

the belly of the atlantic

The Belly of the Atlantic: Exploring the Depths and Stories Beneath the Waves

the belly of the atlantic is a phrase that conjures up images of vast, mysterious underwater expanses teeming with life and history. This expression refers not just to the physical depths of the Atlantic Ocean, but also to the rich cultural and ecological significance that lies beneath its surface. From the hidden trenches and underwater mountain ranges to the diverse marine ecosystems and the tales of human migration and trade, the belly of the Atlantic offers a fascinating glimpse into one of the planet's most important oceanic regions.

What Does the Belly of the Atlantic Really Mean?

At first glance, "the belly of the Atlantic" can sound like a poetic metaphor. In reality, it captures the idea of the ocean's midsection—the deep, less explored parts of the Atlantic that lie far from the coastlines. This central region is home to some of the ocean's most remarkable natural features, including the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, abyssal plains, and deep-sea trenches.

The term also hints at the Atlantic's role as a cradle of life and a conduit for cultural exchange. The ocean's belly is where countless species have evolved, and where ancient seafaring routes connected continents, shaping human history.

Geography and Physical Features of the Atlantic's Midsection

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge: The Ocean's Backbone

One of the most distinctive features in the belly of the Atlantic is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a vast underwater mountain range that stretches over 16,000 kilometers from the Arctic Ocean down to the southern Atlantic. This ridge is a divergent tectonic plate boundary where the Eurasian and North American plates (in the North Atlantic) and the African and South American plates (in the South Atlantic) are slowly moving apart.

This geological activity creates new oceanic crust and fuels hydrothermal vents, which support unique ecosystems. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is not just a physical divide; it's a hotspot for biodiversity and scientific discovery.

Deep Trenches and Abyssal Plains

Beyond the ridge lie the deep trenches and abyssal plains that make up the ocean floor. These regions, often referred to as the ocean's "belly," are some of the least explored parts of the planet. Here, depths can reach several kilometers, with pressures and temperatures that challenge human exploration and marine life alike.

Despite the harsh conditions, these areas host specially adapted organisms, from bioluminescent fish to giant tube worms. These creatures rely on chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis, thriving near hydrothermal vents where mineral-rich water supports entire ecosystems.

The Ecological Richness of the Atlantic's Belly

Diverse Marine Life in the Open Ocean

The belly of the Atlantic is home to a wide variety of marine species that have adapted to its unique environment. Pelagic fish like tuna and swordfish roam the open waters, while deep-sea creatures such as anglerfish and gulper eels inhabit the dark depths.

Migratory species, including whales and sea turtles, travel through this part of the ocean during their long journeys. These species contribute to complex food webs that maintain the health of the Atlantic's marine ecosystem.

Coral Reefs and Underwater Habitats

While coral reefs are often associated with shallow tropical waters, there are also deep-water coral ecosystems in the Atlantic's belly. These cold-water reefs provide habitat for various fish, crustaceans, and other marine organisms.

Protecting these habitats is critical as they act as biodiversity hotspots and help sustain fisheries that many coastal communities depend on.

Human History and Cultural Significance

Crossroads of Migration and Trade

The belly of the Atlantic has played a pivotal role in human history. For centuries, this ocean served as a bridge connecting Africa, Europe, and the Americas. It was in these waters that explorers and traders crossed, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures.

The Atlantic's midsection was also part of the harrowing routes of the transatlantic slave trade, a dark chapter that shaped the demographics and histories of several continents. Understanding this history helps us grasp the deep cultural connections and legacies that still resonate today.

Modern Exploration and Research

Today, scientists use advanced technology like remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), and deep-sea submersibles to explore the belly of the Atlantic. These tools allow researchers to study ocean currents, marine biodiversity, and geological formations with unprecedented detail.

Research in this region informs climate science, as the Atlantic plays a crucial role in regulating global weather patterns through its currents, including the Gulf Stream. It also helps in monitoring the health of marine ecosystems and understanding human impacts such as pollution and overfishing.

