Nomads of Mauritania

Brigitte HIMPAN

and

Diane HIMPAN-SABATIER

Series in Anthropology

VERNON PRESS
“Nomads of Mauritania is a special collaborative work between an artist and a researcher that describes the lives of nomadic people in Mauritania. The authors explore the intersection of culture, nomadic life, art, and climate in the lives of these nomads. Their exploration illuminates the complexity of these factors and how they shape the everyday life and ephemeral artistic activities of the nomads. The authors’ insights have broader implications for climate change and identity well beyond this nomadic group in extinction.”

Prof. Dr. Thomas D. Hall,
Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, DePauw University, USA.

“An outline and overview of Mauritania, its environment, history, and ways of living, as well as the visual and material culture of its nomadic peoples. It can serve as an introduction for students and others wishing to explore these topics in critically focused, in-depth studies.”

Prof. Dr. Henry John Drewal,
Evjue-Bascom Professor of Art History and Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

“Nomads of Mauritania re-conceptualizes the idea of the Mauritanian nomads’ geographical environment, characterized by its desertification. It addresses the Mauritanians’s way of life (nomadism), their culture and customs. Moreover, not only it reflects the current situation of the large majority of Mauritanians today, but also it captures the experience in writing of a fast growing number of individuals belonging to migrant communities in other parts of the Maghreb. One of the main objectives of Nomads of Mauritania is to develop the new theoretical concept of strategic nomadism. In other words, it invites the reader to re-think the stereotypes of the “nomad” and “nomadism” in the present day and age. It approaches the phenomenon of nomadism from the theoretical perspective of intercultural and postcolonial studies. Therefore, Nomads of Mauritania will give its readers a new viewpoint of the different methodological schools and theories undertaken by the major scholars in the field of migration, as well as validating modern research orientations to the intercultural relationships between Maghrebian countries and beyond.”

Prof. Dr. Cristián H. Ricci,
Professor of Iberian and North African Literatures, University of California, Merced, USA; Director of the Education Abroad Program Chile-Argentina of California University.
“Nomads of Mauritania deals with the cultural identity as well as the future of the Mauritanian nomads. It highlights their history considering climate change, the importance and cultural ramifications of what the authors describe as their “geometrical-abstract art” in everyday life, and their future. This interdisciplinary study is at the same time erudite, extremely instructive, well-documented, comprehensive, and easy-to-read. It should be applauded for its clarity, carefully drawn maps and beautiful illustrations. This fascinating essay will appeal to a wide range of people: generalists and specialists as well as students interested in the nomads of Mauritania.”

Dr. Thérèse De Raedt,
Associate Professor of French, Department of World Languages and Cultures, University of Utah, USA.

“Adopting an interdisciplinary approach that combines art history, cultural studies, geography, ethnography and history, Nomads of Mauritania offers a rare window through which to see the complex world of the heterogenous nomads inhabiting the southern edge of the Sahara Desert that is today’s Mauritania. The author Brigitte Himpan and editor Diane Himpan-Sabatier have weaved a multilayered scholarship that illuminates the identity, lifestyle, moral and spiritual values, creative arts, cultural and environmental constraints and prospects that define the nomads of Mauritania. By exploring the peoples and an area often at the margins of academic studies on West Africa, this book breaks new ground by threading a path frequently bypassed.”

Dr. Tamba E. M’bayo,
Associate Professor of History, Department of History, West Virginia University, USA.

“Nomads of Mauritania is a thoroughly researched, comprehensive treatment of a complex sociocultural milieu. It acquaints readers with an extraordinary range of observations and reflections on dwellers in a unique part of our ecumene. While not for the casual reader, it provides an extraordinary panoramic view of a dynamic region and its innovative inhabitants. Nomads of Mauritania will alter misperceptions about the Sahel, acquainting its readers with its kaleidoscopic vibrancy.”

Dr. David Henry Anthony III,
Associate Professor of History, History Department, Division of Humanities, University of California Santa Cruz, USA.
Acknowledgments

To the memory of our late father and grandfather, Professor Doctor Joseph Mansuet HIMPAN (1909-1990), University Professor, Doctor in Sciences, Engineer Graduate, Scientist in Physics, Thermodynamics and Chemistry, Author of numerous scientific research, articles, theories and formulas, who remains a model and a source of inspiration, knowledge, thoughts, reflections, wisdom, philosophy and who always supported us in the most difficult times of life;

To Professor Doctor Mohamed Mahmoud OULD MAH, University Professor, Doctor in Economy, first elected Mayor of Nouakchott, Founding Chairman of the Mauritanian political party UPSD, and Misses Annie OULD MAH, graduated with a Master’s degree in German language, for their inestimable information, analyses and contacts and their warm welcomes in Mauritania;

To Professor Doctor Franck POPPER, Historian in Art and Technology, Emeritus Professor of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Paris VIII;

To Professor Doctor Olivier REVAULT D’ALLONNES (1923-2009), University Professor, Doctor in Arts and Philosopher, to have guided me as regards the philosophical aspect of the art in the completion of the post-graduate pre-PhD thesis, which is part of this book;

To University Professor of Paris VIII, Marcel B. KESSET, for his precious advice on the elaboration of the Master’s thesis, the main source of this present book;

To Misses Zahra MINT MAH, holder of a Bachelor in Sciences and a Master in Business Administration, especially for her assistance and sensitivity; as well as to Mister Prakash BHAT M.G. for his support;

To Mister Patrick RYCKAERT, Coordinator and Manager of the Management Unit of the European Union Programme for the civil Society and Culture (PESCC), and Misses Émilie DROIN for their invaluable information on the Mauritanian crafts;
To Mister Mohamed Salem BOUKREISS, Coordinator of the Project “Prevention of Conflicts and Intercultural Dialogue” for his efforts and availability in searching information about the Mauritanian nomads of the 21st century;

To all Mauritanian parents and friends, who gave us useful information and necessary rectifications, particularly: Mister Mohamed OULD KHNAFER, Misses Baba MINT HAMZA, Mister Moctar OULD Mohamed ABDALLAHI.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Maps of Africa and Mauritania................................................................. 1  
FOREWORDS .......................................................................................... 3  
INTRODUCTION ..................................................................................... 7  

Chapter 1: ............................................................................................ 11  
**GEOGRAPHY OF MAURITANIA**....................................................... 11  
1. Geographical situation...................................................................... 11  
2. Climates ........................................................................................... 13  
3. Relief and landscapes...................................................................... 18  
4. Hydrography ................................................................................... 20  
5. Vegetation ....................................................................................... 23  
6. Population ....................................................................................... 25  
7. Mineral wealth ............................................................................... 27  
8. Wealth of the sea ........................................................................... 35  
9. Fauna .............................................................................................. 36  
10. Desertification of the Sahara and Mauritania ............................... 41  

Chapter 2: ............................................................................................ 59  
**HISTORY OF MAURITANIA**............................................................ 59  
A. Mauritania at the time of Prehistory ............................................. 61  
B. The ancient inhabitants of Mauritania ......................................... 72  
C. The second wave of Berbers of Arab origin ............................... 90  
D. Mauritania in Antiquity ................................................................. 94  
E. The advent of Arabs and Islam in North Africa and Mauritania from the 7th century ................................................................. 101  
F. The blossoming of African powers in the south of Mauritania from the 13th century and the advent of the European maritime trade ....... 119  
G. The control and protection of the entire Mauritanian territory by the Moors from the 17th century ......................................................... 128  
H. The colonization stages of Mauritania ......................................... 133  
I. Mauritania since its independence ................................................. 154
Chapter 3: NOMADISM: THE MAURITANIAN NOMADS’ WAY OF LIFE. 163

A. The factors leading to the appearance of nomadism ............... 163

B. Nomadism and occupations of the Moors .............................. 165

C. Nomadism and the social organization of nomads .................. 174

D. Nomadism and the daily life of nomads ............................... 179

E. Nomadism and the cultural and religious impacts of the Moorish nomads ......................................................... 181

Chapter 4: SOCIETY OF CASTES AMONG THE NOMADS .......... 183

A. Hierarchy and activity of the castes among the nomads before 1981 ................................................................. 185

