AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: SLAVERY AND MODERN MIGRATION: A CONVERGENT AND DIVERGENT HISTORICAL AND LITERARY PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT: This paper assesses the modalities of slavery as a commercial enterprise in the past centuries and the modalities of legal and illegal migration of Africans in the modern period. Among the 'legal' and illegal immigration include: 'green lottery visa, asylum seeking, children trafficking, 'individual voluntary trafficking', stowaway, and so on. Questions posed in this paper include: what economic factors inspired the actors to engage in slave trade and in what ways are these factors similar and dissimilar to the principles of those engaged in modern 'legal' and illegal migration? How can the modalities used to stop slavery in the past centuries be replicated in modern legal and illegal migration? Generally, what are the panaceas to the problem of legal and illegal migration?

The paper traces the problem of slavery from the perspectives of historians on the subject while literary works, such as *Equiano's Travel*, Ahmed Yerima's *Kaffir's Last Game*, Femi Osofisan's *Bishop Ajayi Crowther*, among a few provide ethnographic and psychological details of both slavery and modern immigration.

The paper argues that many types of modern migration are just an extenuation of past slavery and that the economic and psychological inspirations have merely become inverted. It also maintains that due to many reasons, government of many countries exhibit varied postures on the issues, thus making it difficult to tackle the problems comprehensively.

The importance of this paper rests on the exhaustive assessment of the cause and effect of slavery and the modern form of it while possible solutions are extracted from both factual historical and the symbiotic literary accounts.

Keywords: legal and illegal migration, slavery, economy of slavery, psychology of migration