Challenges Facing the Belly of the Atlantic

Environmental Threats

Despite its vastness, the belly of the Atlantic is increasingly vulnerable to human activities. Pollution from plastics and chemicals reaches even the most remote depths, threatening marine life. Overfishing in the open ocean disrupts food chains, while climate change affects water temperatures and ocean acidification, impacting species survival.

Preserving this underwater region requires international cooperation and sustainable management practices to protect both biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities dependent on the Atlantic's resources.

Preservation Efforts and Sustainable Practices

Several marine protected areas (MPAs) have been established in parts of the Atlantic to safeguard critical habitats. Moreover, international agreements aim to regulate fishing, shipping, and pollution to minimize human impact.

Supporting scientific research and promoting awareness about the importance of the Atlantic's belly can foster better stewardship. Sustainable tourism and responsible seafood consumption also play roles in conserving this vital oceanic region.

Why the Belly of the Atlantic Matters to Us All

Understanding the belly of the Atlantic means appreciating the interconnectedness of our planet's systems. This vast marine environment influences weather, supports diverse life forms, and connects continents culturally and economically. Whether you're a scientist studying ocean currents, a fisherman relying on healthy stocks, or simply a curious reader, the Atlantic's midsection holds stories and secrets worth exploring.

Exploring the belly of the Atlantic invites us to look deeper—not just into the ocean's depths, but into the ways our lives are intertwined with this dynamic and vital part of the world. As we continue to uncover its mysteries, we also come to recognize our responsibility to protect and preserve the Atlantic's belly for future generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Belly of the Atlantic' about?

'The Belly of the Atlantic' is a novel by Fatou Diome that explores themes of immigration, identity, and

the challenges faced by African immigrants in Europe, particularly through the story of a Senegalese man living in France and his connection with his brother back home.

Who is the author of 'The Belly of the Atlantic'?

The author of 'The Belly of the Atlantic' is Fatou Diome, a Senegalese-French writer known for addressing issues of migration and cultural identity.

What are the main themes in 'The Belly of the Atlantic'?

The main themes include immigration, cultural identity, the gap between Africa and Europe, dreams versus reality, and the impact of globalization on individual lives.

Why is 'The Belly of the Atlantic' considered important in contemporary literature?

'The Belly of the Atlantic' is important because it provides a nuanced perspective on the immigrant experience, challenges stereotypes, and highlights socio-economic disparities between Africa and Europe, contributing to discussions on post-colonialism and migration.

How does Fatou Diome portray the relationship between the two brothers in the novel?

Fatou Diome portrays the relationship as complex and emotionally charged, highlighting contrasts between the brother who migrated to France and the one who stayed in Senegal, reflecting broader themes of hope, disappointment, and differing realities.

What role does the Atlantic Ocean play in the novel?

The Atlantic Ocean symbolizes both a physical and metaphorical barrier between Africa and Europe, representing the divide in opportunities, experiences, and dreams between the two continents and the characters.

Has 'The Belly of the Atlantic' been translated into other languages?

Yes, 'The Belly of the Atlantic' has been translated into multiple languages, including English, making it accessible to a global audience interested in migration and cross-cultural narratives.

What impact has 'The Belly of the Atlantic' had on discussions about immigration?

The novel has sparked important conversations about the realities of immigration, the challenges immigrants face, and the misconceptions held by people in both the host and home countries, fostering greater empathy and understanding.

Additional Resources

The Belly of the Atlantic: Exploring the Depths and Mysteries Beneath

the belly of the atlantic refers to the profound and largely uncharted depths of the Atlantic Ocean, a vast underwater expanse that holds countless secrets about Earth's geological history, marine biodiversity, and climatic processes. As one of the world's major oceans, the Atlantic's "belly" encompasses the deep ocean basins, mid-ocean ridges, and abyssal plains that remain a frontier for scientific discovery. This article delves into the complexities of the Atlantic Ocean's deep-sea environment, offering an analytical perspective on its geological features, ecological significance, and the ongoing efforts to explore and understand this underwater realm.