B. The nomads and the current Mauritanian society ................. 196

Chapter 5: NUTRITIONAL PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE NOMADS .... 203

1. Movements of the nomads .................................................. 203

2. Water: the best friend of the nomad .................................. 205

3. The wells and transport of water ...................................... 207

4. Livestock ........................................................................ 210

5. Milk ................................................................................ 217

6. Butter ............................................................................ 220

7. Dates ............................................................................ 221

8. The sacrifice of animals .................................................... 224

9. Hunting ........................................................................... 227

10. Cereals: a nutritional complement .................................. 234

11. Salt: in the heart of the trade-based caravan economy ........ 236

Chapter 6: MATERIAL PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE NOMADS ...... 239

A. The tent or khaima ............................................................. 239

B. The mat ........................................................................... 262
# Table of contents

*Chapter 7:* ................................................................. 269  
**CRAFTS OF THE NOMADS................................................................. 269**  
A. Crafts of leather................................................................. 269  
B. Crafts of wood................................................................. 282  
C. Crafts of terracotta .............................................................. 291  
D. Crafts of metal................................................................. 294  
E. Crafts of textile................................................................. 297  
F. The Mauritanian crafts of today ........................................... 300  

*Chapter 8:* ................................................................. 317  
**CULTURAL IDENTITY OF THE MAURITANIAN NOMADS.... 317**  
A. About cultural identity .......................................................... 318  
B. Islam rooted in the nomads’ customs........................................ 321  
C. Predominance of the Hassaniya language .................................... 331  
D. Values of the Moorish nomads and their relations with the others .. 336  
E. The ephemeral usual art and ephemeral living art:  
    materialized arts of the Mauritanian nomads .......................... 344  

*Chapter 9:* ................................................................. 385  
**WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE MAURITANIAN NOMADS? .... 385**  
A. The nomads becoming extinct................................................. 385  
B. Nomads still moving nomadically ........................................... 391  
C. Detailed characteristics of the nomads...................................... 418  
D. The anchoring of the nomads in the heart of the Mauritanian society ........................................ 434  

**CONCLUSION ................................................................. 445**  
**LEXICOLOGY ................................................................. 451**  
**BIBLIOGRAPHY ................................................................. 497**  

About the Authors .................................................................. 525  

Index .................................................................................. 527
Maps of Africa and Mauritania

Map 1: Mauritania within the African continent in 2014
(© Diane Himpan-Sabatier, 2013)
Map 2: Mauritania and its administrative regions
(© Diane Himpan-Sabatier, 2013)
Fore Words

“Nomads of Mauritania is remarkable for its depth, breadth, and penetration into the inner world of nomadic society. The authors, Brigitte Himpan and Diane Himpan-Sabatier, provide the reader with detailed geographical and historical context—essentially the stage on which the social drama unfolds. Natural resources are described, their social relevance discussed, and the consequences of environmental change explored.

The authors’ historical analysis of Mauritania is equally ambitious—extending from the Paleolithic, through documented arrivals, external relationships, and political history to the present in a continuum of cause and effect.

The reader is then led into the lives of Mauritanian nomads, with a level of detail that is both welcome and overwhelming. The structure and complexity of society are examined, including consideration of caste and hierarchy; folkways and mores are explored; diet and material culture are described; and the composition and management of herds is discussed, as well as the role of Mauritanian nomads in the trans-Saharan trade.

The treatment of nomadic arts and crafts includes practical considerations, social meaning, and spiritual significance. The lives of Mauritanian nomads are then projected into the future.

The authors have arguably produced the most comprehensive, substantive, and accessible treatment of Mauritanian nomads ever to grace the literature. “

Prof. Dr. Jeffrey A. Gritzner,
Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography,
University of Montana, USA;
Director, The Earth Restoration Project.
Mauritania is a country situated at the top of West Africa and a gateway into North Africa; it sprawls the Sahara Desert and flanks the Atlantic Ocean. Rather than dismiss this part of the world as a dormant desert devoid of life, the authors detail amazing histories, arts, cultures, quotidian life, and environmental issues. After accompanying her mother Brigitte Himpan during research, daughter Diane Himpan-Sabatier then began her own Mauritanian research projects. Thus, two generations of scholarship have produced a French edition and this English edition.

Writings about Mauritania are not easily accessible or available for an English reading audience. There lie not one, but two language barriers: both French and Arabic, as well as indigenous languages. The authors do not treat Mauritania as an isolated nation-state, nor do they broadly generalize it as monolithically Islamic. With delicate nuance, they critically contextualize Mauritania within the continent of Africa, delineate ties to Europe including ancient Greece, and trace religious and migratory relationships with the Middle East and India. We understand by the end of the book that Mauritania’s multi-regional and intercontinental ties contribute to and impact important arts and histories of the Roman Empire, Persian Empire, Ghana Empire, Mali Empire, Moorish eras, and a multi-faceted Islamicization. Throughout these histories, the book traces how ancient nomadic life began and why contemporary nomadism is in decline. Before nomadic life commenced and prior to desertification, a variety of wild animals existed and many examples of petroglyphs were painted. As climate issues have grown, major droughts in the second half of the twentieth century led to urbanization and a decrease in nomadic life.

The arts relate to so many surrounding areas in Africa. Women weave wool for the tents, create henna body adornment, and perform hairdressing. Leatherwork and calabash design are important. Pre-Islamic practices revolve around the evil eye and djenoun spirits. Artistic motifs or patterns such as the representation of the “eye of the source” are examples of a graphic communication system gathered by the authors. While the complexity of Mauritanian nomadic identity is carefully detailed, the interdisciplinary project remains specific in time and across regions of Mauritania.

Dr. Andrea E. Frohne,
Associate Professor of African Art History,
Ohio University, USA.
When I met Brigitte Himpan, Artist Painter, at the beginning of the 1980s, the author of *Nomads of Mauritania* often repeated to me that she was "a citizen of the world". An expression, about which I have thought for a long time. I was travelling for the first time outside my country and still saturated by the notions of homeland as well as cultural and geographical borders notably and unable to grasp its scope. Afterward, I understood what the author meant, the one who has never recognized the geographical boundaries and partitions between the cultures and civilizations.

For her, to be "citizen of the world" is the expression of a will to go beyond these obstacles and borders to meet other men and women, to communicate, interact and enter into a dialogue with them in view of discovering what all share in common. "Citizen of the world" was neither a simple play on words, nor a fashionable expression at that time; moreover, the "globalization" did not gain ground yet. To be citizen of the world is rather a lifestyle, a cultural and human attitude intended to go beyond all that can divide the human beings to discover all that can unite them; to shed prejudices, stereotypes and biases, which limit the human interaction and communication; to realize that all men and women belong to humanity, independently of their religion, culture, faiths and orientations.

With this in mind, Brigitte Himpan and Diane Himpan-Sabatier undertook their study dedicated to the nomads of Mauritania with a demeanour, which has differed in more than one way from that of many other anthropologists. In fact, in this research, the nomads are not treated as an "object of study" or "anthropological material" picked up from a museum to undergo the analyses of specialists. Quite the opposite, the authors, thanks to their humanist and universal vision, have considered these nomads as "actors" capable of being at the origin of a culture, managing and regulating their environment, creating their production tools and applying their artistic action on it.

Hence, the authors rather chose to lead an investigative work on the spot, to live among nomads over recurrent periods from 1981 until 1992, to become imbued with their society and to share their everyday life, which helped them to define well the themes of their research and the methods of data processing and analysis. They interviewed leaders and wise men, as well as craftsmen, domestic people and fishermen, who explained each their role in the Bedouin stratified society and showed how the values, beliefs, art and crafts coexist in harmony there.
They managed to make the nomads of Mauritania the contributors to the formation of the vision, which brings this book; therefore, their success to offer us a relevant and comprehensive definition of the culture of the Mauritanian nomads as a lifestyle and a set of faiths, practices, customs, values and artistic expression.

In addition, during all the stages of the research, as well as in its methodology and protocol, the authors have showed their profound respect for the nomads of Mauritania and their lifestyle. Even more significantly, they present the specific art and way of life of this community without any haughty look and any comparison susceptible to reduce its value.

