

# Old Maps & New Narratives

Digitizing Historical Maps to Analyze New  
Dimensions of the Atlantic Trade



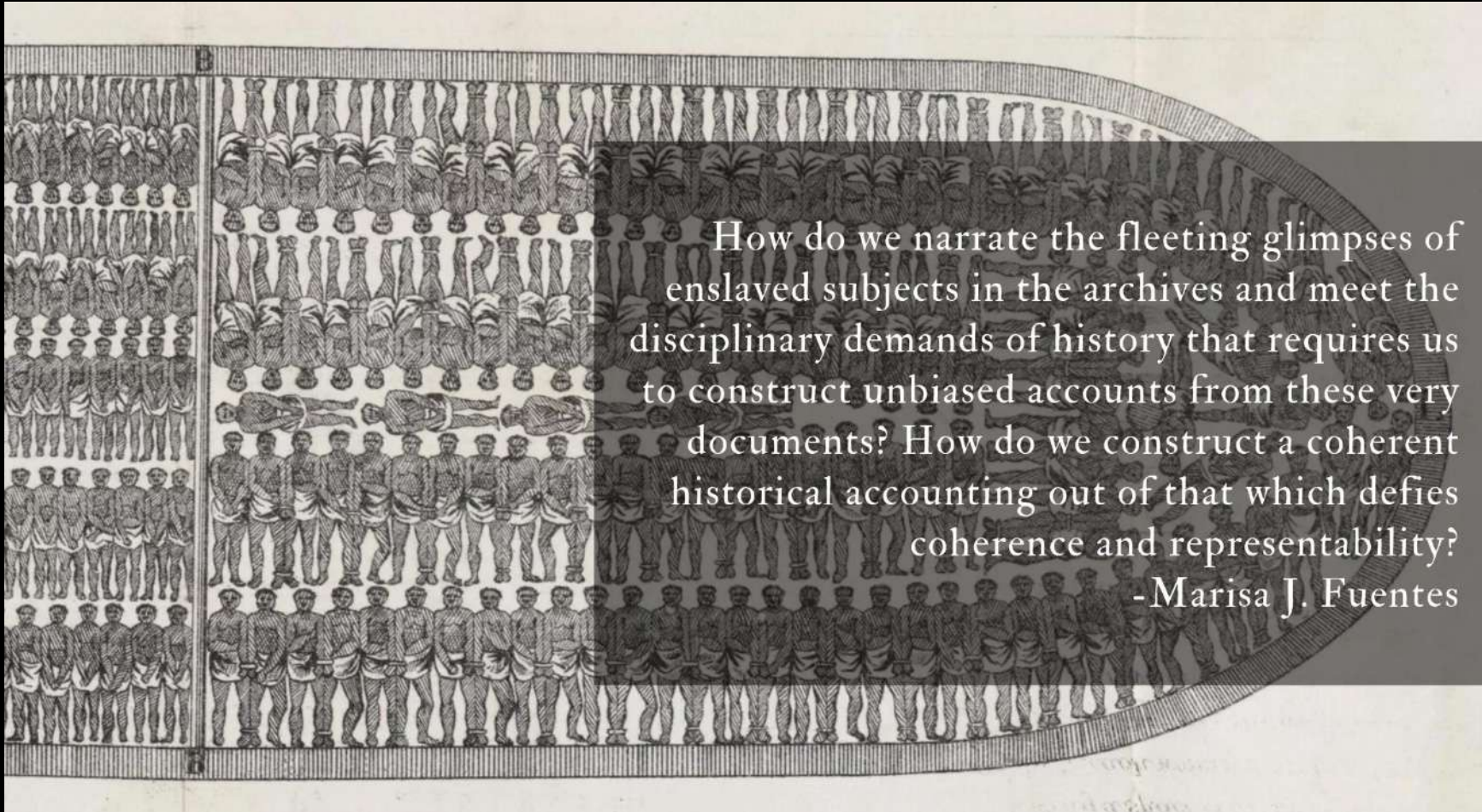
Similar projects are underway  
elsewhere.....

Northeastern University



ecda

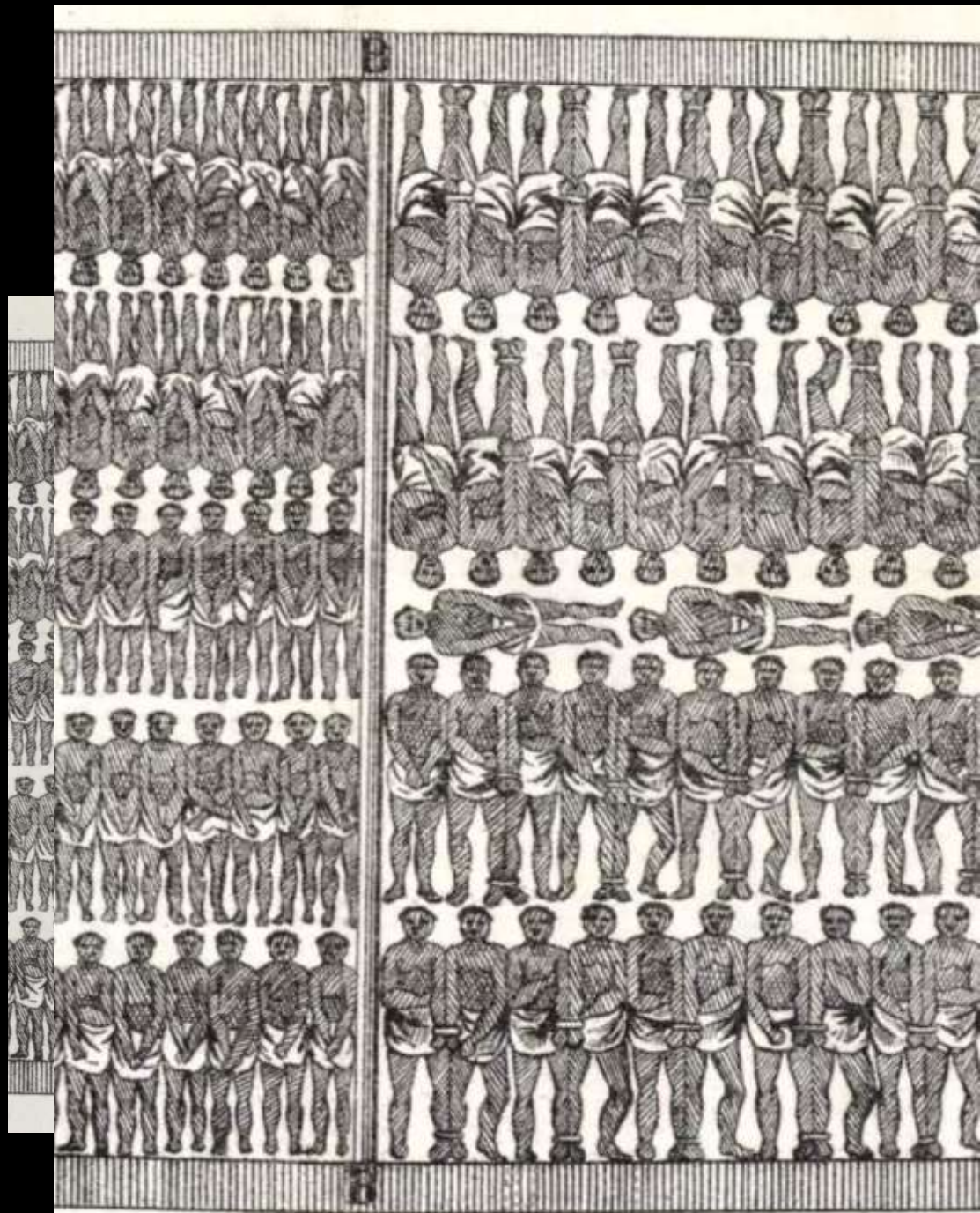
early caribbean digital archive



How do we narrate the fleeting glimpses of enslaved subjects in the archives and meet the disciplinary demands of history that requires us to construct unbiased accounts from these very documents? How do we construct a coherent historical accounting out of that which defies coherence and representability?

-Marisa J. Fuentes

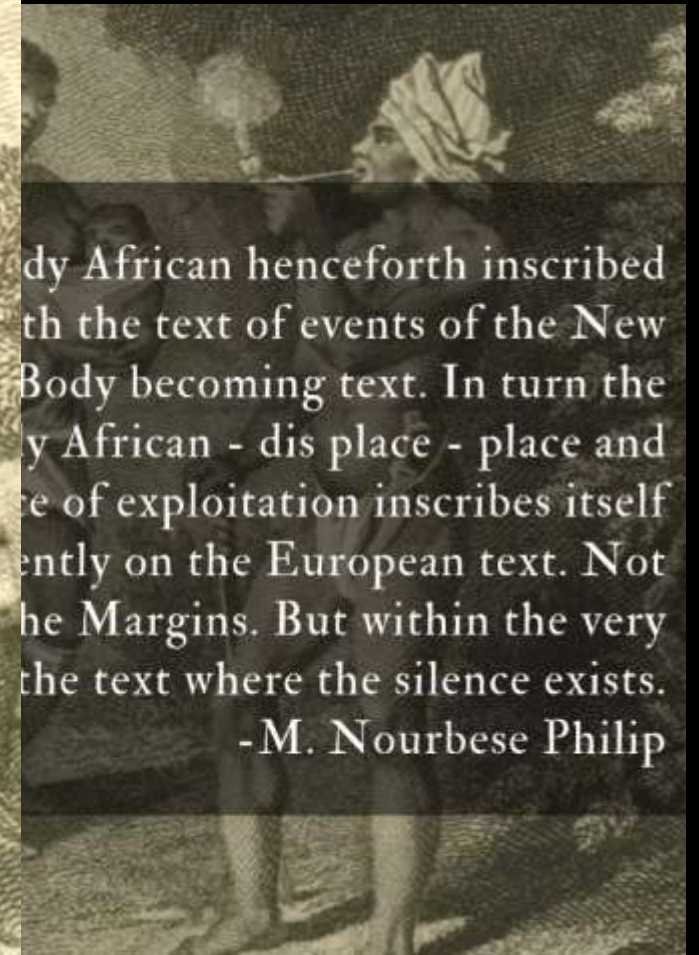




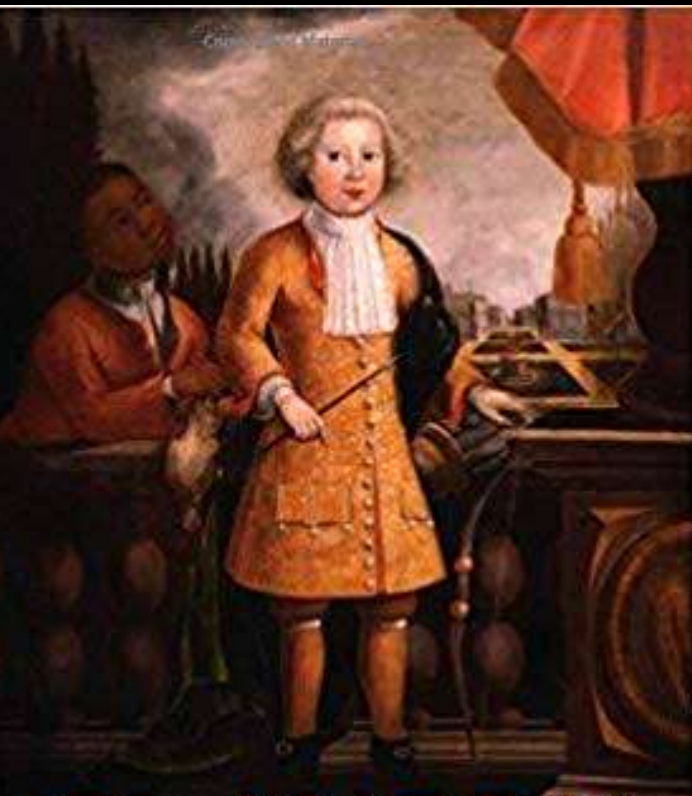
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dy African henceforth inscribed  
th the text of events of the New  
Body becoming text. In turn the  
y African - dis place - place and  
e of exploitation inscribes itself  
ently on the European text. Not  
he Margins. But within the very  
the text where the silence exists.  
-M. Nourbese Philip