Understanding the Atlantic Ocean's Deep Core

The Atlantic Ocean is the second-largest ocean on Earth, covering approximately 41,100,000 square miles, and its depths reach down to over 8,400 meters (about 27,500 feet) in the Puerto Rico Trench. When discussing the belly of the Atlantic, the focus is on these profound depths below the photic

zone—the region where sunlight penetrates—and into the abyssal plains and trenches that constitute its oceanic floor. This deep ocean environment is characterized by high pressure, near-freezing temperatures, and complete darkness, conditions that create unique challenges and habitats for marine life.

Geologically, the belly of the Atlantic is dominated by the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a massive underwater mountain range that runs roughly north to south along the ocean's center. This ridge is a divergent tectonic plate boundary where new ocean crust is formed through volcanic activity. The ridge influences ocean circulation patterns, plays a critical role in plate tectonics, and hosts hydrothermal vents that support distinctive ecosystems.

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge and Its Influence

The Mid-Atlantic Ridge stretches over 16,000 kilometers, making it the longest mountain range on the planet. It bisects the Atlantic Ocean, separating the North American and Eurasian plates in the north, and the South American and African plates in the south. The geological activity along this ridge results in seafloor spreading, which gradually pushes continents apart at rates averaging 2.5 centimeters per year.

Hydrothermal vents along the ridge are hotspots of biological activity in the otherwise nutrient-sparse deep ocean. These vents emit mineral-rich, superheated water that supports chemosynthetic bacteria, which form the base of a unique food web including tube worms, crabs, and giant clams. Studying these vents provides valuable insights into extremophile life forms and the origins of life on Earth.

Ecological Significance of the Atlantic's Deep Waters

The belly of the Atlantic is home to a variety of species adapted to extreme conditions, from bioluminescent fish to deep-sea corals and benthic invertebrates. Despite its remoteness, this ecosystem plays an essential role in global biodiversity and ocean health. Deep-sea environments

contribute significantly to biogeochemical cycles, including carbon sequestration, which influences climate regulation.

However, the deep Atlantic is not immune to human impact. Deep-sea mining, bottom trawling, and pollution threaten these fragile habitats. The slow growth rates and low reproductive output of many deep-sea organisms mean that damage to these ecosystems can take decades or longer to recover. Efforts to map and protect the belly of the Atlantic are therefore crucial for sustainable ocean management.

Challenges in Exploring the Deep Atlantic

Exploration of the belly of the Atlantic remains technologically demanding and costly. Extreme pressures exceeding 800 atmospheres at depths, lack of light, and vast unexplored areas present logistical hurdles. Advances in remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), and deep-diving submersibles have expanded our capacity to investigate these depths.

Despite these technological gains, only a fraction of the Atlantic's deep-sea floor has been thoroughly mapped or studied. International oceanographic missions continue to prioritize this region, aiming to fill knowledge gaps related to ocean circulation, sediment composition, and biodiversity.

Comparative Perspectives: Atlantic vs. Other Oceanic Trenches

When compared to other ocean basins such as the Pacific, the Atlantic's deepest points are relatively shallow. For example, the Mariana Trench in the Pacific reaches nearly 11,000 meters, significantly deeper than the Puerto Rico Trench in the Atlantic. This difference is partly due to the Atlantic's tectonic setting and age; it is a younger ocean basin formed after the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea, whereas the Pacific Ocean is older and tectonically more complex.

Nevertheless, the Atlantic's deep-sea features remain scientifically valuable. Its mid-ocean ridge

system is more accessible than those in other oceans, providing a natural laboratory for studying seafloor spreading and hydrothermal ecosystems.