They offer a model of much better universalism than the one, which the "globalization" offers us today. As far as they put the values of their scientific and intellectual speech into practice, contrary to the current globalization, which distinguishes itself by the conflict between its speech and the policies and measures, adopted on its behalf.

I witnessed the gestation of this work since it was just in its research stage for the completion of the Master's degree in Fine Arts and the post-graduate pre-PhD thesis in Philosophy of Art and Culture of Brigitte Himpan. I am very happy to see them gathered in Nomads of Mauritania, which I consider that surely, it will enrich the vision of those who will read it. “

Dr. Abdel Aleem Mohamed,
Advisor and Researcher in Al-Ahram Centre of Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt; Political Expert and Analyst in Palestinian and Israeli Affairs and Editorial writer to the daily newspaper Al-Ahram.
Introduction

Just a few decades ago, the great majority of Mauritanians were still nomads, living and moving in the Saharan desert. Studying their culture (environment, history, way of life, social system, crafts and arts) has represented a huge enterprise, out of which we selected the main essential aspects, taken from two academic dissertations by the author, Brigitte HIMPAN:

- *La Vie quotidienne des nomades mauritaniens à travers leurs objets usuels* (translation: The everyday Life of the Mauritanian Nomads through their usual Objects), Master’s thesis in Fine Arts, University of Paris VIII, France, 1983;

The information contained in these two dissertations has been updated, deepened and in some way completed by new unpublished points of view about the culture of the Mauritanian nomads; thus, giving rise to the present book, *Nomads of Mauritania*.

This book, *Nomads of Mauritania*, is intended for everybody, having a passion for the nomads’ way of life in the Saharan desert or particularly interested in knowing the culture of the Mauritanian nomads. The students and researchers in art or history of West Africa will also find judicious analyses and points of view, regarding the understanding of not only the history and desertification of Mauritania, but also the Mauritanian nomads’ materially expressed art, which we have called and defined as the « *ephemeral usual art* » and « *ephemeral living art* ».

The culture as a whole can be defined as the sum of all material and ideological phenomena, which characterize an ethnic group, a nation, a civilization. Man fits in within a space (geography) and a time (history). The material phenomena are essentially based on geographical factors: the knowledge about the environment, the adaptation to it and the availability of the resources present in nature; while the ideological parameters are mainly founded on history.
The experience, relations with the others, influences of the others or on the others and consequently the religion, spiritual values and social organization arise from the history. At first sight, the environment shapes the way of life, housing, diet, clothing and objects for instance, whereas the history influences the beliefs and values in particular. In fact, these two material and immaterial phenomena interact between each other and together; they affect the human community, here the Mauritanian nomads; these inseparable phenomena refine their beliefs and ways of life, thinking and acting, thus defining their culture, which has become specific and unique.

Therefore, we have deepened our study into the following aspects of the Mauritanian nomads' culture, which are linked to their everyday life:

- their way of life - nomadism - and housing;
- their social traditions: hierarchical organization into castes;
- their food habits in the desert;
- their crafts made of leather, wood, terracotta, metal or textile;
- their language: Hassaniya;
- their religious beliefs: the different Muslim currents and ancestral beliefs;
- their moral and spiritual values;
- and their art, expressed on the usual objects and called « ephemeral usual art », or directly expressed on the body and named « ephemeral living art ».

These cultural aspects are strongly linked to the study of the geography and history of the Mauritanian nomads; therefore, we feel necessary to present you first of all their geographical environment, characterized by its desertification and an original and unpublished history of their country, Mauritania.

The presentation of the Mauritanian nomads’ environment and the explanations about the advent of the climatic phenomenon of desertification allow for a realization of their way of life over time and within their space, their nutritional preoccupations and crafts.

The history of Mauritania since Prehistory up to nowadays is necessary to understand:

- the progressive stages of populating the country;
- the origins and present cohabitation of different ethnic communities, their cultural and religious influences and contributions;
- the predominance of an Arabic dialect: Hassaniya;
- the Mauritanian nomads’ values.

However, true to oral tradition, the Mauritanian nomads used to live in tribes and within emirates from ancient times, thus explaining the absence of a commune history of the country clearly recorded. Therefore, the history of Mauritania, hereafter proposed, is an original presentation, based on the studies of different empires, kingdoms and ethnic groups, directly or indirectly in link with Mauritania, from documents and research of historians and explorers. These historical and social data were put into relation with studies, carried out by scientists and concerning the evolution of the global climate at certain times, which had acted upon the history of the inhabitants of Mauritania and the different ethnic groups who settled down in this country.

The geographical space and history of the Mauritanian nomads enlighten us about their social organization into castes, still rooted in the Mauritanian society nowadays.

As for their ephemeral usual art, and by the same, their ephemeral living art, integral parts of their cultural identity, the different chapters of this book bring some elements of answers to questions, which may be asked about their art:

- nomadism: why are the usual objects the support of art?
- the material preoccupations and crafts: on what type of objects is the art revealed?
- the geography of the country, nomadism and nutritional preoccupations: through what materials is the art expressed?
- the social hierarchical organization: by whom is the art created and who is the ordering customer?
- the history: how is the ephemeral usual art expressed?

Once these outlines about the ephemeral usual art are broadly understood, the analysis of its aesthetic manifestation, in relation with the entirety of the Mauritanian nomads’ culture, leads us to define the characteristics of the Mauritanian nomadic art more precisely:

- its artistic tendency;
- the perspective;
- the dimension;
- the suggested ideas and values;
- the meanings of some patterns and whole designs.
The characteristics of the **ephemeral usual art**, which we explain in detail, aim at enlightening you on the Mauritanian nomads’ art firstly, and secondly at making you understand to which extent, this art reveals their deep cultural identity, and even their collective unconscious. Further, what is the future prospect of the **ephemeral usual art** today in Mauritania? Insofar as the Mauritanian nomads’ art was born in the heart of their way of life, nomadism.

Moreover, facing the global climatic change and the economic and cultural globalization of societies, what has become of the nomads of Mauritania today, and particularly the chiefs of camps and their tribes? Do they have the same social composition as before the independence of the country? In addition, what is their (demographic, cultural and political) weight within the Mauritanian society?

The study of the Mauritanian nomads’ culture was possible through not only the bibliographic documents and references cited hereinafter, but also necessary investigations, which were conducted on the spot in Mauritania in 1981 and until 1992, directly within the traditional framework of the nomadic camp’s life. The dialogues and contacts with warriors-chiefs, marabouts, griots, artisans, fishermen and *harratins* allowed us to discern their values and roles, which each holds within the Mauritanian nomadic community, and to study the way of life, crafts and art of the Mauritanian nomads through their stories, testimonies and activities.

This book is divided into chapters, each of which contains its references numbered and detailed at the bottom of pages. The bibliography contains all references of the text as well as additional documents for further reading. The words in italics in the main text are defined in the “Lexicology” part, except some Latin and Greek words and words in italics present in the references; while the expressions in both quotation marks (« ») and italics are appropriate to the authors. Besides, the years, without any specification or carrying the sign “+”, are understood A.D.; whereas years carrying the sign “–” are heard B.C.

Finally, we hope that the curiosity to know more about the life of the Mauritanian nomads in the Saharan desert will also give you another sight over the Western sedentary life and our current relationship with the environment.
PAGES MISSING
FROM THIS FREE SAMPLE
Books, articles:

- **Agreements of Madrid** signed on 14 November 1975.
- **Agrhymet regional Centre**, *Situation de la décade du 21 au 31 août 2015*, briefing-summary, 3 September 2015.
- **AL BAKRI** Abu Ubayd (~1014-1094), Muslim Geographer, Historian and Writer, *Kitāb al masālik wa al mamālik* (translation: Book of Routes and Realms), completed in 1068, one of the main sources on the Ghana Empire, Almoravids and trans-Saharan trade.
- **AL IDRISSI** Mohamed (1099-towards 1165), Geographer, Cartographer, Egyptologist, Historian of Arab origin, born in
Ceuta and died in Sicily, Kitab nuzhat al mushtaq fi khtiraq al afaq (translation: The Book about pleasant Journeys in distant regions).

