

Mauritania's Best Kept Secret

Under the headline **Slavery: Mauritania's best kept secret**, the BBC expresses righteous indignation about the continued existence of chattel slavery, with government connivance, in Mauritania: an open secret.

But why does the BBC see fit not to mention an even better-kept open secret? The word 'Arab' does not occur in the article; nor does the word 'race', even though the **slave-owners** are Arabs and Berbers while the slaves are black. The words 'Muslim' and 'Islam' do not appear in the article, even though the 800-year-old institution of slavery in Mauritania began with the enslavement of non-Muslim black Africans by invading Muslims from the North, and today a local form of Islamism is integral to its justification and day-to-day operation.

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Tradition

It is the way it is because it is the way it always was. God said so.

by a reader on Wed, 12/15/2004 - 15:21 | [reply](#)