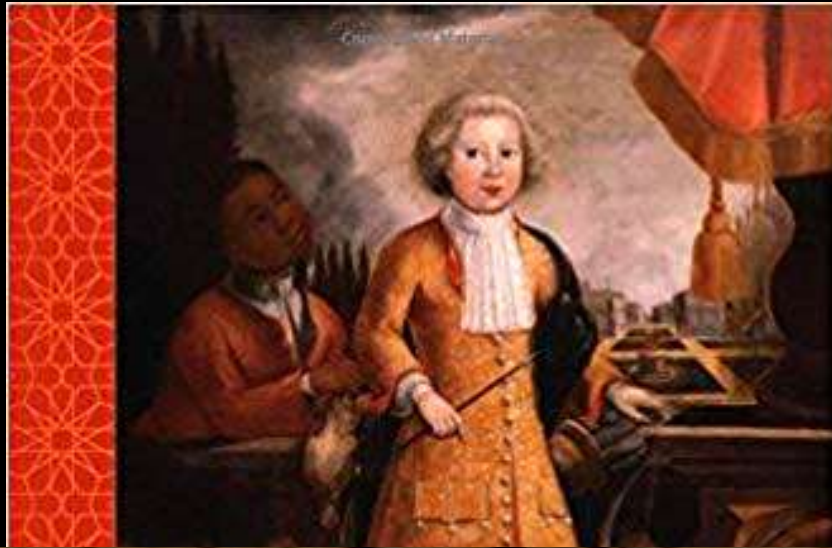
# SLAVERY

and the  
Culture of Taste

Simon Gikandi

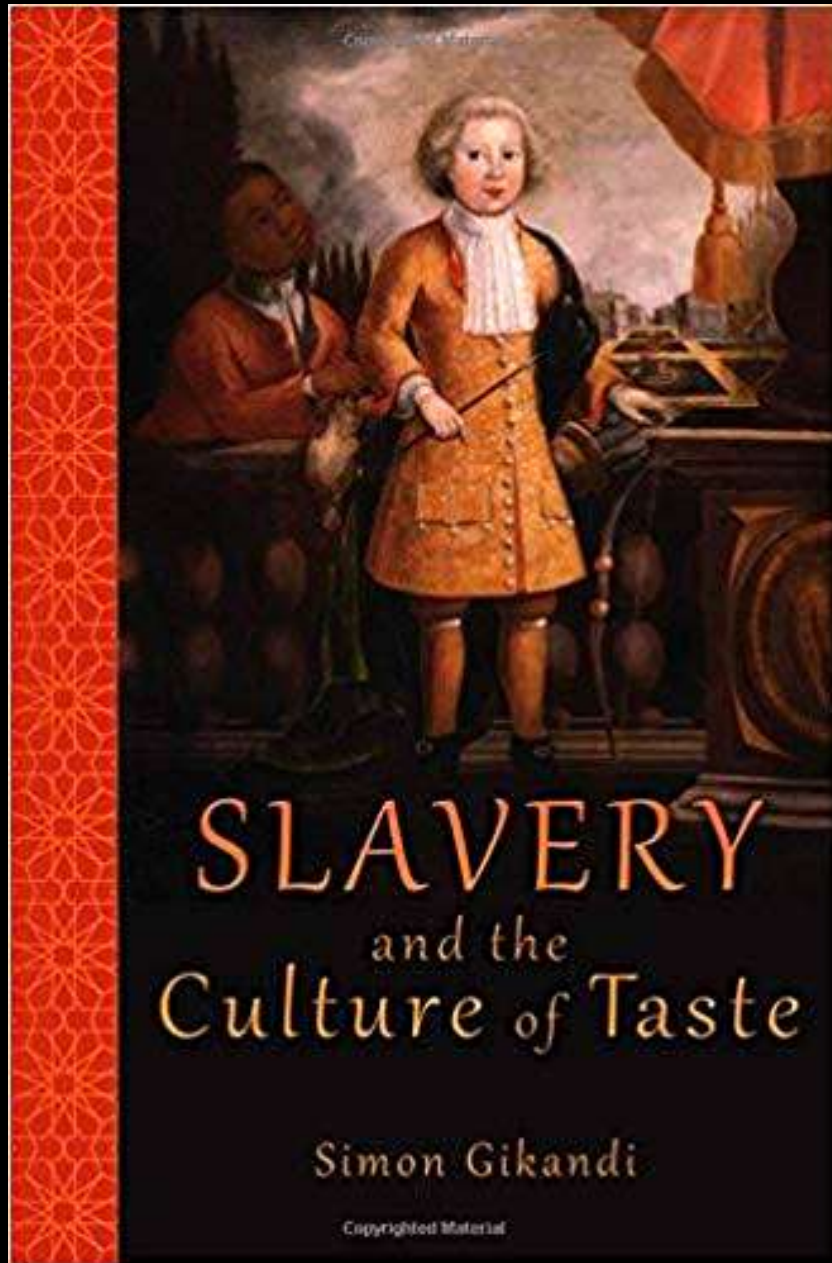
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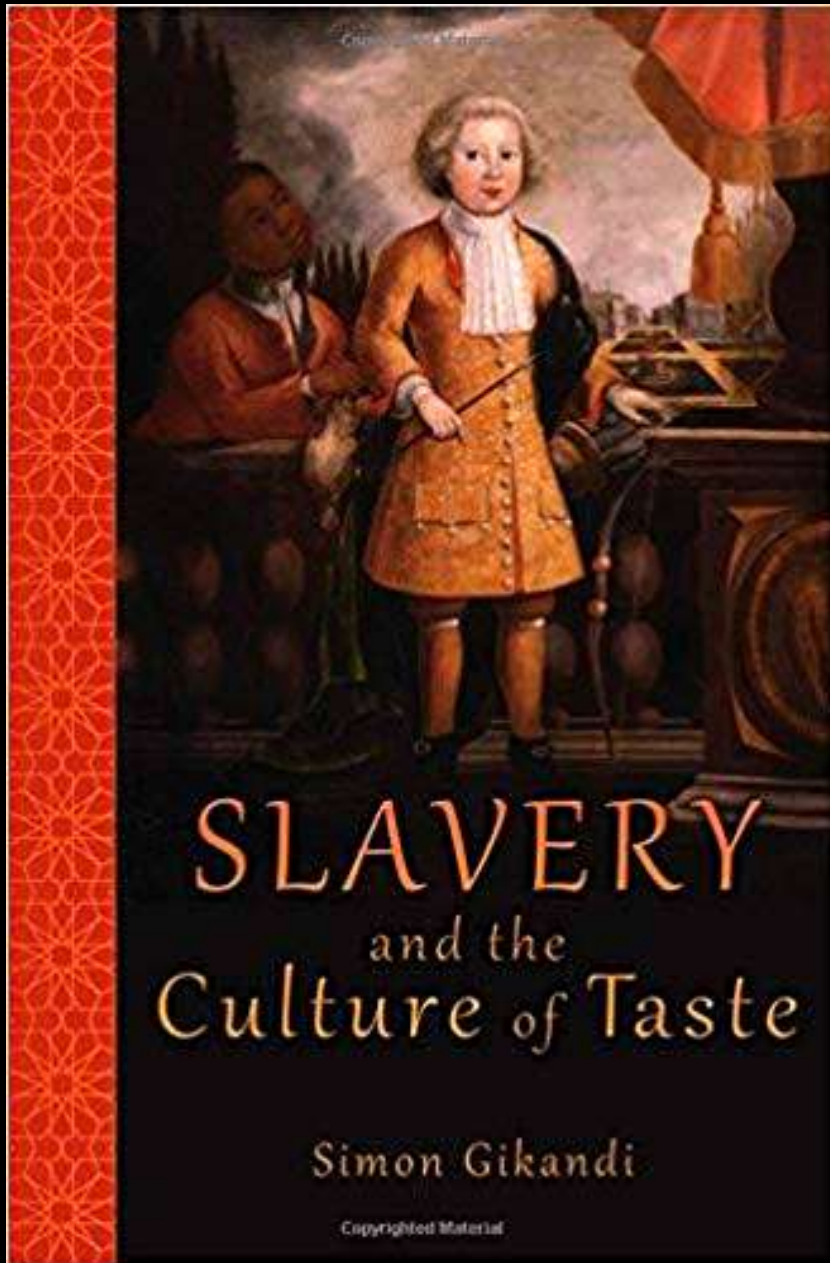
From Edward Long to Thomas Jefferson, slave masters turned to writing as a will to power; record keeping, and the archiving gesture was an attestation to the authority of natural history, the key to the ideology of white power.

-Simon Gikandi



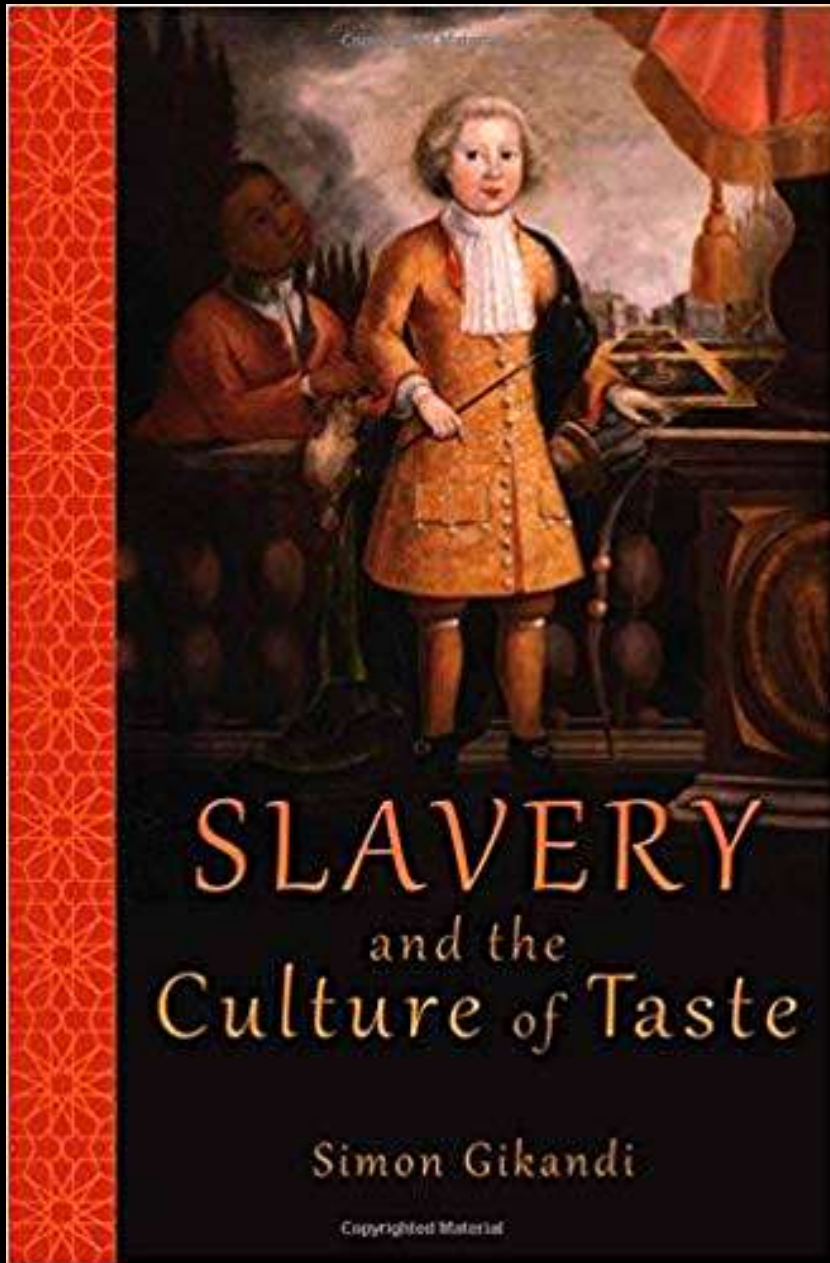
Recently there has been much important study of the image of Africans in “Western Art”....





