

WEST AFRICA: FROM THE SALT ROUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – THE CASE OF GHANA

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From the very first trade routes to the setting up of the World Trade Organization (WTO), centuries of commercial and human exchanges have passed. From the positive effects of the first trade routes, as they allowed many migrations of cultures and religious heritages, to the adverse effects of the world organization, as the WTO is known to enrich some countries and to impoverish others, our research takes another glance at globalization.

From silk to amber, from copper to salt, they are many routes to revisit today to give a real significance to globalization. Some nations were dispossessed of their natural riches and then exploited by others in the aim of exaggerated profitability. The example of numerous African countries illustrates this unfortunate phenomenon of commercial war. However, the dispossessed of the past can set out again with the conquest of their natural riches in order to take the place which they should never have left.

We will take Ghana with its salt industry in order to contribute to our anthropological approach.

We will travel the first routes followed by the ancient peoples and will show that they were the first steps to the current globalization. More precisely we will develop the idea that trade must recover its former glory while also fostering the diplomatic, cultural and religious exchanges.

The criticism of globalization thus invites us to revisit how we meet cultures, and to try and give new approaches to development.

Born out of this criticism, the concept of sustainable development takes all its meaning on the African continent.

