



History of Benin = History of Reconciliation



Slave Trade Period for 300 years

Colonization period for 66 years

Independence from France in 1960

Transition to socialism in 1975

National Reconciliation in 1990

New departure as a democratic nation

International Conference for Reconciliation & Development in 1999

Historical Reconciliation to start solving slavery issue

Beginning of a new era



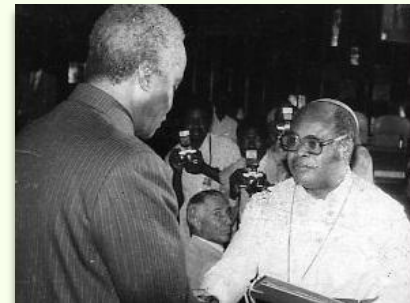
President Kérékou

Representative of government

National Conference in 1990

Successful democratization by dialogue for 10 days

Reconciliation!



Archbishop de Souza

Representative of all religions and the people
Symbol of spirituality



President Soglo



President Kérékou



President Yayi & Pope

- 1994 UNESCO Project Slave Route was launched in Benin to disclose the truth of slave trade
Gate of No Return was built in the coast of the Republic of Benin.

- 1996 Kérékou re-elected as the president
- 1999 President Kérékou apologized for slavery.

International Conference for Reconciliation & Development

Slavery nations made new beginnings

- 2011 Benedict XVI visited Benin and stressed the message on reconciliation, justice and peace for all Africa
- 2012 President Yayi was elected the chairman of the African Union



National Reconciliation

1. Recognizing the facts

- Collapse of national policy
- Collapse in economics
- Confusion in and among people

2. Recognizing the problem sincerely and objectively

- Overcoming the conflict in one's heart
- The Head of State himself recognized the wrong
- Following the intention seeking for the right direction

3. Patriotism

Apologize for failure and ask for forgiveness

Facts

Tradition & Culture of Beninese

- To value spirituality
- Forgiveness and tolerance
- Social structure centering on elders
 - Role of former presidents
 - Activities of Beninese living abroad



Overcame the National Crisis

Factors for successful Reconciliation

The three main principles for Reconciliation and Development

1. **Recollection of the facts**
2. **Recognition of the wrong**
3. **Forgiveness and reversing the course of the resentment process**



Essential spirituality for Reconciliation

Forgiveness

Agreement

Understanding

Tolerance

Concord

Dialogue

Overcoming selfishness

Construct defense of peace in the mind

Historical reconciliation for slavery issue

1. UNESCO Slave Route Project

- Crime against humanity
- African involvement into the slave trade
- Slave trade is not a simply racial issue
- Confusion among all African people
- Delayed African development

2. Recognizing problems of ancestors

- Descendants of slave traders and accomplices
- Overcoming internal conflict
- Recognizing the “sins” of one's ancestors
- Resolving ancestor's crime

3. Love for ancestors

Apologize for ancestors' failure and ask for forgiveness on the behalf

Facts

Spirit of Christianity

- Faith base organizations, traditions and practice
- Philanthropy
- Forgiveness and tolerance

Settlement of Historical Issue

Subject

To involve all humanity regardless of religion, sex, race and creed, we need universal and objective truth (UNESCO Constitution)