Recently there has been much important study of the image of Africans in “Western Art”....

... but what about the images of Africa itself in the history of Western cartography?



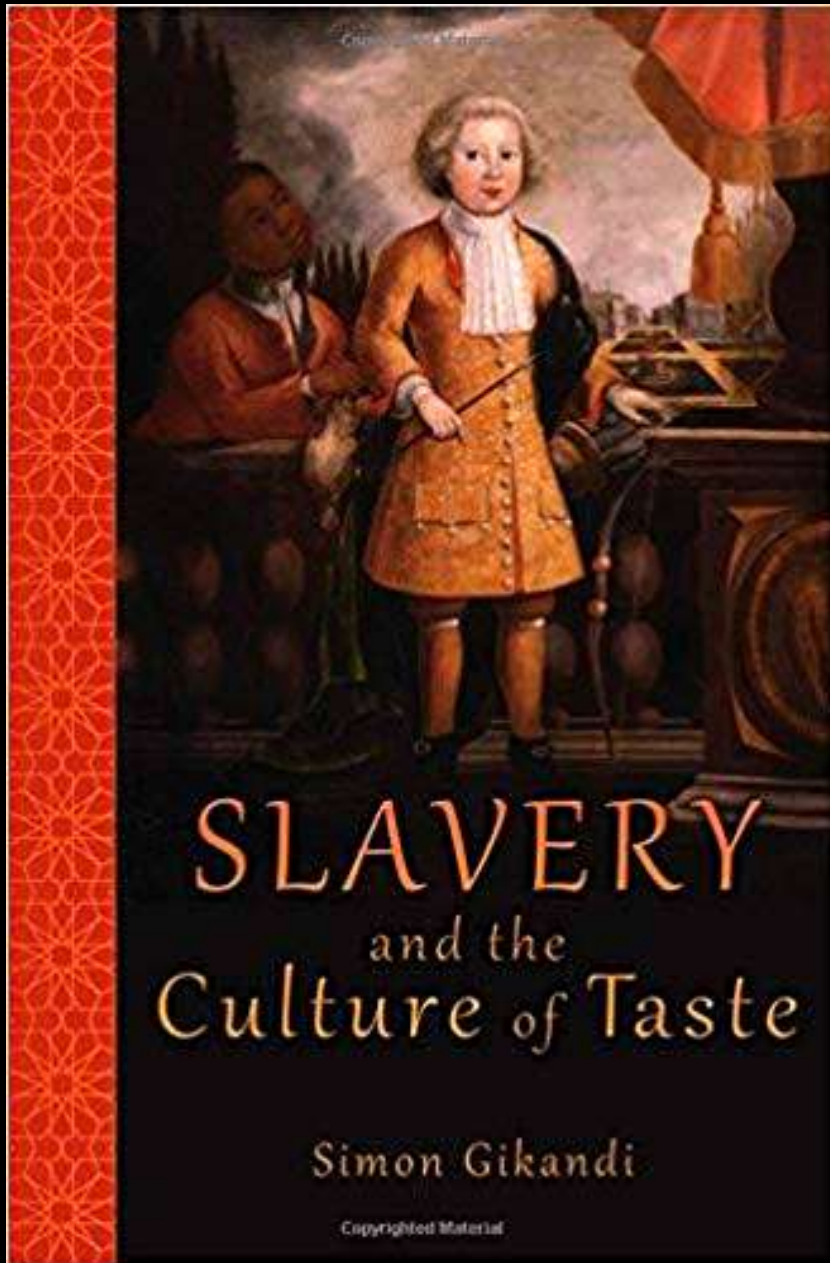
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... but what about the images of Africa itself in the history of Western cartography?

Maps have been said to be the supreme...

*“Portraits of Power”*





Recently there has been much important study of the image of Africans in “Western Art”....

... but what about the images of Africa itself in the history of Western cartography?

Can Western maps be “decolonized?”

# Individual scholars like Professor Vincent Brown have made impressive use of historical maps in their research

## Slave Revolt in Jamaica, 1760-1761

Posted on [November 29, 2018](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

[View the map](#)

Choose a font



# Slave Revolt in Jamaica, 1760-1761

*A Cartographic Narrative*

[Home](#) [Project](#) [Sources](#) [Acknowledgments](#) [Map](#)

This animated thematic map narrates the spatial history of the greatest slave insurrection in the eighteenth century British Empire. To teachers and researchers, the presentation offers a carefully curated archive of key documentary evidence. To all viewers, the map suggests an argument about the strategies of the rebels and the tactics of counterinsurgency, about the importance of the landscape to the course of the uprising, and about the



**Vincent Brown**  
*Principal Investigator and Curator*  
Charles Warren Professor of History and Professor of African and African-American Studies  
Director, History-Design Studio





WEST INDIES,  
agreeable to the  
most approved  
MAPS and CHARTS,  
by Kitchen

Explanation  
H. Hispaniola  
J. Jamaica  
P. Puerto Rico  
C. Cuba  
S. St. Domingo  
L. Lucayos  
B. Bahama  
M. Mexico  
A. Antilles





WEST INDIES,  
agreeable to the  
most approved  
MAPS and CHARTS,  
M. Kitchen

Explanation  
H. Hispaniola  
P. Puerto Rico  
S. St. Vincent  
G. Grenada  
W. Windward Islands  
L. Little Antilles





# The Caribbean from Space



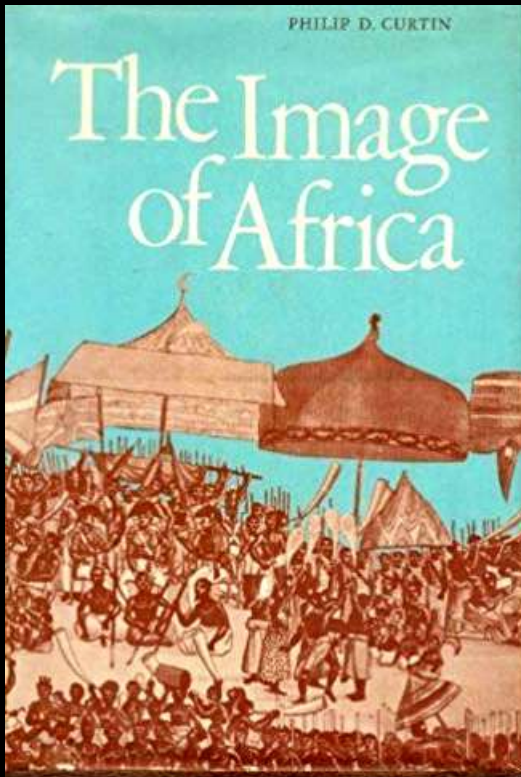
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/07/20/the-caribbean-from-slavery-to-climate-change/>



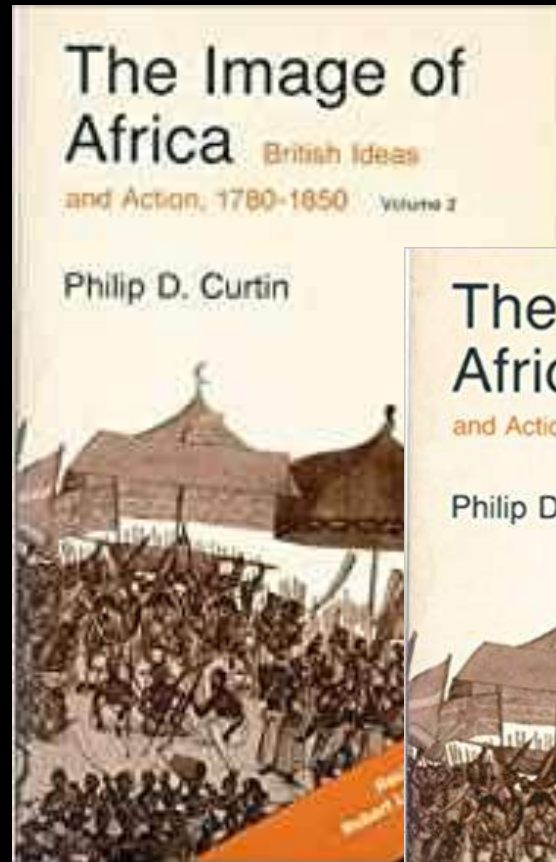
# Caribbean in Trans-Atlantic System (Triangular Trade)



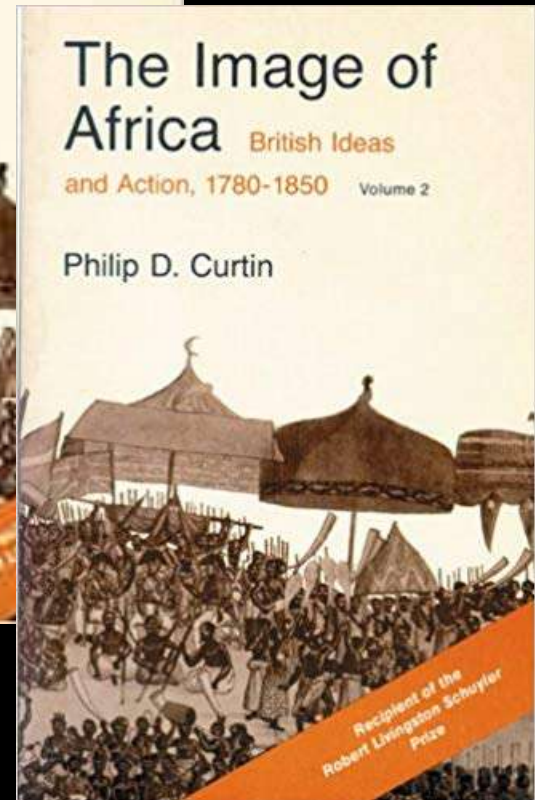
Philip Curtin – received a Harvard PhD in 1953 with a dissertation on "*Revolution and Decline in Jamaica, 1830-1865*" that examined the 19th-century history and economics of Jamaica.