Pros and Cons of Atlantic Deep-Sea Exploration

- **Pros:** Access to relatively well-studied mid-ocean ridges, opportunities for discovering new species, potential resources from mineral deposits, and improved understanding of climate processes.
- **Cons:** High operational costs, technological limitations at extreme depths, environmental risks from human activities, and incomplete mapping data that hinder comprehensive risk assessment.

The Role of the Belly of the Atlantic in Climate and Ocean Circulation

The deep waters of the Atlantic play a pivotal role in the global thermohaline circulation, often referred to as the “global conveyor belt.” This circulation pattern drives the movement of warm and cold water masses, regulating climate and weather patterns worldwide. The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a crucial component of this system, involves the sinking of cold, salty water in the North Atlantic, which then flows southward along the ocean floor.

Disruptions to this deep circulation could have profound impacts on global climate, as evidenced by recent concerns over the slowing of AMOC due to freshwater influx from melting polar ice. Studying the belly of the Atlantic, therefore, extends beyond marine biology and geology, intersecting with climate science and environmental policy.

Technological Innovations Enhancing Deep Atlantic Research

Recent advances have revolutionized the study of the deep Atlantic. Multi-beam sonar mapping now allows scientists to generate high-resolution bathymetric maps revealing detailed seafloor structures. Additionally, environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling is being used to detect and catalog marine species without direct observation, accelerating biodiversity assessments.

Satellite altimetry complements direct mapping by measuring sea surface height variations that infer underwater topography and currents. These combined technologies are crucial for comprehensive oceanographic studies, enabling better predictive models of ocean behavior.

Exploration of the belly of the Atlantic continues to unveil the ocean's hidden complexity. As research progresses, this vast underwater world reveals not only its geological and ecological wonders but also its integral role in sustaining life and climate on Earth. The ongoing quest to understand this deep ocean region underscores the importance of international collaboration and innovative science in safeguarding our planet's future.

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the belly of the atlantic: The Belly of the Atlantic Fatou Diome, 2006 A powerful debut novel from a talented young Senegalese author.

the belly of the atlantic: *Black French Women and the Struggle for Equality, 1848-2016* Félix Germain, Silyane Larcher, 2018-10 *Black French Women and the Struggle for Equality, 1848-2016* explores how black women in France itself, the French Caribbean, Gorée, Dakar, Rufisque, and Saint-Louis experienced and reacted to French colonialism and how gendered readings of colonization, decolonization, and social movements cast new light on the history of French colonization and of black France. In addition to delineating the powerful contributions of black French women in the struggle for equality, contributors also look at the experiences of African American women in Paris and in so doing integrate into colonial and postcolonial conversations the strategies black women have engaged in negotiating gender and race relations à la française.

Drawing on research by scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and countries, this collection offers a fresh, multidimensional perspective on race, class, and gender relations in France and its former colonies, exploring how black women have negotiated the boundaries of patriarchy and racism from their emancipation from slavery to the second decade of the twenty-first century.

the belly of the atlantic: The Suicide Archive Doyle D. Calhoun, 2024-09-13 Throughout the French empire, from the Atlantic and the Caribbean to West and North Africa, men, women, and children responded to enslavement, colonization, and oppression through acts of suicide. In *The Suicide Archive*, Doyle D. Calhoun charts a long history of suicidal resistance to French colonialism and neocolonialism, from the time of slavery to the Algerian War for Independence to the “Arab Spring.” Noting that suicide was either obscured in or occluded from French colonial archives, Calhoun turns to literature and film to show how aesthetic forms and narrative accounts can keep alive the silenced histories of suicide as a political language. Drawing on scientific texts, police files, and legal proceedings alongside contemporary African and Afro-Caribbean novels, film, and Senegalese oral history, Calhoun outlines how such aesthetic works rewrite histories of resistance and loss. Consequently, Calhoun offers a new way of writing about suicide, slavery, and coloniality in relation to literary history.