- **AL KISY** Omran, *La Pensée arabe (Al Fikra al Arabi)*, no. 15, 2nd month, June 1980, Beyrouth, translation by Dr. Abdel Aleem Mohamed, Political Expert and Analyst on Palestinian and Israeli Affairs at Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (Cairo).


- **AL ZUHRI** Mohamed ibn Abu Bakr, Geographer and Writer from Grenade, died between 1154 and 1161, *Kitab al jaghrafiyya* (translation: *Book of Geography*), written towards 1130-1150.


- **ANNACERI** Ahmed, *Talaat al mouchtari*, manuscript of the 17th century.


- **AS SAADI** Abdurrahman (1594-1656), *Tarikh as-Sudan* (translation: The History of Sudan), written towards 1655, the first and most important source on the history of the Songhai Empire.


- BEN MAMI Skander, Des populations nomades face à un espace saharien en mutation, study, Observatoire des mutations politiques dans le monde arabe, IRIS (Institut des Relations internationales stratégiques), September 2013, 22 p.


- **BOBBA** Sidi, **OULD TALEB EKHYAR** Sid el Kheir, *Drought conditions and management strategies in Mauritania*, report, Nouakchott, Mauritania, Department of Meteorological Operations and Forecasts and Executive Management of the farm of M’Pourié, 2012.

- **BOCCACCIO** Giovanni (1313-1375), Italian Writer, having described the Guanches according to the data of the Portuguese maritime expedition to the Canary Islands under the command of a Florentine in 1341.


- **BOILAT** (Abbot), *Map* dated in 1853.


- **BOSWORTH** C.E., **VAN DONZEL** E., **LEWIS** B., **PELLAT** Ch., *Encyclopédie de l’islam*, volume 6, Paris, G.-P. Maisonneuve et Larose SA, 1987.


- **DANGELZER** Robert, “Notice sur la Préhistoire de la Mauritanie occidentale saharienne”, *Bulletin de la Société préhistorique de France*,


- **DE LISLE** Guillaume, *Map* dated in 1707.

- **DE LISLE** Guillaume, *Map* dated in 1723.

- **DE LISLE** Guillaume, *Map* dated in 1726.


- **DENOUX** Sophie, “Motifs de décoration des bijoux à Boutilimit (Mauritanie)”, *Notes africaines*, no. 33, 1947.


- DIAW Yoro Boli, Cahiers portant sur l’histoire des royaumes wolofs, 1863.


- FAIDHERBE Louis (General), Contribution à l’étude de la langue berbère, Paris, 1877.
- FAIDHERBE Louis (General), Langues sénégalaises : wolof, arabe-hassania, soninké, sérère, Notions grammaticales, Vocabulaires et Phrases, Paris, Leroux, 1887.
- FÉRAL Gabriel, Notes sur la morphologie du verbe dans le dialecte hassane, volume 13, Dakar, Institut français d’Afrique noire (IFAN), 1951.
- French Decree of 18 October 1904.
- French Law of 30 March 1902.


- **HANNO** the Navigator (between -630 and -530), also known as Hanno II of Carthage, Carthaginian Explorer of the west coast of Africa up to the Gulf of Guinea in Cameroon. Author of *Story about the Journey of the King of the Carthaginians around the regions, which are beyond the Pillars of Hercules (= Strait of Gibraltar)*, engraved on suspended plates in the temple of Kronos in Carthage (Tunisia). This story is also called *Journey of Hanno*. The first text, from the engravings of the temple, constitutes a unique Byzantine manuscript (text of 101 lines), the “Palatinus græcus”, dated back to the first quarter of the 9th century. The French translation of the original text is included in the volume, entitled *Historiale Description de l’Afrique, tierce partie du monde...* and published by Jean Temporal, a printer, in Lyon in 1556.


- **HERODOTUS** (-484 / -420), Greek Historian and Geographer, whose main work is *Histories*, composed of nine books, describing the customs of peoples and empires in his time.


- **HITZEL** Frédéric, Doctor in History from the University of Paris IV Sorbonne and graduated in the Turkish language from INALCO (Institut national des Langues et Civilisations orientales), Research Fellow in CNRS, *L’Empire ottoman - XV-XVIIIe siècle*, Paris, Les Belles Lettres, 2002.


- La Documentation française, Les Traites négrières, 1 January 2004.


- LEGRAND Gérard, Dictionnaire philosophique, Belgium, Bordas, 1972.


- MERCIER Ernest (1840-1907), Histoire de l’Afrique septentrionale (Berbérie) depuis les temps les plus reculés jusqu’à la conquête française (1830), volume 1, Paris, Ernest Leroux, 1888.


- **OULD DADDAH Ahmed,** President of the Union of Democratic Forces in Mauritania and half-brother of the first President of the
Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Speech during a public meeting in Nouadhibou on 11 December 1998.


- **OZER** Pierre, **HOUNTONDJJI** Yvon-Carmen, **GASSANI** Jean, **DJABY** Bakary, **DE LONGUEVILLE** Florence, “Évolution récente des extrêmes pluviométriques en Mauritanie (1933-2010)”, 27th Colloquium of Association internationale de climatologie, 2-5 July 2014, Dijon (France), pp. 394-400.


- **PENCK** Albrecht (1858-1945), **BRÜCKNER** Eduard, German and Austrian Authors at the origin of the definitions of the four glacial periods of Pleistocene (Günz, Mindel, Riss and Würm) and denomination of the Würm Glaciation, *Die Alpen im Eiszeitalter* (translation: The Alps in the glacial Age), 3 volumes (1901-1909).


- **PLINY** the Elder (23-79), under his real name Gaius Plinius Secundus, Roman Philosopher, Historian and Naturalist, *Histoire naturelle*, +77.

- **PTOLEMY** Claudio (towards 90-168), Egyptian Astronomer, Geographer and Mathematician, *Geography*, written in +125.


- **ROBERT** Paul, *Dictionnaire de la langue française*, volumes 1 and 3, Paris, PUF, 1953.

- **ROUX Jean-Paul**, Honorary Research Director in CNRS and former Professor with tenure in the field of Islamic Art at École du Louvre, *Histoire de l'Empire mongol*, Paris, Fayard, 1993.


- **SAUGNIER, DE LABORDE Jean-Benjamin**, *Relations de plusieurs voyages à la côte d’Afrique, au Maroc, au Sénégal, à Gorée, à Galam, etc.*, Paris, Gueffier, 1791.


- **STRABO** (towards -64 / +24), Greek Geographer, Historian and Geologist, *Geographica*, +23.


- **SULKA Jean-Claude**, *La Technicité et le Savoir-faire des bijoutiers sont remarquablement adaptés à leur production*, report, Department of Crafts (Mauritania), mission of craft guild in jewellery in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 29 October to 17 November 2007,
Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Trade, European Guide of Raid, Cosame Programme, 9 p.


- The Koran, Sura 6, Verse 142 and Sura 96, Verses 1 to 5.


- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), *Patrimoine, Tradition et Créativité au service du développement durable de la Mauritanie - Mémorandum d’accord - Fonds espagnol pour la réalisation des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD)*,
- **YAHIA** Osman, Doctor from Al Azhar University (Cairo), Doctor in Literature from the University of Paris Sorbonne, Senior Researcher in CNRS, “Ismaïlisme”, article, *Encyclopédia Universalis*, 1995.

**Further reading:**


- **MAUNY Raymond,** “Fabrication des perles de verre en Mauritanie”, *Notes africaines,* no. 44, October 1949.


- **MIGEON Gaston,** *Manuel d’art musulman,* volume 1, Arts plastiques et industriels, Paris, Auguste Picard, 1927.


**Consulted websites** (2013 to 2018):

- **Adrar-Info**: General, cultural and historical information about the Mauritanian region of Adrar: http://adrar-info.net.


- **Agrhymet**: Specialized institution of the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS): http://www.agrhymet.ne.


- **ANI** (Information Agency of Nouakchott): http://www.ani.mr.


- **Berkeley Earth**: “Mauritania”:
  http://berkeleyearth.lbl.gov/regions/mauritania.