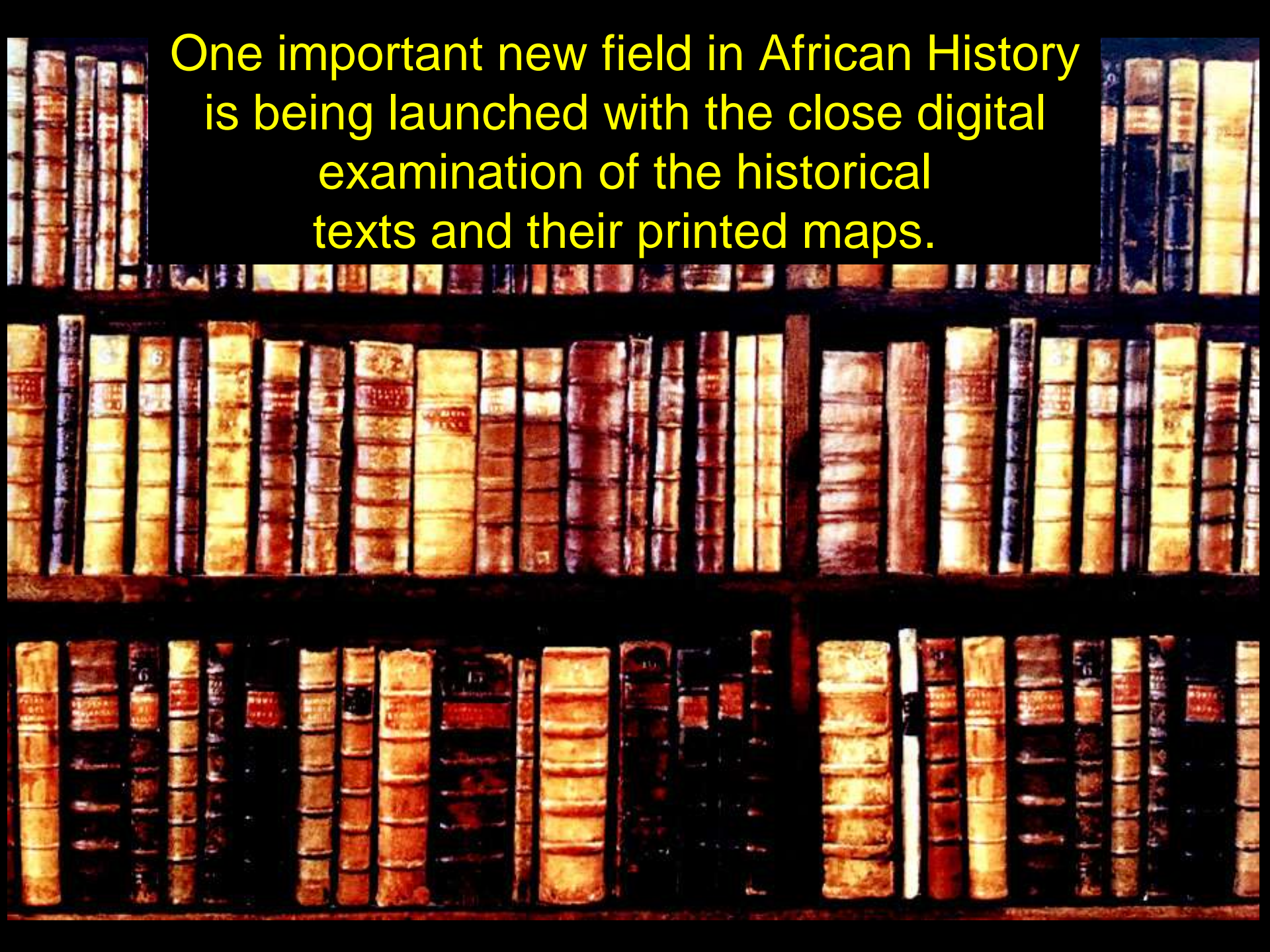
1964



1973

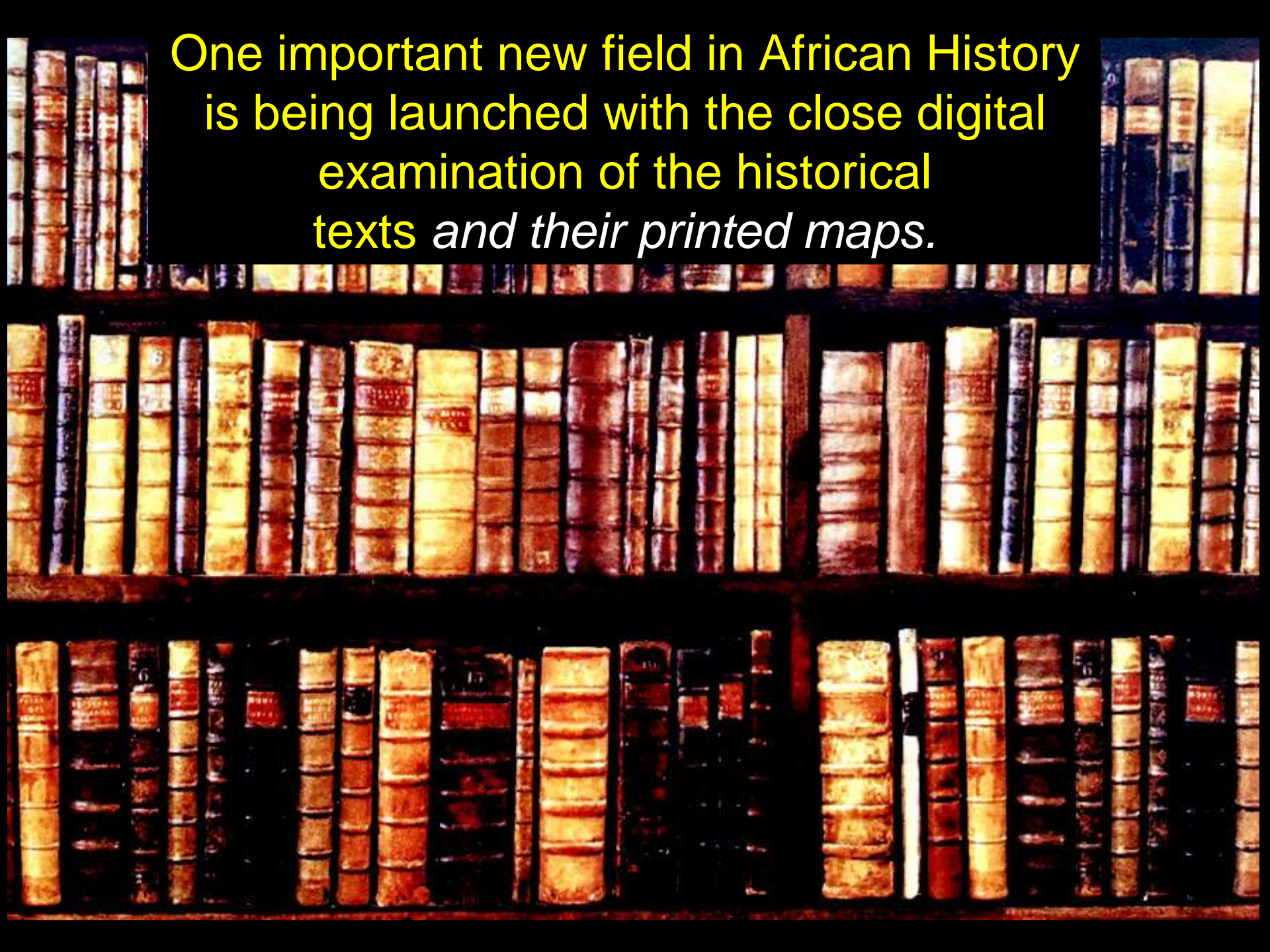




The background of the slide is a photograph of a library. It shows several rows of wooden bookshelves filled with old, leather-bound books. The spines of the books are visible, showing various colors like brown, tan, and black, and some have gold lettering. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the leather and the arrangement of the books.

One important new field in African History  
is being launched with the close digital  
examination of the historical  
texts and their printed maps.

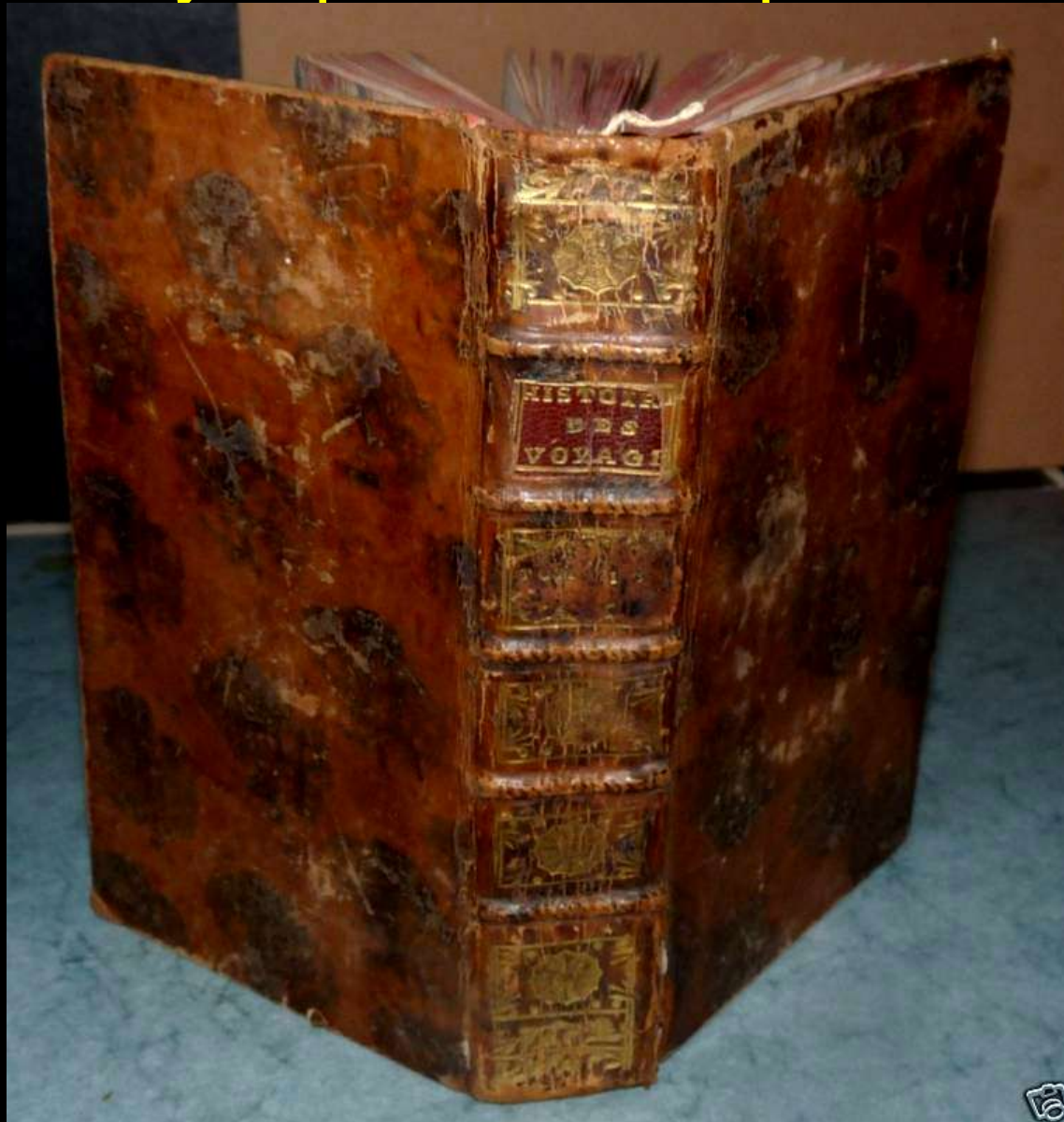




One important new field in African History  
is being launched with the close digital  
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This can start with individual travel accounts  
or encyclopedia & compilations ....