the belly of the atlantic: Conscripts of Migration Christopher Ian Foster, 2019-08-23 In *Conscripts of Migration: Neoliberal Globalization, Nationalism, and the Literature of New African Diasporas*, author Christopher Ian Foster analyzes increasingly urgent questions regarding crises of global immigration by redefining migration in terms of conscription and by studying contemporary literature. Reporting on immigration, whether liberal or conservative, popular or scholarly, leaves out the history in which the Global North helped create outward migration in the Global South. From histories of racial capitalism, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and imperialism to contemporary neoliberal globalization and the resurgence of xenophobic nationalism, countries in the Global North continue to devastate and destabilize the Global South. Britain, France, Italy, and the United States, in different ways, police the effects of their own global policies at their borders. Foster provides a substantial study of a new body of contemporary African diasporic literature called *migritude* literature. *Migritude* indicates the work and ideas of a disparate yet distinct group of younger African authors born after independence in the 1960s. Most often *migritude* authors have lived both in and outside Africa and narrate the experiences of migration under the pressures of globalization. They also emphasize that immigration itself and stereotypes of the immigrant are entangled with the history of colonialism. Authors like Fatou Diome, Shailja Patel, Abdourahman Waberi, Cristina Ali Farah, and others confront critical issues of migrancy, diaspora, departure, return, racism, identity, gender, sexuality, and postcoloniality.

the belly of the atlantic: Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America Guy A. Baldassarre, 2014 *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America* has been hailed as a classic since the first edition was published in 1942. A must-have for professional biologists, birders, waterfowl hunters, decoy collectors, and wildlife managers, this fully revised and updated edition provides definitive information on the continent's forty-six species. Maps of both winter and breeding ranges are presented with images by top waterfowl photographers and the acclaimed original artwork of Robert W. (Bob) Hines. Originally authored by F. H. Kortright and later revised by Frank Bellrose, this latest edition, which has been meticulously updated by renowned waterfowl biologist Guy Baldassarre, continues the legacy of esteemed authors. Each species account contains in-depth sections on: - identification - distribution - migration behavior - habitat - population status - breeding biology - rearing of young - recruitment and survival - food habits and feeding ecology - molts and plumages - conservation and management To facilitate identification, the species accounts also include detailed illustrations of wings. An appendix contains comparative illustrations of ducklings, goslings, and cygnets. Guy Baldassarre has hit the target. His remake of the Kortright/Bellrose classic provides good biological descriptions, wonderful photographs and illustrations, and easy-to-understand information about waterfowl. I would encourage every hunter and enthusiast to have these books as an educational guide to waterfowl and their needs.--H. Dale Hall, CEO, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. When,

as an eleven-year-old in 1942, I read F. H. Kortright's first edition of this book, it altered the trajectory of my life. Every subsequent edition, including this latest update by Guy Baldassarre, has improved the landmark reference. I can't imagine that anyone interested in waterfowl or wetlands can live without this indispensable book.--Paul A. Johnsgard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Creating a brand-new version of such a timeless and previously revised classic is a risky venture indeed, but nobody could be better suited for this monumental task than Guy Baldassarre. He has created a stunning new classic, at once magnificent in its visual appeal and truly comprehensive in its scientific breadth and depth. Hats off to Guy for dedicating himself to this project with such obvious passion, patience, and skill. This book absolutely belongs on the shelf or coffee table of anyone who has ever marveled at waterfowl, whether through their binoculars or from inside the duck blind.--John W. Fitzpatrick, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Guy Baldassarre was a professor of wildlife ecology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse until his death in 2012. He is the coauthor of the textbook, *Waterfowl Ecology and Management*. Johns Hopkins University Press Baltimore www.press.jhu.edu