- **Bird Life International**: http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home.


- **Clio**: Cultural travels: http://www.clio.fr.

- **CountryWatch**: Up-to-date news and accurate information on countries: http://www.countrywatch.com.

- **Cridem**: http://www.cridem.org.
- **Dune Voices Info**: http://www.dune-voices.info.
- **Francophonie**: http://www.francophonie.org.
- **Freedom House**: Independent watchdog organization dedicated to the expansion of freedom and democracy around the world: https://freedomhouse.org.
- **Global Plants**: Large database of plants: http://plants.jstor.org.
- **IMF (International Monetary Fund)**: http://www.imf.org.
- **Interpol**: http://www.interpol.int.
- **Mampuya Centre**: Tourist centre in Senegal: http://www.mampuya.org.
- **Mappe Monde**: Quarterly magazine on geographical images and forms of territories with the support of the InSHS of CNRS: http://mappemonde.mgm.fr.
- **Mauritanie-Découverte**: http://www mauritanie decouverte.net.
Nomads of Mauritania

- **NCBI** (National Centre for Biotechnology Information):  
- **OECD** (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development):  
- **Persée**: Scientific documents about human and social sciences;  
  programme sustained by the French Ministry of higher Education and Research: http://www.persee.fr/web/revues.
- **Prota4U**: Plant resources of tropical Africa: http://www.prota4u.org.
- **Radiation Effects Research Foundation**: A cooperative Japan-US  
- **ReliefWeb**: Leading humanitarian information source on global crises  
  and disasters; specialized digital service of the UN Office for the  
- **Reverso**: Online dictionary and translation:  
  http://dictionnaire.reverso.net.
- **Sahara-Nature**: Information about fauna and flora in the Sahara:  
- **UNESCO**:  
- **UNIDO** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization):  
- **UNO** (United Nations Organization): Section “Treaties”:  
- **US Library of Congress**: Country studies, “Mauritania”:  
  http://countrystudies.us/mauritania.
- **WHO** (World Health Organization): Country “Mauritania”:  
  http://www.who.int.
- **World Bank**: http://web.worldbank.org;  
- **Worldlingo**: Online dictionary and translation:  
- **Zamane**: Contemporary and past history of Morocco:  
  http://www.zamane.ma.
Brigitte Sigburg HIMPAN, bearing the artist’s name HYMPAN, is a professional Artist Painter, quoted on the market of Art. She received numerous awards and honours, as well as the Laureate of the Golden Book of Human Values in 1974 and the title of Academician Chevalier in Art section from the International Academy Greci-Marino (Italy) in 2005.

Due to her artistic sensibility, she has always been fascinated by discovering and appreciating various cultures: Eastern, Arabic, Indian, and Asian. Therefore, right from the beginning of the 1960s, the author did not hesitate to visit on her own Iran, Turkey, Jordan, then Egypt, Mauritania, Nepal, Sri Lanka and finally India, the country where she chose to live in. Her desire of understanding and her fascination, among other things, for the desert led her to deepen one country in particular during her university studies: Mauritania.

Brigitte HIMPAN got a diploma of General Academic Studies in the section of Fine Arts and two Bachelor’s degrees in Fine Arts and in Sciences of Education at the University of Paris VIII (France). In 1983, she obtained a Master’s degree in Fine Arts with First Class Honours at the University of Paris VIII with the thesis entitled: *La Vie quotidienne des nomades mauritaniens à travers leurs objets usuels* (translation: The everyday Life of the Mauritanian Nomads through their usual Objects). This Master’s thesis is referenced in the library of Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) in Paris.

Then, in 1986, she got the First Class Honours for a post-graduate pre-PhD thesis (DEA) in Philosophy of Art and Culture at the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris 1 (France) with the subject: *L’Identité culturelle des nomades mauritaniens* (translation: The Cultural Identity of the Mauritanian Nomads).
Thus, in view of making available and sharing with you the updated content of these two dissertations of studies, Brigitte HIMPAN presents you this book named *Nomads of Mauritania*. The author also brings complementary information about the nomads of Mauritania and new and unpublished points of view over the Mauritanian nomadic art, reflection of their cultural identity.

**Diane HIMPAN-SABATIER**, a graduate of the Higher Institute of Management (ISG, Paris) in 1994 and the Higher School of Cinema Studies (ESEC, Paris) in 1996, is also the author of a post-graduate pre-PhD thesis at the School of International High Studies (EHEI, Paris) in 1996. Furthermore, she spent nine months of her life in Mauritania through several stays from 1981 to 1992, during which she got acquainted with and was interested in the Mauritanian culture. Therefore, through some research work, she participated in the completion of this book by elaborating and providing relevant and unpublished points of view over the following subjects, of which she is the author:

- the desertification of the Sahara and Mauritania;
- the history of Mauritania before colonization;
- nomadism, the Mauritanian nomads’ way of life;
- the nomads and the current Mauritanian society;
- the Mauritanian crafts of today;
- the motifs of water, the well or « eye of the source »;
- and what has become of the Mauritanian nomads?

She also contributed to the update of data and the layout of this book. Furthermore, she created the maps and an original cover of the book, as well as the representation of the motifs and drawings. Finally, she translated the original French version of this book into English.
A

Abbasid, 104, 105, 106, 110, 117, 118, 324, 325, 451, 466, 489
Acacia flava, 48
Acacia nilotica, 48, 265, 279, 451, 454
Acacia raddiana, 242, 264, 451, 491
Acacia Senegal, 23, 51, 397, 451, 452
Acacia seyal, 23, 265, 279, 397, 452, 491, 494
Acacia tortilis, 48
Acheulean, 62, 452
activities of the nomads, 165, 391, 395
  breeding, 14, 66, 72, 73, 75, 78, 79, 81, 93, 98, 166, 175, 189, 191, 204, 205, 210, 211, 213, 217, 387, 391, 396, 397, 399, 401, 402, 404, 410, 412, 415, 422, 448, 449, 466, See also nomadism, semi-nomadism
development of date palm groves. See also dates
exploitation of salt mines. See also salt
trade, 93, 98, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 175, 189, 391, 396, 397
Affolé, 38, 60, 452
Aftout es-Saheli, 19, 34, 54, 453