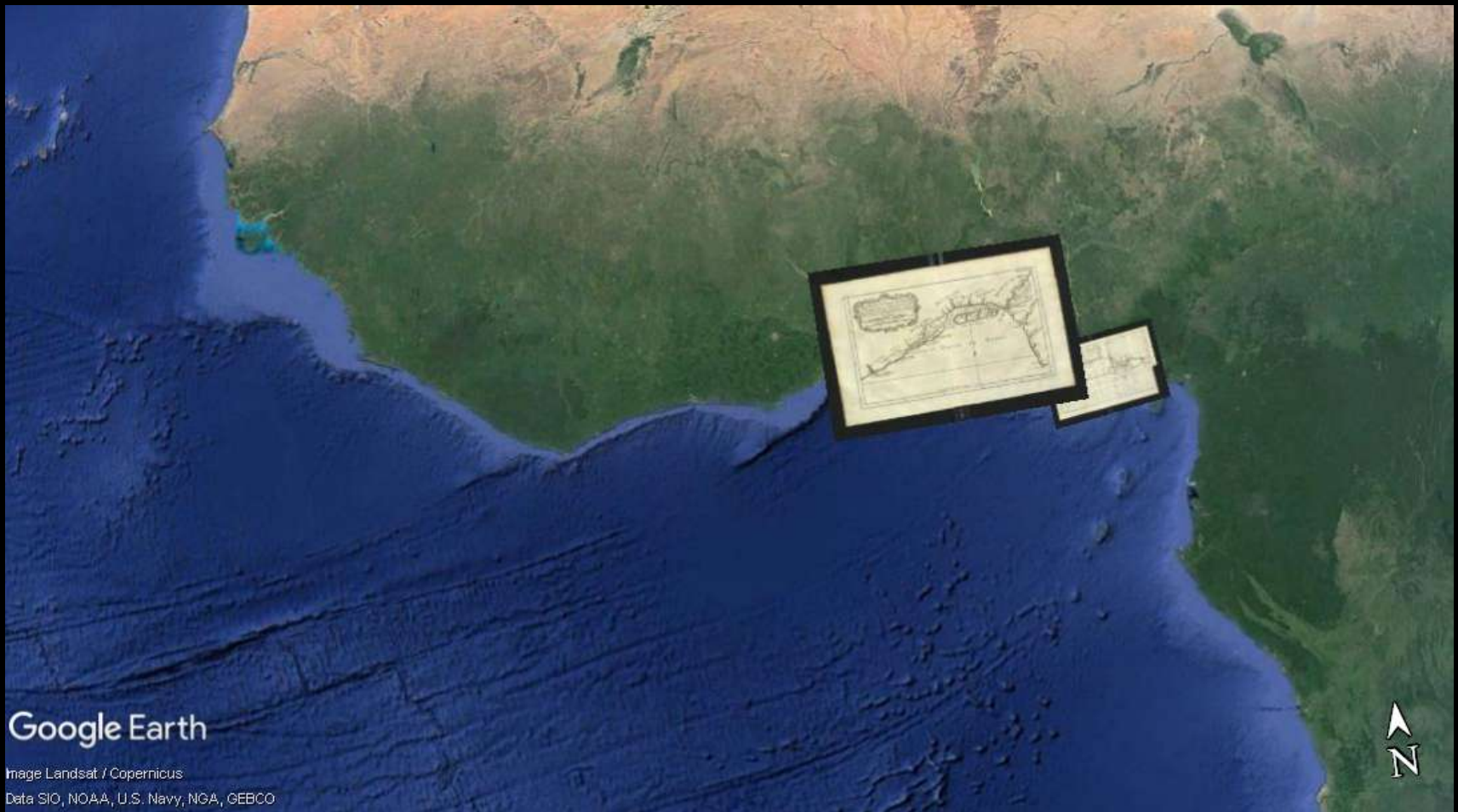




It is now possible to digitize & geo-reference  
hundreds of maps from the slave trade

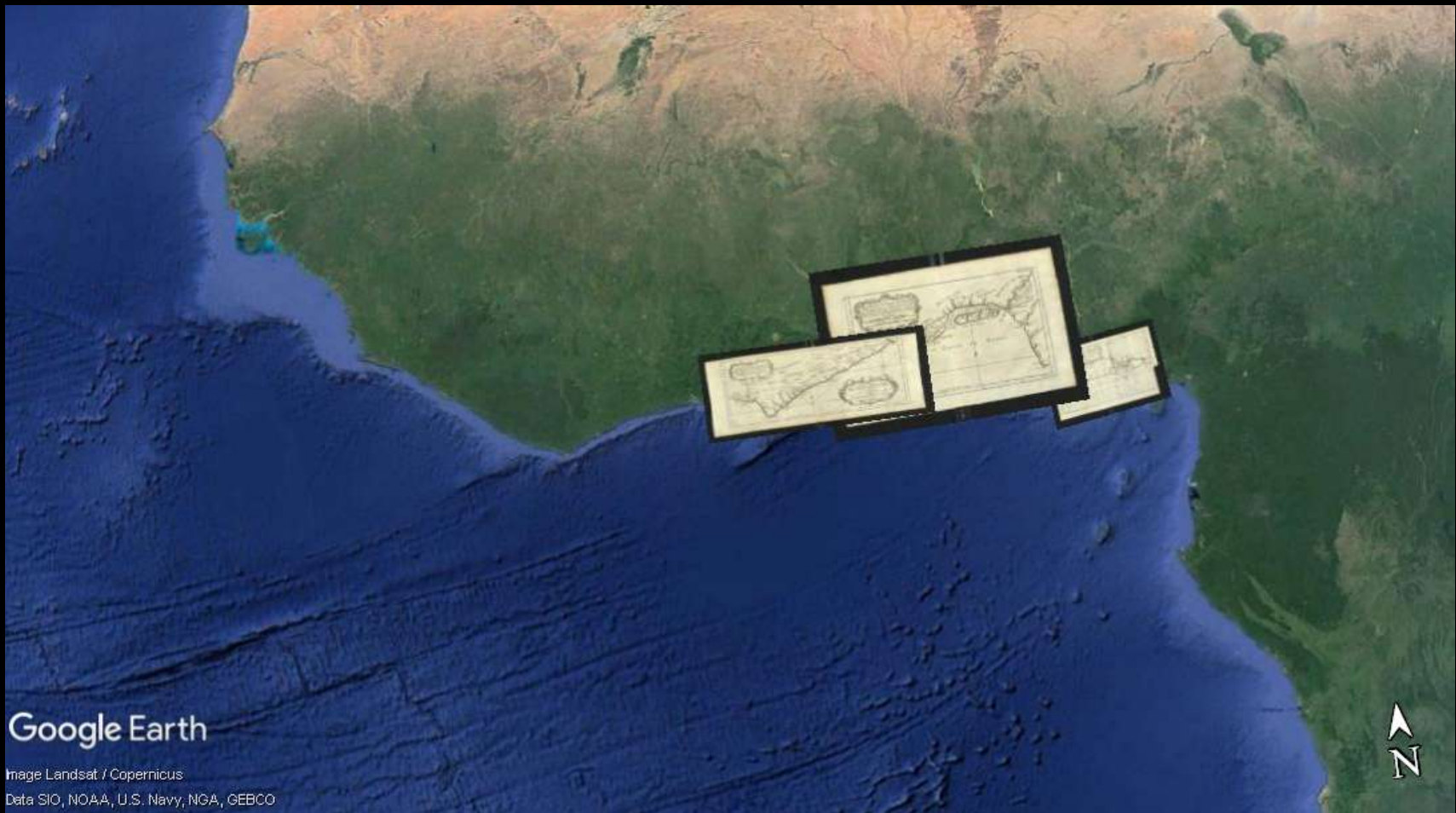


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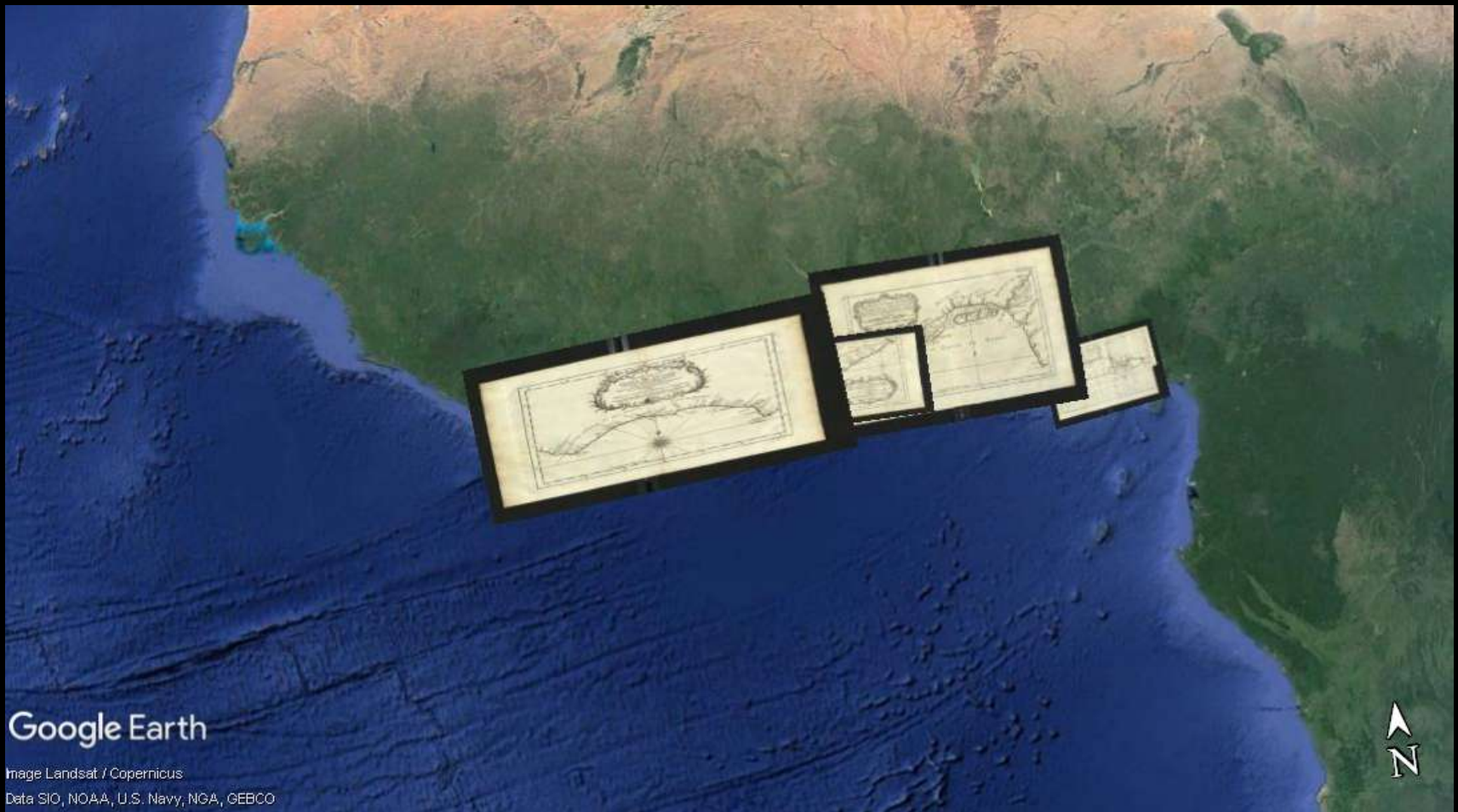




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It is now possible to digitize & geo-reference hundreds of maps from the slave trade