This product consists of two volumes, packaged in a slipcase along with a CD containing references and additional maps. ISBN 13: 978-1-4214-0751-7 ISBN 10: 1-4214-0751-5 [Use barcode for ISBN 13: 978-1-4214-0751-7] Cover design: Cover illustration: Northern Pintail. GaryKramer.net Author photo: HOLD SPACE FOR AUTHOR PHOTO X: \marketing\author photos --John W. Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Midwest Book Review

the belly of the atlantic: Emerging African Voices ,

the belly of the atlantic: Beyond the Line Georg Berkemer, Derek L. Elliot, Ute Fendler, Margret Frenz, Michael Mann, Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger, Sebastian R. Prange, Ana Sobral, Frank Schulze-Engler, 2014-04-23

The title of *Beyond the Line* refers to the imaginary Line drawn between North and South, a division established by the Peace Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis in 1559. This is an early modern time and Eurocentric construction, according to which the southern oceanic world has long been taken as symbol of expansionist philosophies and practices. An obvious motivation for changing this Line division is the growing influence of the Global South in the contemporary economic and political setting. However, another motivation for changing opinions in regard to the Line is equally important. We observe an emergent consciousness of the pivotal role of the oceanic world for human life. This requires the reformulation of former views and raises numerous questions. A diversity of connections comes to the mind, which demands the composition of a catalogue of case studies with an oceanic horizon. Through this operation, different problems are being linked together. Which problems encounter historians with their research on fishes in the archives? How to trace records about pirates of non-European descent in the Indian Ocean? Which role play the Oceans as mediators for labor migrations, not only of the Black Atlantic but also of people moving from Asia to Africa and vice versa? What do we know about workers on the oceans and their routes? When considering oceans as contact zones, with which criteria can their influence in different literary texts be analyzed? Is it possible to study nationalisms taking into account these transoceanic relationships? And how do artists address these questions in their use of the media? Against the background of this catalogue of oceanic questions, old stories are told anew. Sometimes, their cultural stereotypes are recycled to criticize political and social situations. Or, in other cases, they are adopted for elaborating alternative options. In this sense, the contributions concentrate on countries like India, Kenya, Angola, or Brazil and cover different academic fields. A variety of objects and situations are explored, which have been and still are determinant for the construction of cultural narratives in view of the modified relationship with the geographically southern oceanic regions.

the belly of the atlantic: *Senegal* Sean Connolly, 2019-02-01

This new, thoroughly updated edition of Bradt's *Senegal* continues to offer far and away the greatest depth of coverage for this increasingly popular part of West Africa. With over 350 pages of detailed description and 40 maps, this remains the definitive source of information to a country that is often described as the whole of West Africa in microcosm. This new edition includes details of the rapidly changing transport

situation, notably the opening of the new international airport and the first bridge to span the Gambia River. All regions of the country are covered, including detailed information on access to Senegal's national parks, with detailed maps, itineraries, and practical information on transport, accommodation and eating for each region. Senegal boasts a variety of landscapes and cultures that belie its compact size. Northern desert wilds give way to the rain-soaked Casamance, fringed by hundreds of kilometres of pristine beaches and the fantastically frenetic capital city, Dakar, surrounded by ocean and proudly perched at the westernmost point on the African continent. This smorgasbord of landscapes is all accessible within a day's travel, making Senegal the perfect choice for anyone looking to sink their teeth into West Africa, for the first time or the hundredth. Natural assets aside, Senegal is home to a world of man-made delectations: Dakar's nightclubs throb well into the morning hours and offer a rare chance to dance yourself silly with superstar musicians on their home turf. With one of Africa's most prolific arts scenes, Senegal attracts numerous visitors for its cultural attractions, and this book provides a thorough and accessible introduction to the music, art, film, and literature of this most creative of countries. Beyond the capital, Saint-Louis' charm is an enchanting throwback to the colonial glamour of the 19th century, and sleepy Île de Gorée is a haunting testament to colonial horror, as visitors peer through the door of no return, where thousands destined for the Americas glimpsed their homes for the final time. With all new first-hand research, Bradt's Senegal is the only guide ready to take you to all corners of this enchanting land.