Ahmed Ould M’Hamed Ould Aida, 140, 453, 487
Aklé, 228, 453
Al Ghazali, 117, 327, 454, 470
alloy, 294, 295, 297, 486
Almohad, 110, 117, 118, 328, 329, 454, 470
Amsaga, 34, 44, 45, 60, 454
amulet, 285, 287, 329, 331, 345, 354, 357, 467, 473
ancient inhabitants, vii, 72, 90, 92, 93, 98, 111, 165, 179, 191, 192, 195, 197, 269, 326, 329, 330, 333, 376, 446, 455, 456, 459, 476, 483, 484, 488, 492, 495
Bafours, 72, 82, 83, 84, 85, 90, 92, 93, 111, 161, 194, 197, 446, 455, 456
black ethnicities, 72, 75, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 90, 92, 93, 101, 131, 161, 175, 176, 179, 189, 191, 192, 195, 197, 200, 285, 292, 298, 324, 327, 328, 329, 332, 333, 335, 341, 376, 393, 423, 425, 426, 427, 431, 446, 455, 456, 466, 480, 493, See also first inhabitants
Indo-Berbers, 72, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92,
animals, 36
farmed animals, 36, 210, See also camel, dromedary, gazelle
wildlife. See wildlife
animism, 58, 78, 101, 122, 123, 125, 126, 324, 328, 455
anticyclone, 16, 455
Azores High, 17
Saint Helena anticyclone, 17, 18
AOF, 66, 135, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 150, 153, 455, 466
Arab tribes, 59, 109, 110, 111, 112, 116, 118, 141, 143, 147, 181, 189, 326, 327, 328, 331, 332, 393, 431, 434, 452, 454, 456, 460, 476, 479
Banu Hassan, 59, 109, 110, 111, 118, 185, 326, 332, 457, 472
Banu Hilal, 109, 110, 113, 326, 457
Banu Mansour, 109, 110, 326, 457
Banu Maqil, 109, 110, 113, 118, 129, 185, 326, 457, 460
Banu Sulaym, 109, 110, 113, 326, 457
Kounta, 140, 150, 464, 473
Oulad Bousba, 144, 147, 151, 203, 483
Oulad Dleim, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 483
Oulad Gueilane, 140, 142, 144, 148, 483
Arabs, 70, 72, 91, 92, 93, 101, 102, 103, 104, 107, 111, 112, 113, 117, 124, 130, 132, 139, 140, 159, 161, 169, 170, 173, 179, 181, 183, 185, 188, 191, 194, 197, 322, 323, 328, 332, 333, 334, 376, 393, 446, 451, 452, 460, 464, 465, 480, 495, See also Almoravid, Arab tribes, caste warrior, Umayyad
Berabich, 91, 150, 458
Idawalis, 130, 470
Idou Aich, 139, 143, 470
Lemtouna, 91, 93, 107, 129, 455, 460, 474
Regueybat, 141, 142, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 203, 467, 484, 485
Sanhadja, 90, 91, 92, 93, 106, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 139, 141, 188, 189, 197, 327, 332, 454, 456, 458, 470, 474, 476, 480, 484, 486, 490, 495, 496
Aristida pungens, 264, 453, 455, 456
art of the Mauritanian nomads, ix, 344
art influenced by Islam and pre-Islamic beliefs, 374, 376
art influenced by the desert, 375
bi-dimensional and tri-dimensional art, 380
ephemeral living art, ix, 7, 8, 9, 161, 344, 346, 347, 349, 447, 465
meanings of motifs and drawings, 350, 354, 358, 362, 365, 368, See also eye of the source
nomadic art, 9, 71, 344, 345, 347, 371, 373, 374, 376, 378
reflection of the Mauritanian nomads’ cultural identity, 382
top view perspective of the art, 285, 350, 358, 377, 378
usual objects as ephemeral supports of the art, 370
Aterian, 64, 455
Awdaghast, 91, 93, 100, 107, 108, 113, 114, 170, 455, 474
Awker, 44, 45, 60, 66, 78, 79, 82, 92, 100, 104, 113, 114, 116, 121, 455, 464, 475, 492
Azawad, 137, 142, 150, 162, 456, 460
Azougui, 11, 44, 78, 85, 86, 92, 111, 114, 116, 196, 327, 334, 456, 475

B
backwater, 45, 61, 206, 365, 456
bag, 272
Balanites aegyptiaca, 242, 457, 491
Bambuk, 72, 94, 99, 100, 107, 114, 121, 123, 126, 457
Barbary, 80, 132, 457, 461, 473
desert of Barbary, 132, 458, 462
Batem, 18, 458, 464
Bauhinia rufescens, 264, 458, 480
Bay of Lévrier, 64, 234, 458
Berbers. See Arabs-Berbers, ancient inhabitants
Borassus aethiopium, 263, 458, 484
Bouré, 94, 100, 107, 114, 119, 125, 126, 459
Boutilimit, 13, 46, 54, 92, 152, 199, 305, 306, 335, 459
boxes
metal box, 295
wooden box inlaid or covered with metal, 288, 289, 305
Bundu Kingdom, 126, 459
butter, 220, 272
butter skin, 220, 271, 453, 480
Calotropis procera, 287, 459, 493
calabash, 194, 209, 218, 219, 220, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 345, 354, 357, 360, 361, 447, 455, 456, 467, 472, 473, 488, 491, 495
Camel, 14, 36, 45, 61, 70, 71, 141, 143, 147, 151, 165, 166, 167, 171, 173, 179, 184, 193, 205, 210, 211, 213, 214, 216, 217, 218, 220, 222, 224, 225, 227, 228, 230, 233, 236, 237, 238,
camel saddle, 194, 238, 274, 276, 303, 305, 345, 360, 365, 370, 447
Cape Blanc, 62, 64, 88, 127, 128, 172, 234, 458, 459
Capsian, 81, 460
caravan nomad, 167, 189, 236, 238, 460
Carthaginian, 86, 94, 95, 96, 101, 171, 460
marabout, 130, 131, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 198, 199, 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 345, 371, 385, 447, 467, 476, 480, 490, 492, 493, 495
tributary, 92, 130, 184, 185, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 197, 198, 199, 200, 209, 228, 250, 251, 369, 385, 386, 399, 431, 451, 468, 469, 470, 473, 476, 480, 481, 492, 493, 495
See also tributaries
cereal, 181, 234, 235
Char Boubal war, 129, 460
Charg, 137, 460
Charter of Mandé, 120, 121
Chenopodium murale, 206, 461
Chinguetti, 11, 30, 114, 122, 133, 139, 147, 148, 150, 151, 152, 163, 170, 306, 335, 461
Cistanche phelypaea, 206, 271, 461
cities (ancient), 52, See Awdaghost, Azougui, Boutilimit, Chinguetti, Koumbi Saleh, Oualadane, Oualata, Tichitt, Tidjikja
City of dogs. See Azougui
City of libraries. See Chinguetti
Civil Territory of Mauritania, 144, 461
climatic warming, seasons
city and way of life, 164, 179, 445, 481
coastal climate, 15
evolution, 41, 43, 44, 46, 69, 82, 120
meteorological factors influencing the climate, 17
Saharan climate, 14, 26, 51, 128, 163, 210, 216, 259, 261, 462
Sahelian climate, 14, 15, 26, 210
climatic warming, 43, 46, 50, 57, 72, 109, 392, 402, 411, 417, 462, 468, See also climate evolution, deforestation, desertification, drought, overpopulation causes, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 403 consequences, 49, 50, 54, 57, 182, 410, 462 measures, 57, 58
colonization of Mauritania, 133, 153
French geopolitical strategy in West Africa, 133

D

Dalbergia melanoxylon, 290, 462
dam, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 40, 49, 90, 468, 469
date skin, 222, 271, 460
deforestation, 23, 37, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 66, 95, 97, 98, 127, 232, 462
Denianke dynasty, 123, 126, 131, 462
desertification, vii, 7, 8, 21, 41, 45, 49, 54, 55, 57, 59, 70, 71, 98, 119, 158, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 174, 175, 341, 386, 387, 403, 445, 462
Dhar, 63, 458, 462, 464, See also line of Dhar
Diarra Kingdom, 104, 107, 119, 121, 463, 488
Diospyros crassiflora, 290, 463
Djolof Empire, 122, 123, 125, 126, 463, 495
dromedary, 44, 98, 103, 166, 173, 213, 214, 215, 216, 236, 237, 238, 239, 246, 251, 257, 262, 266, 274, 356, 357, 448, 455,
Nomads of Mauritania

458, 459, 460, 464, 469, 479, 493
dromedary of the Sahel, 214, 485
mehari, 479
Saharan dromedary, 214, 215, 452
dune, 19, 194, 228, 453, 465, 475, 491
dye (natural), 64, 67, 87, 89, 161, 190, 264, 272, 281, 297, 298, 301, 305, 310, 346, 347, 451, 454, 464, 470, 475, 480, 484, 490

E

ebony, 288, 289, 290, 291, 296, 297, 304, 305, 462, 463
El Beyyed, 61, 62, 464
El Djouf, 44, 60, 464
El Hank, 60, 464
emerged countries, 177, 464, 489
emir, 149, 153, 175, 179, 217, 227, 251, 435, 465, See also emirates
emirates, 9, 13, 117, 130, 136, 140, 141, 142, 152, 186, 187, 343, 435, 465
Emirate of Adrar, 138, 139, 186
Emirate of Brakna, 131, 137, 138, 141
Emirate of Tagant, 139, 141, 186, 470
Emirate of Trarza, 131, 137, 138, 139, 141, 186
endogamy, 199, 465
erg, 60, 203, 460, 465, 470, 475, 483, 486
erg Chech, 60, 141, 465, 485
erg Iguidi, 60, 464, 465
erg Ouaran, 60, 465
Essahel, 136, 465
exodus, 262, 386
nomadic exodus, 49, 52, 210, 248, 385, 386, 472, 481
rural exodus, 49, 52, 385, 386, 387
eye of the source (motif of water in art), 288, 350, 358, 359, 360, 361, 368, 378, 456

