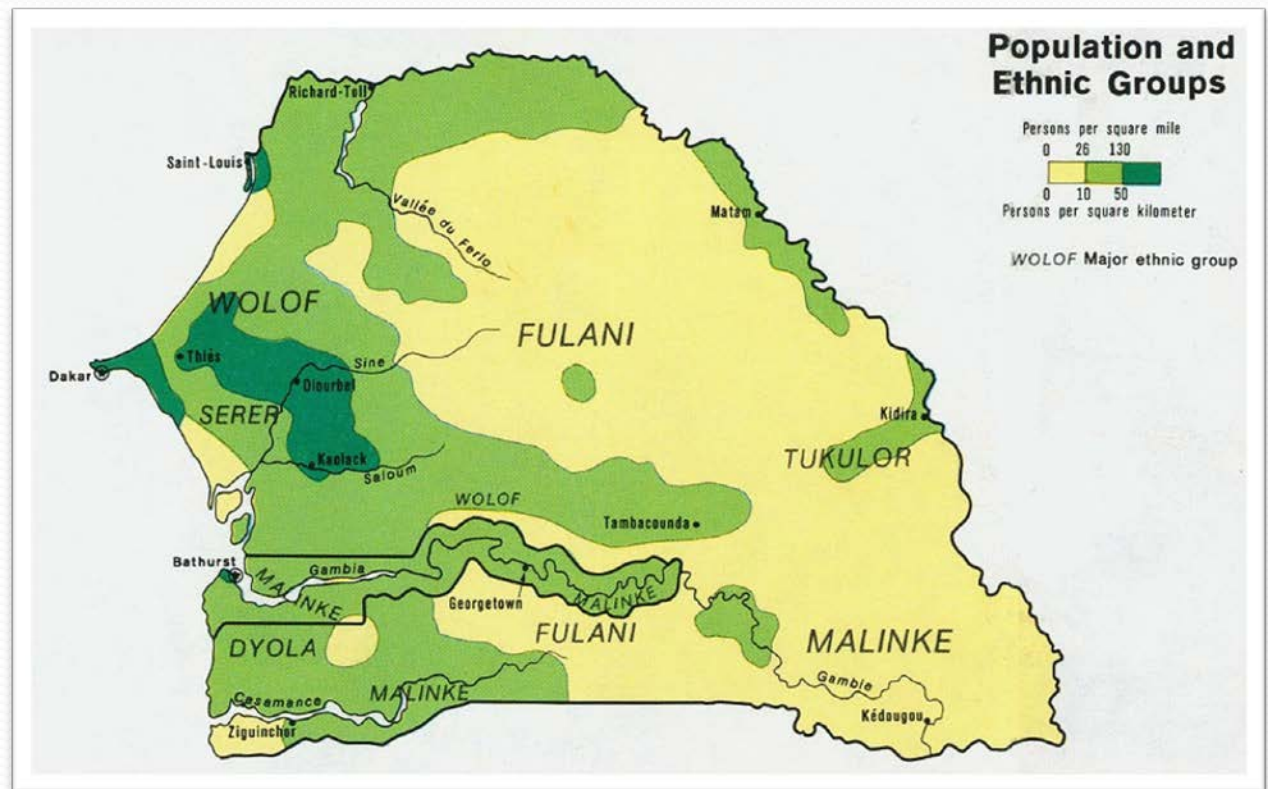
Mandingo



Bambara



Malinke



Sierra Leone



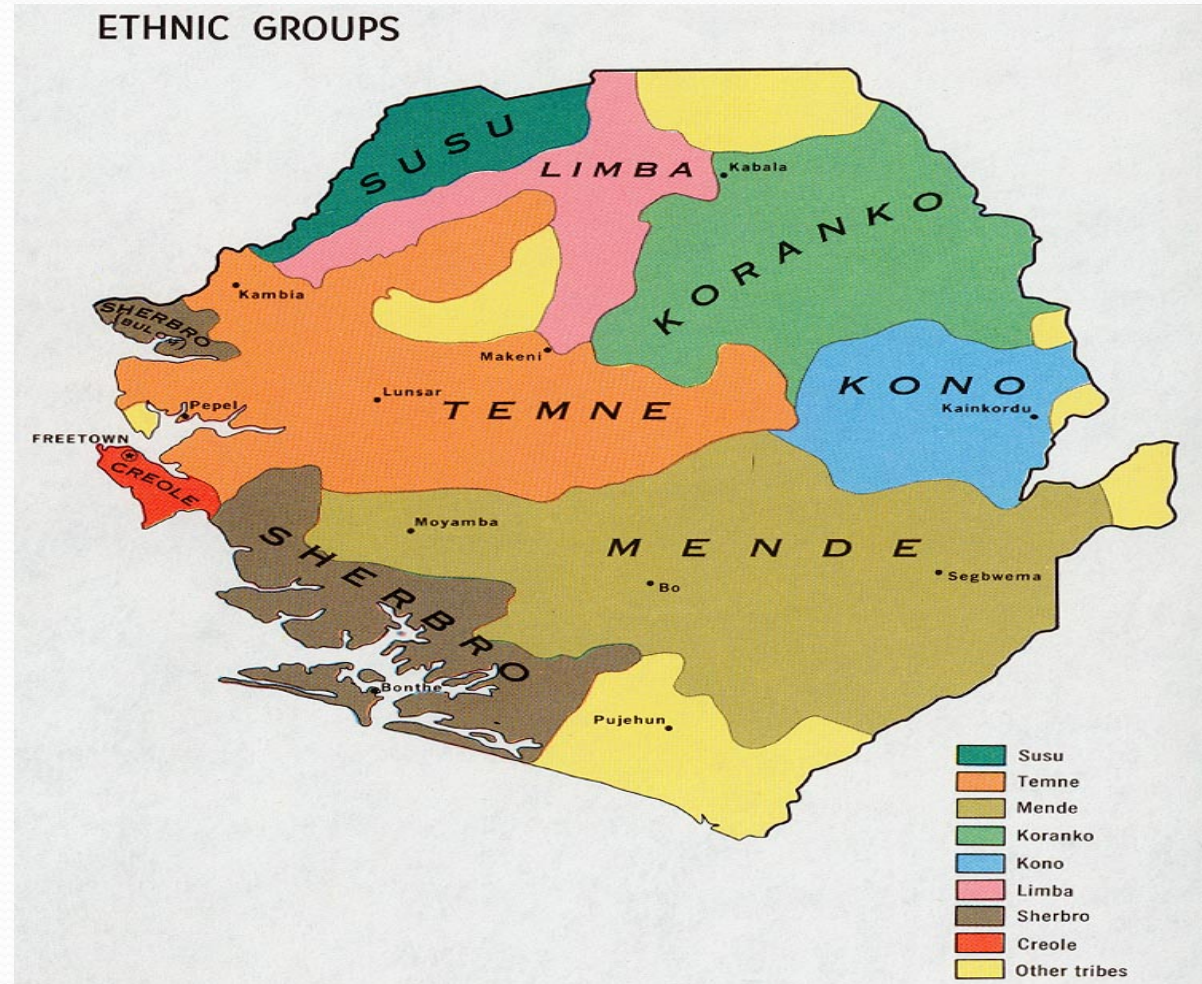
Temne



Mende



Goree



Windward Coast



Gola



Gold Coast



Ewe



Ga



Fante



Ashante



Bight of Benin and Bight of Biafra



Yoruba



Fon



Ibo



Central



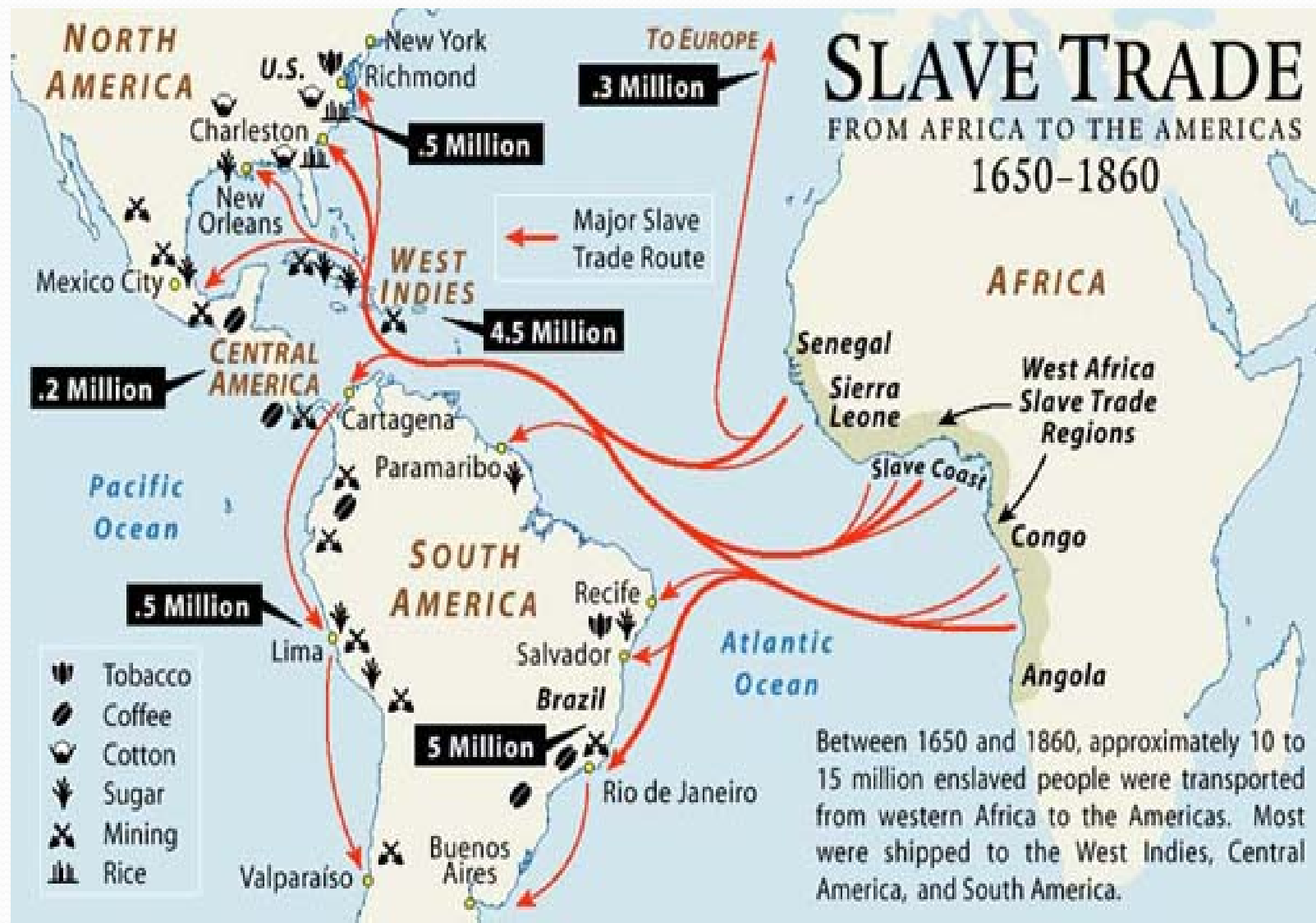
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Bakongo



Stolen From Africa: Maafa





Confluences of Two Traditions

- African heritage:
 1. Indigenous religious beliefs of those on African Continent
 2. African derived religions, those practices brought from Africa to the Americas.



Confluences of Two Traditions, cont'd

- Christian Heritage
 1. Exposed to Christianity in the Americas, both Protestant and Catholic
 2. American Christianity viewed enslaved Africans from a particular perspective





Black Church Movement

1620's

African Derived Religion (ADR)

African Derived Religious Practices (ADRP)

1740's

Great Awakenings

1770's

Black Church Movement

1820's

Black Church Movement, cont'd

The Historic Black Denominations in U.S.

- 1816: African Methodist Episcopal (AME)
- 1820: African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ)
- 1870: Colored/Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME)
- 1895: Nat'l Baptist Convention USA
- 1907: Church of God In Christ (COGIC)
- 1916: Nat'l Baptist Convention of America
- 1961: Progressive Nat'l Baptist Convention