the belly of the atlantic: Handbook of Autobiography / Autofiction Martina

Wagner-Egelhaaf, 2019-01-29 Autobiographical writings have been a major cultural genre from antiquity to the present time. General questions of the literary as, e.g., the relation between literature and reality, truth and fiction, the dependency of author, narrator, and figure, or issues of individual and cultural styles etc., can be studied preeminently in the autobiographical genre. Yet, the tradition of life-writing has, in the course of literary history, developed manifold types and forms. Especially in the globalized age, where the media and other technological / cultural factors contribute to a rapid transformation of lifestyles, autobiographical writing has maintained, even enhanced, its popularity and importance. By conceiving autobiography in a wide sense that includes memoirs, diaries, self-portraits and autofiction as well as media transformations of the genre, this three-volume handbook offers a comprehensive survey of theoretical approaches, systematic aspects, and historical developments in an international and interdisciplinary perspective. While autobiography is usually considered to be a European tradition, special emphasis is placed on the modes of self-representation in non-Western cultures and on inter- and transcultural perspectives of the genre. The individual contributions are closely interconnected by a system of cross-references. The handbook addresses scholars of cultural and literary studies, students as well as non-academic readers.

the belly of the atlantic: *The Beautiful Skin* Vlad Dima, 2020-09-01 In this original and provocative study of contemporary African film and literature, Vlad Dima investigates the way that football and cinema express individual and collective fantasies, and highlights where football and cinema converge and diverge with regard to neocolonial fantasies. Shedding new light on both well-known and less familiar films by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, Abderrahmane Sissako, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, Moussa Touré, Safi Faye, Cheick Doukouré, and Joseph Gai Ramaka, among others, the study asks just whose fantasy is articulated in football and African cinema. Answering this question requires the exploration of body and identity issues, here through the metaphor of skin: fantasy as a skin; the football jersey as a skin; and ultimately film itself as a skin that has visual, aural, and haptic qualities. The neocolonial body is often depicted as suffering and in the process of being flattened or emptied. So frequently do African cinema and literature replicate this hollowed body, all skin as it were, that it becomes the very type of body that defines neocolonialism. Could the body of film—the depth of both characters and story within the cinematic skin—hold the key to moving into a post-neocolonial era, an era defined by “full” bodies and personal affirmation? This is the question Dima seeks to answer.

the belly of the atlantic: Narrating the Slave Trade, Theorizing Community Raphaël Lambert,

2018-12-24 In *Narrating the Slave Trade, Theorizing Community*, Raphaël Lambert explores the notion of community in conjunction with literary works concerned with the transatlantic slave trade. The recent surge of interest in both slave trade and community studies concurs with the return of free-market ideology, which once justified and facilitated the exponential growth of the slave trade. The motif of unbridled capitalism recurs in all the works discussed herein; however, community, whether racial, political, utopian, or conceptual, emerges as a fitting frame of reference to reveal unsuspected facets of the relationships between all involved parties, and expose the ramifications of the trade across time and space. Ultimately, this book calls for a complete reevaluation of what it means to live together.

the belly of the atlantic: *Francophone Afropean Literatures* Nicki Hitchcott, Dominic Richard David Thomas, 2014 This volume explores the concept and possibility of a black European community by analysing the ways in which contemporary Francophone African writers articulate and interrogate their complex relationships with European society, culture and history.

