

ABSTRACT

The Arab league and the Arab-African Cultural Interaction

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One of the most critical challenges facing the Arab North African way to promote the role of that sub-region in advancing Pan-Africanism is the cultural understanding and interaction. Yet, any of Arabs and Africans is still lacking a mutual acknowledgement of their culture. Rather, their impressions and images upon each other have been taken essentially from Western sources. That News and information on each other, to a large extent, have been dragged from Western media which its main focus is mostly directed to negative currents, catastrophes and crises.

The common heritage that had been configured throughout many centuries by religion, population-movements across the continent and trade, came to be under siege by the European colonialism. After national liberation and independence, there were ascendant tides of human and cultural interactions to re-launch what colonialism hidden and deformed. In this way, the Arab League initiated, since September 11, 2001 attacks, an ambitious project to promote the cultural dialogue among Arabs and the West. It is called "Civilizations' Dialogue" as an urgent step in the way of refuting negative stereotypes, views against Arab-Islamic world. No doubt, one of most significant components of the Arab North Africa sub-region's discourse toward achieving that target is African common heritage of multi-culturalism, religious tolerance, pluralism respect and humanity.