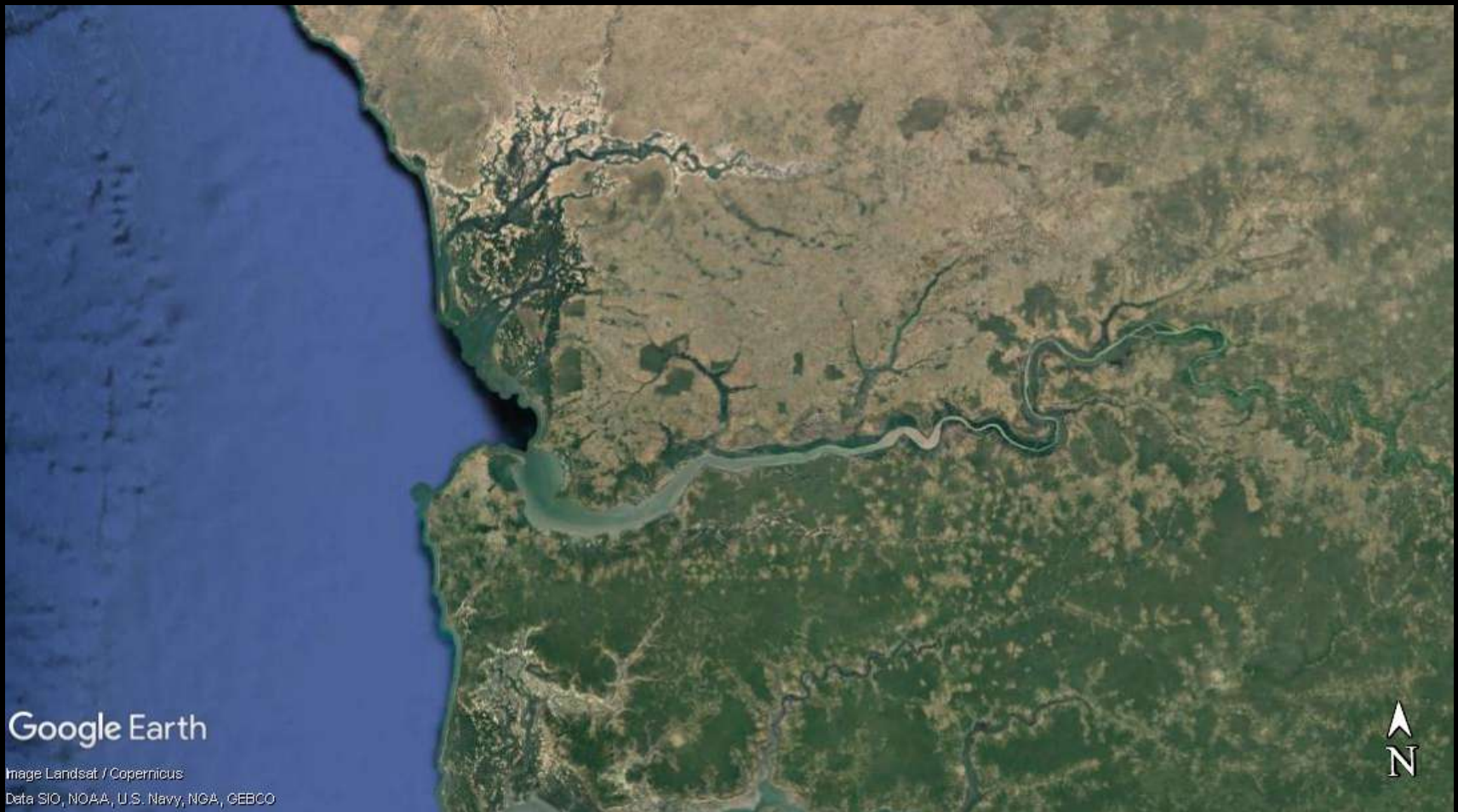




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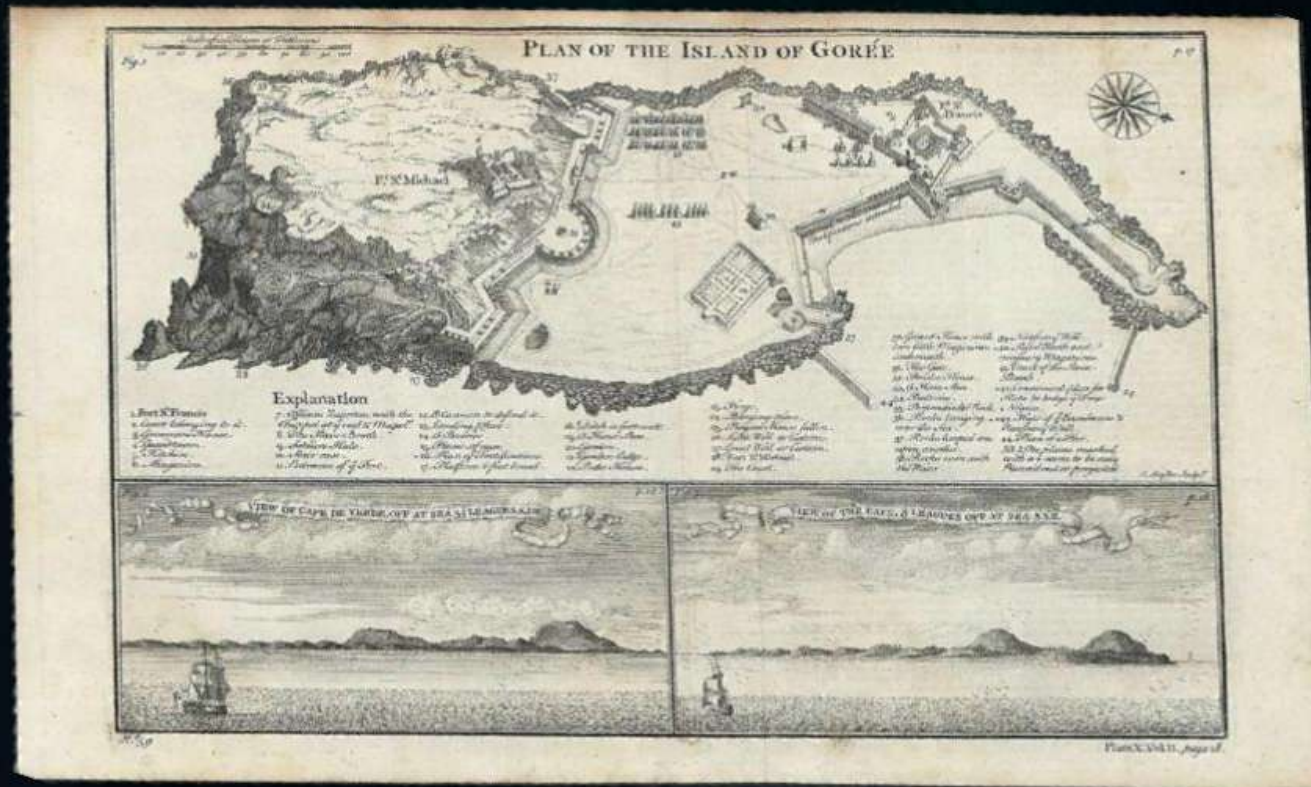


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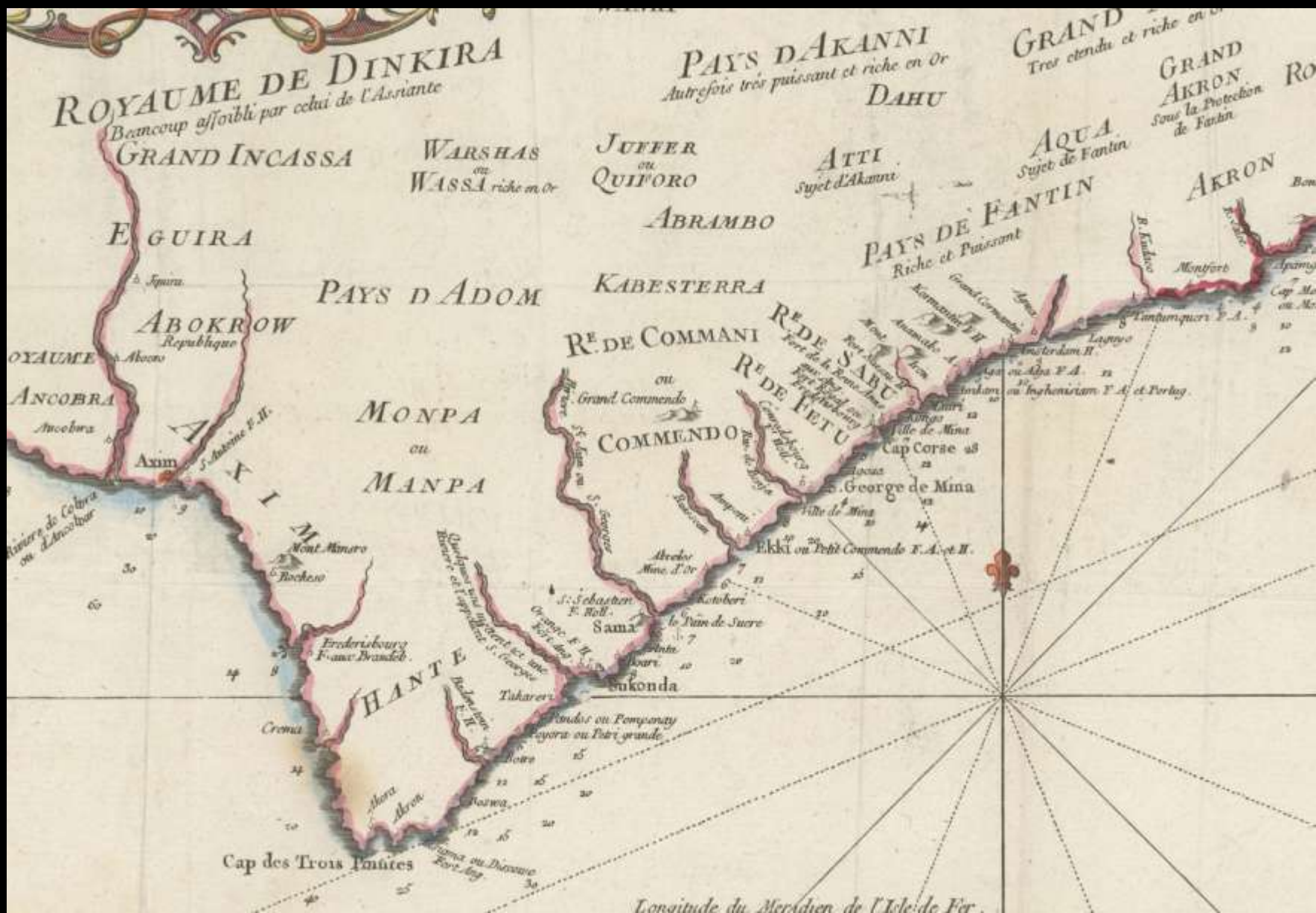
Google Earth

Image © 2018 DigitalGlobe









ROYAUME DE DINKIRA  
*Beaucoup affoibli par celui de l'Assiante*

GRAND INCASSA

WARSHAS  
ou  
WASSA *riche en Or*

JUFFER  
ou  
QUIFORO

PAYS D'AKANNI  
*Autrefois très puissant et riche en Or*  
DAHU

ATTI  
*Sujet d'Akanni*

GRAND  
*Tres étendu et riche en Or*

GRAND  
AKRON  
*Sous la Protection  
de Fantin*

AQUA  
*Sujet de Fantin*

AKRON



es Trois Pointes



ROYAUME DE DINKIRA  
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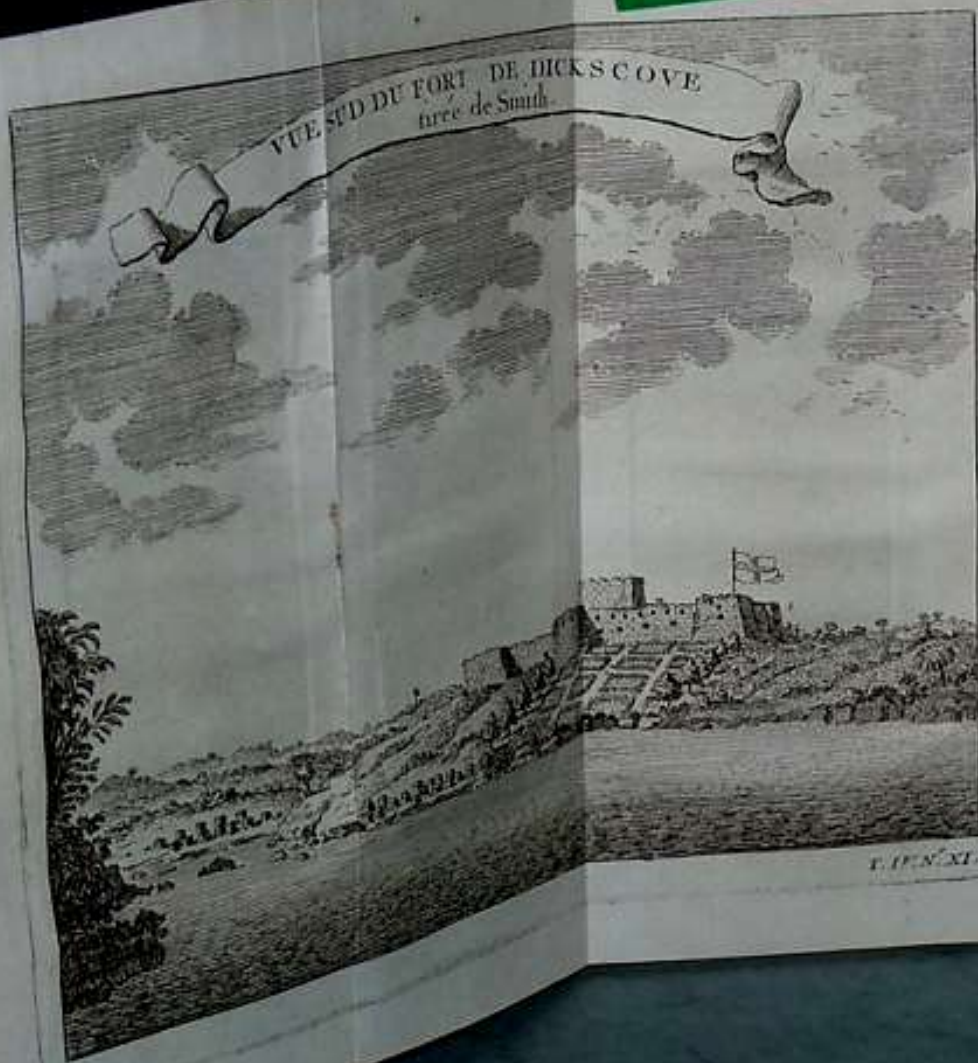
GRAND  
*Tres étendu et riche en Or*

