



SOCIÉTÉ DES CULTURES NUBIENNES

POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS ...

THE NUBIAN REWAKENING

ANNEXE

Nevertheless a network of exchanges appeared since the beginning of the Holocene (around 10 000 BC) between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, including the area of the Atbara river and the Nile Valley. Rodolfo Fattovich has demonstrated the importance of these areas in a publication called '*Punt, the Archaeological Perspective*' BzS, 6, 15-29. This commercial route intensifies in the course of the III and II millennia BC when the political powers of Upper and Lower Nubia (Kerma and C-Group cultures) establish trade contacts with the local populations of this eastern part of Africa. According to Aminata Sackho-Autissier (Archéologie du Nil Moyen, vol. 9, 2002) the regions of the Gash Delta and the Red Sea are then areas of cultural transmission from Arabia to the Nile Valley (seals have been found testifying to an administrative system common to Arabia) and from the Nile Valley to Upper Nubia (Egyptian scarabs and scaraboids have been found in Upper Nubia).

In the first millennium before our era the Phoenicians, having established themselves at Carthage, controlled the coastal exits of the trade routes on the southern Mediterranean shores (several emporia in Tripolitania and in the Gulf of Sirte). The Greeks of Cyrene also want to profit from the riches of Africa. The Roman world opposes Carthage to eradicate the Punic monopoly. It is the Berbers that lead the Arabs towards the trans-Saharan regions.

In the Medieval period (12th Century), the Almohads of Morocco settled in Andalusia connect Moslem Spain to the southern part of the Sahara. At the end of the 14th Century the town of Timbuktu (Mali) develops and the political and economic heart of the Sahel begins to move towards the east as far as Lake Tchad. Libya and Egypt seize the caravan monopoly. (Cf. Atlas Historique de l'Afrique des origines a nos jours, Bernard Lugan, 2001).

At present the 40 days' road that runs from Sudan towards the Mediterranean is still in use.