the belly of the atlantic: *Transnational Narratives from the Caribbean* Elvira Pulitano, 2016-03-10 This book offers a timely intervention in current debates on diaspora and diasporic identity by affirming the importance of narrative as a discursive mode to understand the human face of contemporary migrations and dislocations. Focusing on the Caribbean double-diaspora, Pulitano offers a close-reading of a range of popular works by four well-known writers currently living in the United States: Jamaica Kincaid, Michelle Cliff, Edwidge Danticat, and Caryl Phillips. Navigating the map of fictional characters, testimonial accounts, and autobiographical experiences, Pulitano draws attention to the lived experience of contemporary diasporic formations. The book offers a provocative re-thinking of socio-scientific analyses of diaspora by discussing the embodied experience of contemporary diasporic communities, drawing on disciplines such as Caribbean, Postcolonial, Diaspora, and Indigenous Studies along with theories on border thinking and coloniality/modernity. Contesting restrictive, national, and linguistic boundaries when discussing literature originating from the Caribbean, Pulitano situates the transnational location of Caribbean-born writers within current debates of Transnational American Studies and investigates the role of immigrant writers in discourses of race, ethnicity, citizenship, and belonging. Exploring the multifarious intersections between home, exile, migration and displacement, the book makes a significant contribution to memory and trauma studies, human rights debates, and international law, aiming at a wide range of scholars and specialized agents beyond the strictly literary circle. This volume affirms the humanity of personal stories and experiences against the invisibility of immigrant subjects in most theoretical accounts of diaspora and migration.

the belly of the atlantic: *Girls in French and Francophone Literature and Film* Daniela Di Cecco, 2015-06-24 *Girls in French and Francophone Literature and Film* is a collection of essays focusing on constructions of girlhood in French and Francophone Literature and Film from the late-Nineteenth to the early-Twenty-First centuries. The volume is firmly anchored at the intersection of French and Francophone studies and the burgeoning field of girls' studies. Collectively, the articles demonstrate that girls' experience, historically viewed as a mere deviation from the "normative" male model, is a product of diverse ideological, cultural and economic factors, and is deserving of its own field of inquiry.

the belly of the atlantic: *Gold Coast Diasporas* Walter C. Rucker, 2015-09-28 "Provocative and well written . . . a must-read for any scholar interested in African identity, the transatlantic slave trade, and resistance." —*American Historical Review* Although they came from distinct polities and peoples who spoke different languages, slaves from the African Gold Coast were collectively identified by Europeans as "Coromantee" or "Mina." Why these ethnic labels were embraced and how they were utilized by enslaved Africans to develop new group identities is the subject of Walter C. Rucker's absorbing study. Rucker examines the social and political factors that contributed to the creation of New World ethnic identities and assesses the ways displaced Gold Coast Africans used familiar ideas about power as a means of understanding, defining, and resisting oppression. He explains how performing Coromantee and Mina identity involved a common set of concerns and the

creation of the ideological weapons necessary to resist the slavocracy. These weapons included obeah powders, charms, and potions; the evolution of “peasant” consciousness and the ennoblement of common people; increasingly aggressive displays of masculinity; and the empowerment of women as leaders, spiritualists, and warriors, all of which marked sharp breaks or reformulations of patterns in their Gold Coast past. “One of the book’s greatest strengths is the ways in which Rucker painstakingly traces how ethnic labels were appropriated, recast, and ultimately employed as a means to establish community bonds and resist oppression . . . Chapters that focus on the creation of the Gold Coast diaspora, religion, and women make for a captivating text that will be of interest to graduate students and specialist readers. Recommended.” —Choice

the belly of the atlantic: Slavery, Resistance, and Identity in Early Modern West Africa
Makhroufi Ousmane Traoré, 2023-11-30 Examines the resistance to the slave trades in seventeenth and eighteenth-century West Africa, and the impact this had on local identities.

the belly of the atlantic: *Sub-Saharan African Immigrants’ Stories of Resilience and Courage*
Mariam Konate, Fredah Mainah, 2022-12-06 The purpose of this book is to give a voice to nameless and countless stories that represent the personal lived experiences of sub-Saharan African immigrants in the United States. The authors believe that telling our own stories from our own perspectives is important and empowering because when others tell our stories there are omissions and misrepresentations and a lot of stereotyping. The authors hope that the insights gained from the research in this book will be used by immigrant communities, academic institutions, and governmental agencies in advocating for immigration policies that positively impact the lived experiences of sub-Saharan African immigrants and in planning support interventions.

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