GRAND  
AKRON  
*Sous la Protection  
de Fantin*

AKRON



VUE DU FORT DE DICKSCOVE  
tirée de Smith



T. PINXIT

DES VOYAGES. Liv. IX. 63  
voisines. L'artillerie de ce Fort ne mon-  
toit qu'à six canons; & dans le temps  
que tout le pays étoit sous la protec-  
tion d'un Gouverneur Prussien, elle ser-  
voit aussi à écarter les Vaisseaux étran-  
gers que l'espérance du commerce ame-  
noit dans la Baye. Cependant en 1701  
le Gouverneur accordoit, pour dix li-  
vres sterling, la liberté d'y prendre de  
l'eau & du bois.

Le petit Fort nommé *Dorothea* est  
près d'Akora, village à trois lieues  
du Cap, vers l'Est. Il reçut en 1690 des  
augmentations considérables par les  
lois des Hollandais, qui en avoient  
chassé les Prussiens en 1683. Huit ans  
après, c'est-à-dire 1698, la Compa-  
gnie de Hollande le tendit aux Prus-  
siens, qui l'ont encore augmenté &  
fortifié de divers ouvrages. L'édifice  
consiste dans une seule maison, à toit  
plat, sur lequel on a placé deux batte-  
ries d'environ vingt canons. Les loge-  
mens y sont en assez grand nombre,  
mais la fabrique du bâtiment est fort  
legère (14).

A Dickscove (15), qui se nomme pro-  
prement *Insamur*, les Anglois ont bâti  
un petit Fort en 1691, après avoir

CH. OL.  
GREGG.  
F. 111.

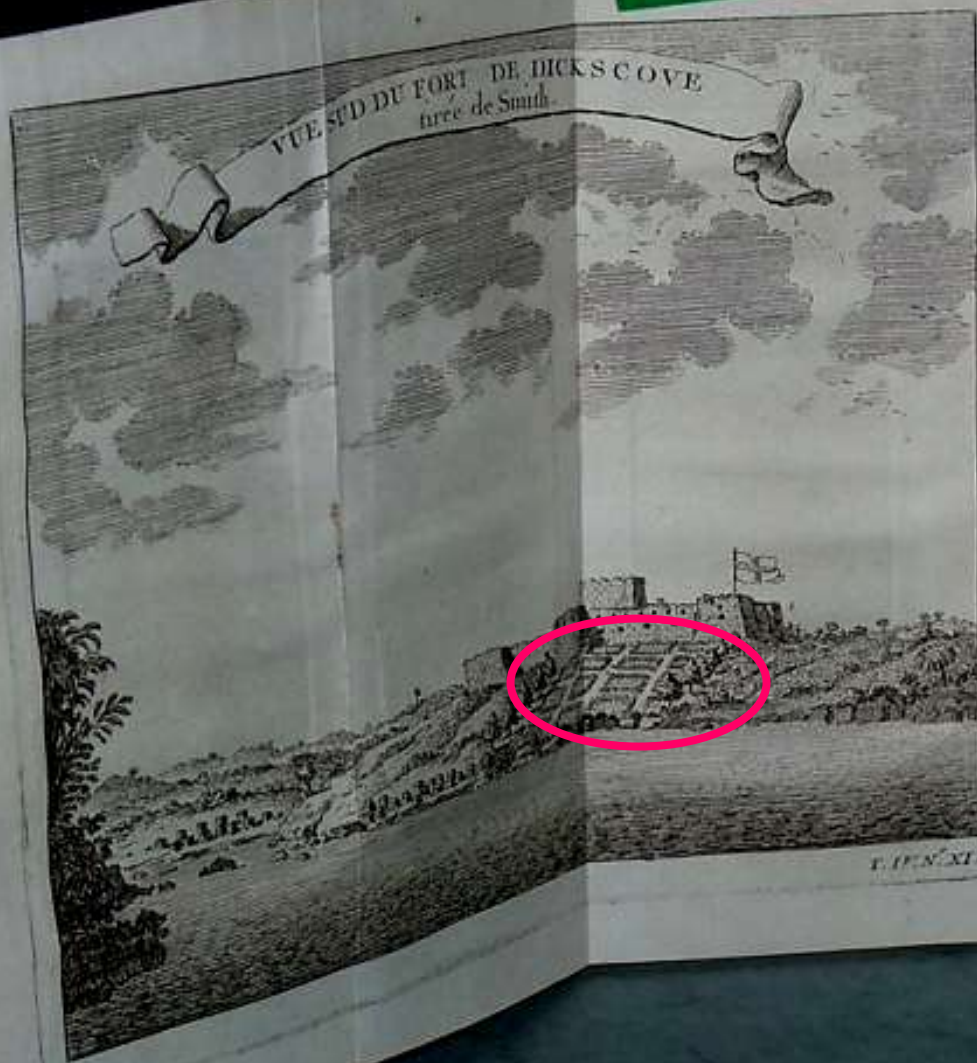
Fort de Do-  
rothea.

Fort An-  
glois de Dick-  
scove.

(14) Pauthier, p. 417; &  
Bouguer, p. 10.

(15) Les Anglois l'ap-  
pellent aussi *Dickscove*.





DES VOYAGES. Liv. IX. 63  
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toit qu'à six canons; & dans le temps  
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plat, sur lequel on a placé deux batte-  
ries d'environ vingt canons. Les loge-  
mens y sont en assez grand nombre,  
mais la fabrique du bâtiment est fort  
legere (14).

A Dickscove (15), qui se nomme pro-  
prement *Insamur*, les Anglois ont bâti  
un petit Fort en 1691, après avoir  
(14) *Pastor*, p. 417; & (15) Les Anglois l'ap-  
pellent aussi *Durgha*.

CH. 20.  
GREGOR.  
1711.

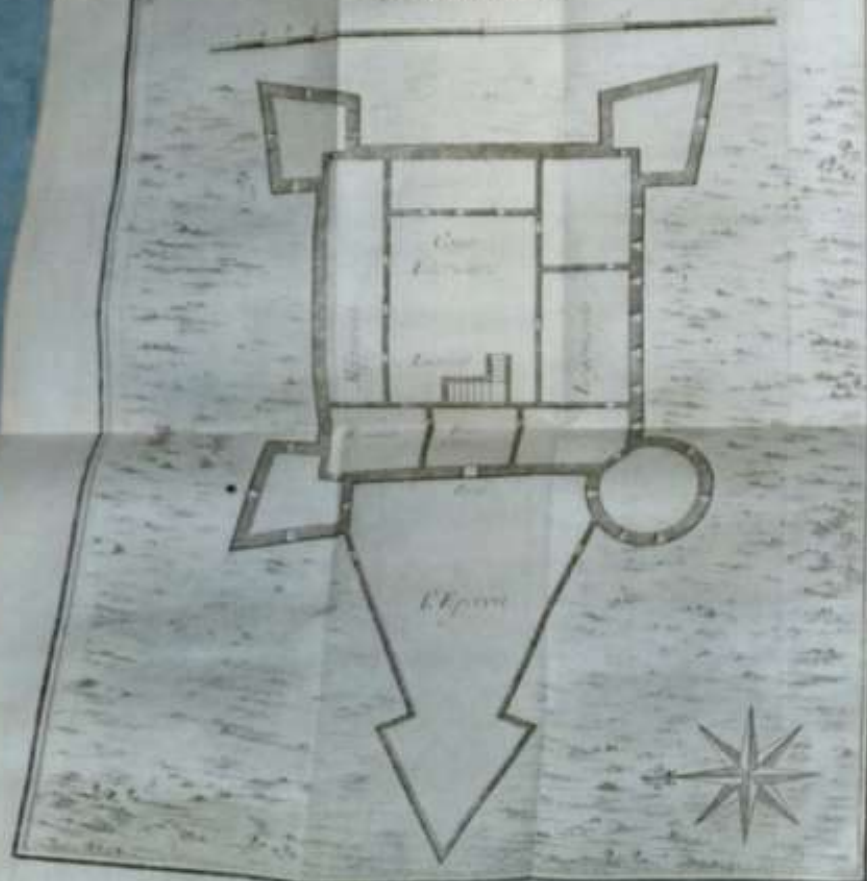
Fort de  
Dorothea.

Fort An-  
toine de  
Dorothea.

# PLAN DU FORT ANGLOIS DE DICKSCOVE

*Situé à la Côte de Guinée*

Echelle de 20 Toises



Livre II. N° 2.

*Pays d'Anra & de Jaha, avec leurs  
Villes & leurs Ports.*

**L**E Royaume d'Anra, que les Nègres appellent *Maso*, contenoit un village de *Bayra* (1), huit milles à l'Est d'*Adora*. Sa situation est entre la flamme de la Côte de l'Or. Il s'étend à l'Est jusqu'à *Nama*, où il borde le pays de *Jaha*. Du côté du Nord il a le pays d'*Adem*, celui de *Mamou* au Nord-Est, celui d'*Eguira* au Nord-Ouest, celui d'*Tekallan* & d'*Asim* à l'Ouest, & l'Océan au Sud & au Sud-Est. Sa longueur de l'Est à l'Ouest est d'environ dix lieues. Il est montagneux & couvert de grands arbres, entre lesquels il y a de fort gros villages (2).

Autrefois il étoit divisé en haut & bas Anra, dont *Asim* faisoit la première partie. Ses Habitans étoient une Nation nombreuse & guerrière, qui le goût du pillage armoit souvent contre les Hollandais. Mais les guerres continuelles avec les Nègres d'*Adem* & des autres pays voisins l'ont tellement affoibli, qu'elle ne conserve

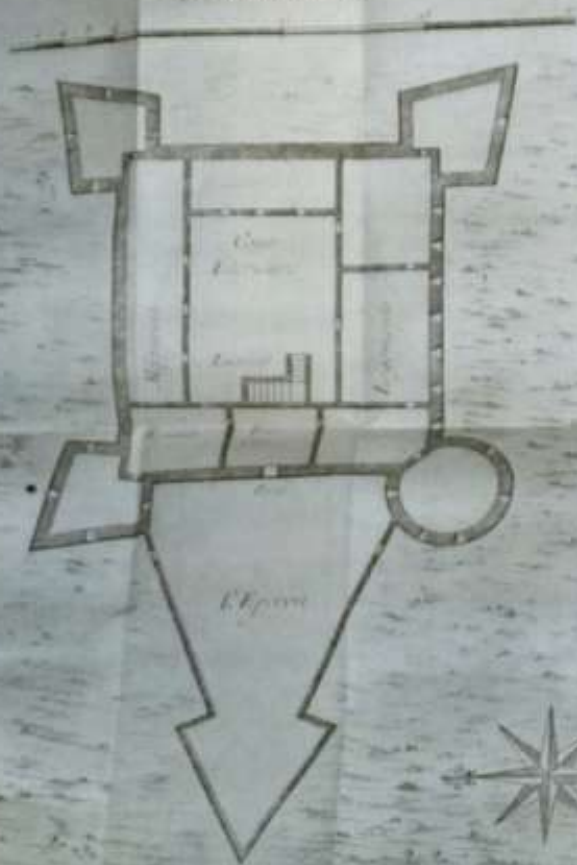
(1) *Bolton Tappin* (2) *Dalrymple*, p. 116.



