

Abstract

This thesis focuses on Middle Age ethnic groups that were most influential and dominant in the following centuries and had a profound cultural, economic, religious and social impact in the regions spanning from Senegal river to eastern Chad. It also tries to prove that even though most mentioned ethnic groups are minorities within their own countries, they do have major influence in today's politics, religious and security issues. Its core describes historical ethnic movements that happened during 14th up to 18th centuries and shows that its understanding is key to current situation in the described regions.

Keywords : tribes, clans, Sahara-Sahel region, Kanuri, Tuaregs, Maures, Fulbes