

****Introduction to "The Pain of Slavery" Project****

The foundation of "The Pain of Slavery" project finds its roots in a profound moment—the recent speech by the King during this year's Keti Koti celebration. His words resonated deeply: "As the Second World War highlighted more recently, you cannot hide behind laws when your fellow human beings are reduced to animals and subjected to the whims of those in power." These powerful words brought to mind the story of my great-grandmother, Sasa (Grietje Sara Dokman, born in 1854 on Groot Chatillon, occupation: field maid). I think about the scars on her back; she was just a child when slavery was abolished in 1863.

Her history intertwines with a compelling question—why were so many Jewish plantation owners present in Suriname? Many of the plantations bore Jewish names. It strikes me that a synagogue was erected on the Joden Savanne, a place where the "Passover," a Jewish holiday commemorating the Israelites' liberation from Egyptian slavery, was celebrated. Yet, within the same context, they owned, shipped, and negotiated in enslaved lives.

"The Pain of Slavery" seeks to explore this complex juxtaposition—of religious celebrations and the harsh reality of human bondage. This project delves into the layers of history, investigating the interconnectedness of narratives that shaped lives, legacies, and the enduring pain of a past that cannot be forgotten. [14]

Bullit 1: Origins of Jewish Settlement and Plantations in Suriname

- 1630 Early European Establishments and Jewish Migration (1630): European presence in Suriname began in 1630 paving the way for subsequent developments.
- 1639 Safe Haven. Jews fleeing persecution in Portugal, the Netherlands, and Italy found refuge in Suriname in (1652): Jodensavanne, a Jewish settlement, was established by a group of Jewish immigrants.
- Autonomy and Prosperity of Jewish Planters: The Jewish community flourished in Suriname, acquiring political autonomy and prospering as plantation owners.
 - *Source: [1], [2], [7],[9]*

Bullit 2: Dynamics of Transatlantic Slave Trade and Enslaved Children

- 1621 Dutch West India Company's Role and Colonization Rights. The Dutch West India Company gained exclusive rights to trade and colonization around the Atlantic Ocean.
- Triangular Trade: Enslaved Africans, Goods, Produce: The triangular trade involved trade goods, enslaved Africans, and produce, shaping the transatlantic trade dynamics.
- Enslaved Children's Experiences and Stories: Insight into the lives and experiences of enslaved children sheds light on this painful aspect of history.
 - *Source: [3], [4], [6], [10],[11]*

Bullit 3: Historical Context of Childhood Slavery

- Understanding childhood slavery within its historical framework offers a deeper perspective on its impact.
- *Source: [5]*

Bullit 4: Legacy of Jewish Influence and Saramacca Project

- Jewish planters held significant influence and autonomy, contributing to Suriname's history.
- The establishment of a synagogue in Jodensavanne further solidified the Jewish presence and heritage.
- Symbolism of Liberation from Slavery: The celebration of Passover holds deep significance, drawing parallels to the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt.
- Connection to Saramacca Project and First Colonies: The Saramacca Project links modern developments to the initial colonies and plantations held by Jews in Suriname.
- *Source: [1], [2], [8]*

Bullit 5: Music, Resistance, and Remembrance

- "Fayasiton no source mi so" Children's Song: This song serves as a poignant reflection of the enduring impact of slavery on Suriname's culture and heritage.
- Music acts as a medium to express and commemorate the experiences of those who lived through slavery.
- Enslaved individuals used music to resist oppression and convey their struggles, leaving a lasting legacy.
- *Source: [2], [4]*

Bullit 6: Modern Perspectives and Research

- Kooopcontracten and Historical Documentation: Examination of historical documents, such as kooopcontracten (purchase contracts), provides modern insights into the trade.
- Academic Perspectives on Jewish-Surinamese History.
- *Source: [1], [3], [4],[12]*

Bullit 7: Reflecting on Historical Impact

- The Intersection of Jewish Influence and Enslaved Lives: The intertwined narratives of Jewish prosperity and enslaved experiences offer a multifaceted understanding.
- Complexity of Identity and Heritage in Suriname: The amalgamation of identities and heritage in Suriname highlights the intricate layers of its history.
- *Source: [2], [4], [7], [12], [13]*

Sources:

1. "Twee slaven voor de prijs van een: Stadsarchief toont koopcontracten." Het Parool. [\[Link\]](#)
2. "History of the Jews in Suriname." Wikipedia. [\[Link\]](#)
3. "Childhood Slavery: Aspects of Life in Britain's Transatlantic Slave-owning Colonies." The National Archives. [\[Link\]](#)
4. "Leven in slavernij: Kinderen in slavernij." Slavernijenjij.nl. [\[Link\]](#)
5. "Childhood Slavery: Historical Context." The National Archives. [\[Link\]](#)

6. "Saramaccaproject." Wikipedia. [[Link](#)]
7. "Saramaccaproject: Jodensavanne." Wikipedia. [[Link](#)]
8. "Saramaccaproject: Synagoge." Wikipedia. [[Link](#)]
9. "Portuguese inquisition" Wikipedia. [[Link](#)]
10. "England's Jewish Merchants and the Slave Trade". [[Link](#)]
11. "WIC and liberty in early America". [[Link](#)]
12. "The Jewish history of Amsterdam". [[Link](#)]
13. "Creole Jews". [[Link](#)]
- 14.** "Speech by King Willem-Alexander at the commemoration of the role of the Netherlands in the history of slavery, Oosterpark, Amsterdam". [[Link](#)]

Footer Notes:

- The Artist Talk draws from a range of sources to offer a comprehensive exploration of the intertwined history of Jews, slavery, and Suriname.
- Sources are cited through numbered references, providing readers access to in-depth information and perspectives.
- The extensive range of sources used ensures a well-rounded and thorough understanding of the subject matter.