F

Fatimid, 104, 106, 107, 108, 110, 326, 327, 465, 472
filigree, 291, 294, 295, 466
first inhabitants, 72, 78, 79, 90, 189, 195, 466, 487
Bambaras, 77, 191, 197, 457, 476
Dyulas, 77, 105, 176, 322, 323, 464, 476
Mandinkas, 72, 77, 78, 93, 104, 105, 119, 122, 123, 126, 161, 176, 192, 197, 324, 333, 455, 457, 462, 463, 464, 475, 476, 488
Peuls, 26, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 83, 93, 100, 115, 123, 126, 158, 161, 176, 190, 191, 197, 200, 210, 213, 235, 286, 330, 337, 393, 400, 448, 455, 462, 484, 492, 495

532
Serers, 72, 73, 78, 93, 100, 115, 126, 161, 176, 195, 197, 455, 487, 495
Soninkes, 72, 75, 77, 78, 93, 100, 103, 104, 105, 107, 125, 126, 158, 161, 176, 191, 192, 197, 200, 298, 322, 323, 324, 455, 464, 476, 488
Toucouleurs, 26, 72, 73, 75, 77, 78, 93, 100, 105, 113, 122, 126, 131, 161, 176, 197, 234, 322, 323, 455, 459, 464, 492
Wolofs, 72, 73, 76, 78, 93, 100, 114, 122, 126, 137, 161, 191, 197, 200, 455, 495
flood, 25, 49, 51, 53, 54, 56, 59, 463, 483, 491
forest, 22, 23, 24, 43, 47, 48, 49, 57, 69, 71, 116, 406, 415, 462, See also deforestation
Fouta-Toro, 99, 107, 115, 121, 122, 123, 131, 137, 138, 139, 176, 462, 466, 492
French West Africa. See AOF

G

Galam, 94, 99, 100, 107, 121, 125, 126, 131, 134, 459, 467
gazelle, 36, 38, 45, 232, 270, 350, 351, 352, 485
geographical areas, 60, See also Affolé, Amsaga, Aklé, Awker, Azawad, Batem, Dhar, El Djouf, El Hank, erg, Kreb, line of Dhar, Makteir, Méreyé, Mujabat al Koubra
geological zones, 28
glaciation, 41, 42, 43, 46, 467, 470, 484
globalization, 308, 316, 384
gold mines in West Africa, 72, 94, 99, 100, 107, 119, 121, 125, 126, 172, 457, 459, 467, 474
granulation, 294, 295, 467
grigri, 331, 467
groundwater, 21, 22, 45, 52, 57, 207, 221, 409, 410, 417, 494
Guebla, 136, 468
guelta, 21, 38, 68, 206, 468
gum arabic, 23, 104, 125, 126, 130, 168, 172, 176, 397, 452

H

Happy Arabia, 84, 109, 468
harmattan, 17, 18, 468
henna, 190, 222, 235, 245, 304, 346

I

Ibadism, 105, 106, 107, 181, 322, 323, 325, 327, 328, 340, 446, 469, 470, 472, 476
Iberian-Maurusian, 81, 90, 91, 470
Ifriqiya, 91, 102, 106, 107, 110, 465, 470
Indigofera tinctoria, 281, 297, 470
industrialization, 46, 320, 341
interglacial period, 41, 42, 43, 46, 462, 470, 484
Intertropical Convergence Zone, 16, 17, 471, 472
Intertropical Front, 16, 471
conversion, 59, 105, 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 115, 122, 126, 131, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 332, 464
diffusion, 102, 104, 105, 125, 181, 321, 323, 324, 325, 333, 464
pre-Islamic beliefs, 8, 12, 79, 101, 240, 244, 281, 285, 287, 293, 328, 329, 330, 331, 339, 350, 354, 357, 376, 446, 463, 473
Island of Arguin, 88, 95, 127, 128, 459, 471
Island of Cerné, 95, 471
isohyet, 49, 55, 403, 472
jewel, 304, 305
   gold and silver jewellery, 294, 295, 466, 467
   wooden jewel inlaid with metal, 290, 291, 305, 447
Juncus maritimus, 264, 472, 495
K
Kediet ej-Jill, 18, 30, 34, 147, 151, 236, 472, 487
Kharijism, 105, 106, 107, 181, 322, 323, 325, 328, 339, 469, 470, 472, 473, 476
Kingdom of the Moors, 96, 132, 457, 461, 473, 477
Koumbi Saleh, 13, 100, 112, 113, 114, 125, 326, 334, 473, 488
Kreb, 61, 473
L
lagoon, 19, 54, 453
lake, 19, 20, 38, 40, 42, 45, 57, 61, 66, 68, 73, 78, 79, 206, 207, 400, 401, 403, 456, 487
languages
   Arabic, 59, 86, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 111, 152, 161, 162, 181, 323, 325, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 442, 446, 469
   Azer, 332, 333, 456
   Fulani, 74, 77, 333, 335
   Hassaniya, ix, 8, 9, 111, 183, 191, 192, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 442, 446, 469, 472, 484
   Soninke, 192, 333, 335
   Wolof, 76, 333, 335
   Zenaga, 91, 332, 333, 486, 496
Leptadenia pyrotechnica, 226, 455, 474, 492
line of Dhar, 18, 60, 206, 474
Little Ice Age, 46, 474, 478
Lobi, 94, 114, 474
M
Maerna crassifolia, 455, 475
Makteir, 60, 62, 141, 475, 485
Mali Empire, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126, 475, 488
Malikism, 106, 107, 110, 112, 113, 116, 117, 181, 183, 322, 324, 327, 328, 334, 446, 454, 475, 476, 490
mat, 262, 263, 264, 267, 268, 306
matriarchy, 77, 79, 93, 126, 341, 423, 477
Mauretania (Kingdom), 86, 96, 97, 477, 478
Mauretania Caesariensis, 91, 93, 97, 99, 101, 477, 478
Mauretania Sitifienne, 93, 97, 101, 478
Mauretania Tingitana, 81, 92, 93, 96, 97, 99, 101, 478
Mauretanii, 92, 478
Mauri, 96, 183, 478
Medieval Warm Period, 45, 109, 121, 462, 478
meharist, 143, 148, 150, 151, 479
Méréyé, 60, 228, 479
migration (movement), 74, 84, 90, 91, 109, 110, 111, 115, 160, 177, 181, 203, 326, 344, 397, 407, 412, 414, 415, 416, 422, 481, 493, See also exodus, nomadism, transhumance
causes of migration, 79, 90, 109, 114, 130, 170, 171, 203, 340, 385, 403
means of migration, 166, 170, 171
migration strategies, 385, 398, 401, 411
migratory flow, 388
periodic migration, 203
repulsive areas, 387
seasonal migration, 203
welcoming areas, 72, 73, 79, 98, 193, 204, 387, 389, 449
milk, 217
milk skin, 271
milking pot, 218, 286, 287
mines, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 153, 156, 167, See also copper, gold, iron, salt, tin
Moors, 26, 80, 81, 92, 93, 96, 98, 102, 104, 106, 107, 112, 113, 118, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 141, 142, 144, 151, 156, 158, 161, 165, 166, 169, 170, 175, 176, 178, 181, 183, 185, 188, 191, 197, 199, 204, 225, 228, 234, 251, 255, 267, 272, 273, 325, 327, 333, 335, 339, 342, 345, 370, 371, 379, 385, 389, 438, 442, 443, 444, 447, 448, 486, 495, See also caste marabout, caste warrior
black Moor, 93, 191, 197, 393, 458, 469
defenders against invaders, 99, 107, 128, 129, 133, 137, 138, 142, 144, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 153, 162, 337, 340, 343
Moorish values, 152, 221, 225, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 345, 370, 379, 441, 444
status within the society, 196, 317, 345, 373, 434, 435, 436, 440, 441, 444, 449
white Moor, 197, 221, 393, 495
Moricandia arvensis, 206, 480
Mousterian, 64, 480
Mujabat al Koubra, 26, 480