# PLAN DU FORT ANGLOIS DE DICKSCOVE

*sur la Côte de Guinée*

Echelle de 10 Toises



Plume II. N° 2.

*Pays d'Anra & de Jaha, avec leurs  
Villes & leurs Forts.*

**L**E Royaume d'Anra, que les Nègres appellent *Maso*, contenoit un village de *Bayra* (1), huit milles à l'Est d'*Adora*. Sa situation est entre les flammes de la Côte de l'Or. Il s'étend à l'Est jusqu'à *Nama*, où il borde le pays de *Jaha*. Du côté du Nord il a le pays d'*Adem*, celui de *Manjo* au Nord-Est, celui d'*Eguira* au Nord-Ouest, celui d'*Tekallan* & d'*Asim* à l'Ouest, & l'Océan au Sud & au Sud-Est. Sa longueur de l'Est à l'Ouest est d'environ dix lieues. Il est montagneux & couvert de grands arbres, entre lesquels il y a de fort gros villages (2). Autrefois il étoit divisé en haut & bas Anra, dont *Asim* faisoit la première partie. Ses Habitans étoient une Nation nombreuse & guerrière, que le goût du pillage animoit souvent contre les Hollandais. Mais les guerres continuelles avec les Nègres d'*Adem* & des autres pays voisins l'ont tellement affoiblie, qu'elle ne conservoit

(1) *Bayra* Tappin. (2) *Bayra*, p. 116.







View with a **Google Chrome** browser at:  
<https://earth.app.goo.gl/jA9r4V>

























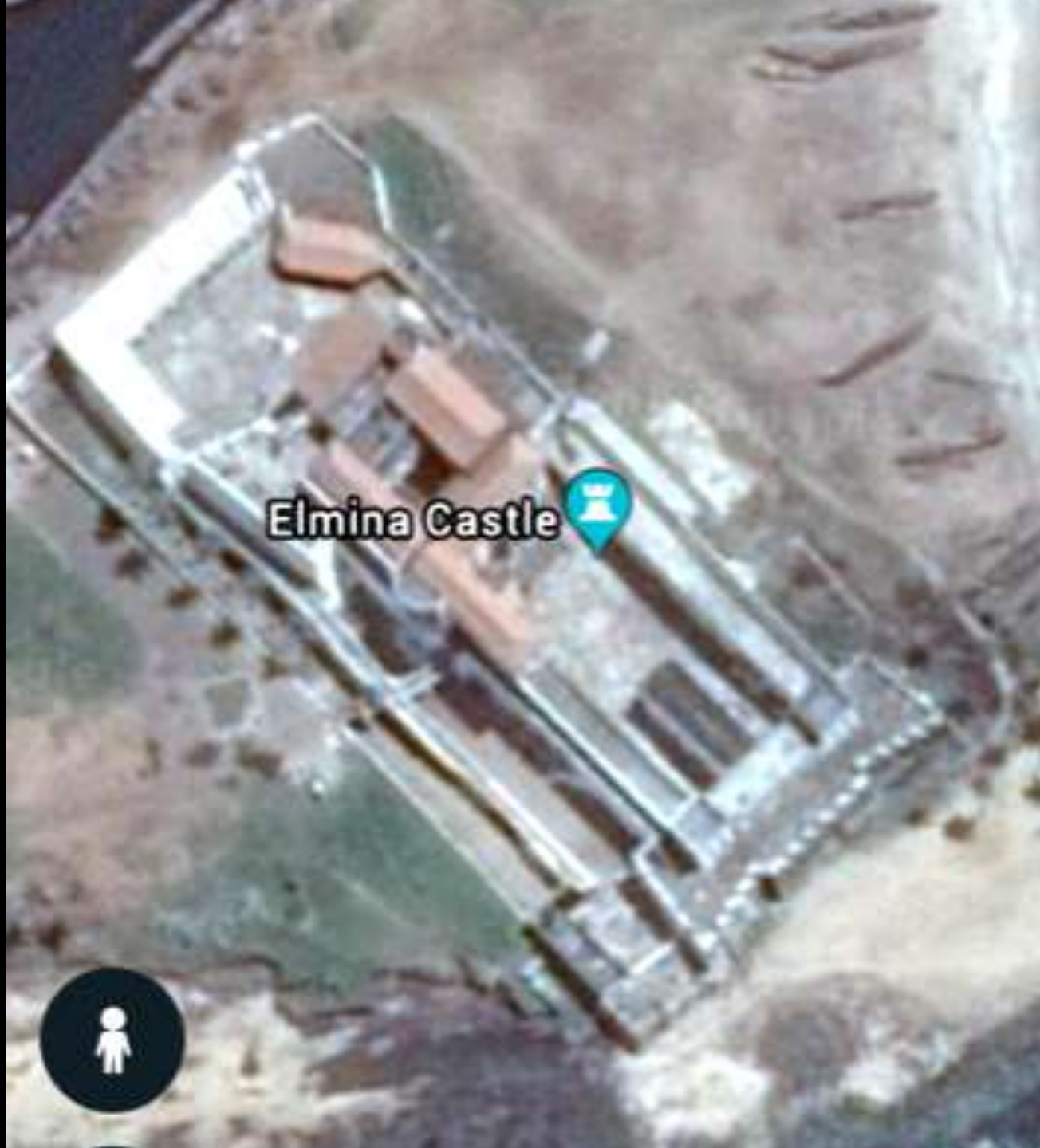






**Elmina Castle  
was another  
slaving fort –  
much larger  
than Dixcove**

<https://earth.app.goo.gl/U95X5G>



















View with a **Google Chrome** browser at:

<https://earth.app.goo.gl/fApo1t>

# The Caribbean, the Gambia & Goree in the Atlantic System







Goree Island, Senegal  
Goree Island, Senegal

debarcadere

Goree-04

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe  
© 2016 Google

Google earth

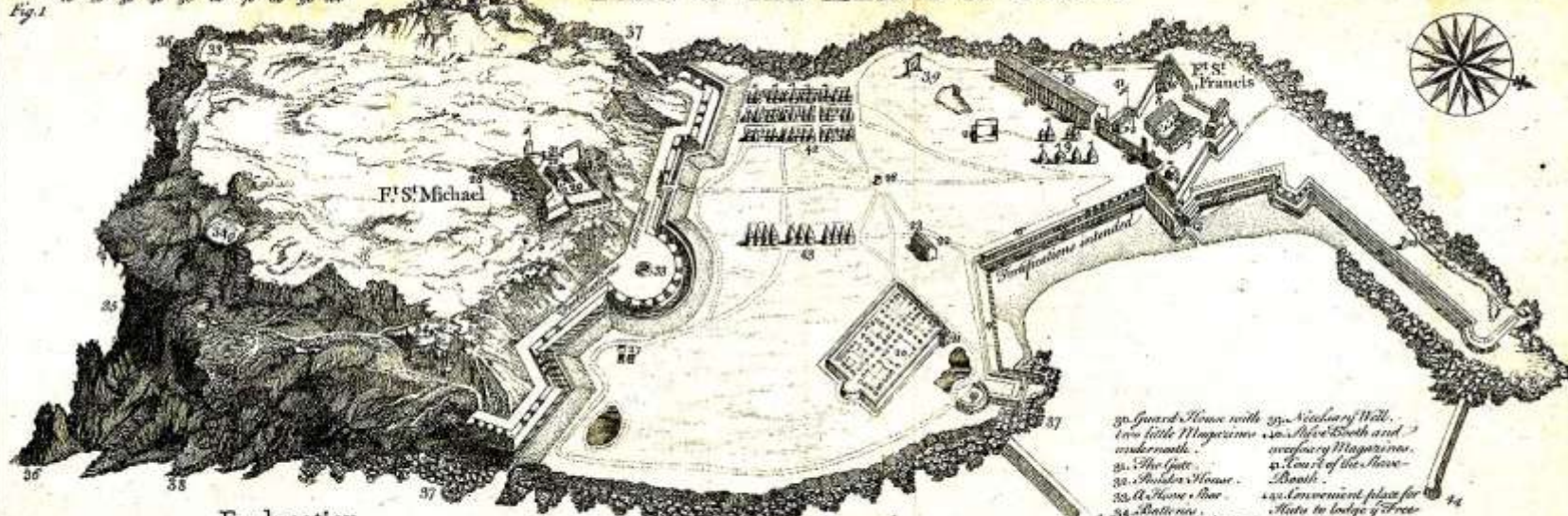
612 ft



Fig. 1  
Scale of Rods or Fathoms  
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

# PLAN OF THE ISLAND OF GORÉE

p. 17



## Explanation

1. Fort S. Francis
2. Court belonging to it.
3. Governor's House.
4. Guard room.
5. Kitchen.
6. Magazine.

7. Officers' Quarters, with the Chapel at the end & Magazine.
8. The Slave Booth.
9. Soldiers' Quarters.
10. Slave case.
11. Entrance of Fort.
12. A Cannon to defend it.
13. Landing place.
14. A Battery.
15. Place of arms.
16. Place of fortifications.
17. Platform 6 feet broad.

18. Ditch 10 feet wide.
19. A Round Tower.
20. Garden.
21. Garden lodge.
22. Bake House.

23. The Court.
24. Burial place.
25. Prisoner's House fallen.
26. Little Well or Cistern.
27. Great Well or Cistern.
28. Fort S. Michael.
29. The Court.

30. Guard House with two little Magazines underneath.
31. The Gate.
32. Soldier's House.
33. A House & Bar.
34. Battery.
35. Protruding Rock.
36. Rocks hanging over the sea.
37. Rocks joined one upon another.
38. Rocks even with the Water.
39. Vicenary Wall.
40. Slave Booth and overhanging Magazine.
41. Court of the Slave Booth.
42. Convenient place for Ships to lodge & Free Negroes.
43. Ruins of a Bannier & Flagstaff Wall.
44. Plan of a Pier.
45. The plans marked with a 4 seem to be only Plans not out or projected.

A. Dugan Sculp.





# First things first...

....the first objective of the current project is to digitize and geo-reference hundreds of slave trade maps in order to create an online “virtual archive.”

Mapping the Slave Trade, 1556-1823

An International Online Digital Map Archive for  
Reference, Research and Teaching in  
African and American History

But there is a bigger payoff as well...

In the process of creating this archive,  
there would be extensive spin-off  
capability developed at HDS...



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there would be extensive spin-off  
capability developed at HDS...

The technologies, techniques and software  
that Harvard's "**History Design Studio  
(HDS)**" would develop in the process of  
creating a "virtual map archive" would be  
"extensible" in virtually all directions for  
future Harvard faculty and graduate  
research.

# The digital humanities offer a wide range of new possibilities for scholarship...



## African Historical Graphics Archive

Maps, Views & Images of the  
African Slave Trade

**T. C. Weiskel**, DPhil. (Oxon)  
Director

[African-Graphics-Archives.Net](http://African-Graphics-Archives.Net)



Ogilby, *Guinea*, c 1670

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Maps and images can now be shared around the world for scholarly collaboration on new “platforms” for coordinated research on a vast new range of topics....



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