

“Accentuating Literary Affinities between Equatorial Guinea and Central America”

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On the margin of European culture...

the “coloured” intellectual is

an artifact of colonial

history...He is a creature

of two worlds, and of none.

The aim of this presentation is to analyze the literary affinities among afro-Hispanic writers from two regions: Equatorial Guinea (EG) and the coastal Caribbean regions of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. The common defining element of the fictional productions from these regions lies in the counter-argument that emphasizes a continuing system of resistance among the people who have been abused by the legacy of colonialism and contemporary governments. More importantly, I would like to make the case that by reading the works of the authors from a cross-cultural angle, we can have a broader critical insight to notions of identity that continue to emerge in the literary production filling in existing gaps from a historical perspective. I will analyze how works by authors such as María Nsúé Angüe, Juan Tomás Ávila, Eulalia Bernard, Quince Duncan y Andira Watson offer a glimpse of an obscure past, and an attempt to re-write the history of their respective nations while denouncing and condemning human rights abuses. The historical narrators in these texts question who they are by evoking voices from their African ancestors and through African motifs. Through the use of memory, they are able to re-examine ongoing exploitations based on race, class, gender and ethnicity. In these fictional narratives, the characters point out the on-going systematic marginalization of minority groups perpetuated and/or supported by their own governments, and in doing so, highlight the flaws and failures of contemporary governance in these regions.