N

Nioro du Sahel, 104, 121, 463, 481

O

Index

P

Panicum turgidum, 206, 264, 477, 483, 494
patriarchy, 110, 341, 422, 431, 434
Pharaonic Egypt, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 86, 94, 171, 290, 295, 349, 460, 466, 484
Phoenician, 83, 86, 94, 95, 98, 171, 460
Phoenix dactylifera, 25, 484
pipe, 296, 297, 305
plants used by nomads, 205, 222, 226, 236, 263, 271, 279, 281, 286, 287, 297, 451
Port Etienne, 150, 484
Prehistory of Mauritania, 27, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 71, 72, 73, 78, 80, 179, 194, 195, 232, 235, 240, 280, 281, 293, 445, 452, 455, 474, 476, 479, 480, 481, 483, 485, 487, 494, See also ancient inhabitants
Neolithic sites, 32, 66, 68, 492
Palaeolithic sites, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 68, 464, 492
Prosopis africana, 23, 281, 484
pyrography, 218, 281, 353, 484

R

rain, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 42, 43, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 80, 82, 88, 97, 163, 204, 205, 210, 237, 239, 330, 387, 391, 394, 399, 402, 406, 452, 453, 456, 463, 464, 472, 481, 487
razzia, 130, 131, 178, 484
reg, 19, 484
regions (administrative), 2, 11, 13, 130, 187
regions (ancient), 136, See also Awker, Charg, Essahel, Guebla, Teguanit, Tell religion. See Islam
river, 20, 42, 44, 45, 54, 61, 162, 358, 456, 458, 483, 494, 495
Roman Africa, 95, 96, 97, 99, 485

S

Saadians, 125, 128, 129, 485
a nomadic space limited by frontiers, 406
influence on art, 375
pollution, 407, 408, 409, 410
salt, 31, 33, 34, 42, 98, 101, 125, 128, 129, 164, 167, 168, 169, 173, 175, 236, 237, 238, 262, 334, 341, 385, 391, 399, 411, 455, 487, See also Aftout es-Saheli
sand, 18, 19, 22, 49, 50, 52, 56, 207, 216, 226, 227, 239, 241, 245, 403, 409, 443, 461, 465
sand wind, 17, 180, 194, 243, 337, 407, 445, 467, 468, 471
testimony of ephemeral life in art, 350, 358, 377, 378, 379, 448
Schouvia purpurea, 206, 486
sea, 22, 35, 49, 57, 403
sea level, 19, 42, 49, 56, 59, 453, 467, 470
seasons, 18, 170, 203, 396, 416
dry and cold season, 18, 203, 204, 205, 390, 398, 399, 400, 403, 417
dry and hot season, 14, 15, 18, 203, 205, 215, 390, 391, 397, 398, 399, 400, 403, 417
rainy season, 17, 18, 21, 54, 164, 203, 204, 205, 207, 215, 228, 248, 390, 398, 399, 400, 468, 482, 491, 495
sebkha, 19, 32, 34, 61, 236, 453, 487
Second Mauretania, 101, 487
sedentarization, 52, 67, 71, 183, 314, 341, 343, 385, 389, 392, 412, 417, 441, 442, 444, 448
causes of sedentarization, 76, 193, 199, 204, 341, 343, 384, 386, 389, 414
places of sedentarization, 389, 390, 401, 434, 439
stages of sedentarization, 390
semi-nomadism, 165, 203, 204, 205, 386, 399, 400, 401, 487
Senegal River, 11, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 40, 45, 50, 51, 55, 98, 99, 122, 125, 126, 130, 131, 134, 137, 138, 139, 156, 162, 181, 192, 200, 204, 210, 234, 235, 333, 344, 411, 453, 466, 494
Senegal River valley, 15, 19, 25, 26, 37, 49, 73, 94, 99, 100, 152, 158, 210, 213, 234, 235, 305, 306, 312, 321, 344, 462, 467, 492
Sheikh Ma el Ainin, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 487
Shiism, 106, 110, 325, 471, 487
Sid Ahmed Ould Aida, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 487
Sijilmassa, 102, 103, 106, 113, 114, 117, 118, 170, 325, 454, 488
slave, 99, 107, 122, 125, 128, 131, 167, 168, 172, 175, 176, 178, 179, 185, 192, 193, 199, 200, 225, 236, 333, 334, 342, 451
abolition of slavery, 133, 157, 193, 341, 386
forced slave, 178, 466
free slave, 177, 466
modern slave, 177
slavery, 88, 121, 126, 143, 175, 176, 177, 178, 199, 200, 201, 225
voluntary slave, 178, 494
sloughi, 229, 488
snuffbox, 276, 277, 278, 305
Songhai Empire, 124, 125, 126, 129, 486, 488
Sosso Kingdom, 119, 121, 488
spring, water source, 21, 23, 38, 68, 206, 221, 456, 482
standardization, 198, 320
Stipagrostis pungens, 206, 489
stream, 42, 44, 57, 358, 391, 403
submerged countries, 177, 489
Sufism, 45, 79, 117, 118, 140, 181, 326, 327, 328, 338, 339, 370, 379, 446, 454, 470, 489
sump, 207, 455, 460, 482
Sunnism, 104, 105, 106, 110, 181, 183, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 472, 475, 490
transhumance, 76, 204, 205, 400, 407, 431, 493
the transhumant, 210, 386, 393, 397, 401, 404, 405, 406, 416, 417, 427, 431, 434, 448
See also Arabs-Berbers, Arab tribes, caste marabout, caste warrior
tributaries
Nomads of Mauritania

fishermen (imraguen), 36, 93, 191, 192, 470
freed slaves, 185, 191
freed slaves (harratins), 93, 191, 192, 193, 197, 199, 200, 201, 221, 222, 234, 236, 237, 292, 331, 352, 385, 393, 427, 437, 440, 468, 469
griots, 185, 190, 191, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 331, 349, 385, 468, 470
hunters (nemadis), 70, 71, 89, 92, 116, 185, 193, 194, 195, 196, 227, 228, 229, 231, 232, 233, 385, 480, 486
slaves (abid). See slave
zenaga herders, 130, 189, 456, 496
Tuareg, 80, 143, 159, 197, 203, 238, 267, 268, 337, 479, 492, 493
Typha domingensis, 206, 493

U

Umayyad, 102, 103, 104, 105, 111, 181, 183, 185, 321, 322, 323, 451, 472, 476, 480, 494
urbanization, 52, 182, 199, 204, 384

V

vegetation, 23, 25

W

Waalo Kingdom, 122, 125, 126, 130, 131, 134, 135, 137, 138, 494
wadi, 20, 21, 23, 38, 44, 45, 54, 61, 64, 68, 78, 141, 206, 207, 248, 389, 458, 467, 477, 485, 486, 495
water, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 42, 44, 49, 50, 52, 57, 61, 71, 79, 81, 82, 90, 164, 170, 193, 194, 203, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 217, 219, 222, 227, 228, 230, 255, 258, 269, 270, 286, 291, 307, 376, 399, 400, 402, 403, 404, 406, 413, 416, 445, 455, 457, 462, 467, 468, 470, 471, 480, 481, 491, 492, 495, See also backwater, dam, flood, groundwater, guelta, lagoon, lake, rain, river, sebkha, spring, stream, sump, tamourt, wadi, water point, well
motif of water in art. See eye of the source
water skin, 194, 208, 209, 269, 270, 271, 279, 303, 305, 455, 468
weaving loom (low list loom), 259, 261, 475
westernization, 182, 198, 278, 300, 307, 308, 341, 384, 386,
wildlife, 36, 37, 38, 121, 233
causes of wildlife extinction, 37, 38, 43, 44, 47, 48, 56, 69, 70, 93, 95, 99, 125, 167, 168, 172, 227, 228, 232, 233, 462
extinct wildlife, 36, 38, 43, 44, 62, 69, 70, 71, 81, 95, 98, 168, 193, 227, 232, 233
protected natural areas, 40, 233
remaining endangered wildlife, 36, 38, 39, 40, 70, 71, 206, 227, 232, 234

Z
Ziziphus Mauritania, 206, 496
zrig, 180, 219, 286, 451, 495, 496