

The Black Man's Destiny in *El metro* by Donato Ndongo and *Chambacú, corral de negros* by Manuel Zapata Olivella

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From the first encounter between the European and the African, the Black man's destiny has been tinged with tragedy. Whether it be on his own continent or transported to the Americas through the Middle Passage, he has been victimized by the colonial system. Even after the abolishment of slavery and the independence of African nations, he has never fully recovered from the aftermath of colonialism. The (post)colonial experience is the common element that bridges the African with his brothers across the Atlantic. The desire to restore his dignity and come to terms with his post-colonial identity has become an important theme in Afro-Hispanic literature. The novels of *El metro* (2007) by Donato Ndongo and *Chambacú, corral de negros* (1967) by Manuel Zapata Olivella highlight the struggle that the African and Afro-Latin American have in the search for his place in this post-colonial society. The tragic destiny of the protagonists in both novels suggest that the fight is far from over.