HIS 115A: West African History
The History and Memory of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Lecture 6 – Overview of the TAST in Dahomey (Tue. 2-12)
Basic Timeline

Overview of the TAST in Dahomey

- **1550s**: Allada participates in TAST with the Portuguese at Offra
- **1600s**: Other European powers join Portuguese in regional trade
- **1620**: Kingdom of Dahomey is founded on the Abomey plateau
- **1675**: Dahomey first appears in the written record, called “Fon”
- **1690s**: Europeans begin referring to Benin as the “Slave Coast”
- **1715**: Dahomey declares independence from Kingdom of Allada
- **1724-1727**: Dahomey conquers the southern portion of Benin
- **1734-1735**: The first narratives of Dahomey’s conquest in Britain
- **1789-1793**: Histories of Dahomey for the slave-trade debates
- **1894**: Dahomey’s last king, Béhanzin, is conquered by the French
- **1904-1960**: Dahomey is ruled as a colony of French West Africa
Le Petit Journal
SUPPLÉMENT ILLUSTRE
Huit pages - CINQ centimes
SAMEDI 20 AVRIL 1898
Numéro 18

BEHANZIN
Roi de Dahomey

1518. - Afrique Occidentale - Dahomey
ABOMEY. - Les "Vénérables" des Amazones de Behanzin

Galerie de gravure-Ferlo, Paris
“FASCINATING! ENGROSSING.”
—Enne Mitchell, THE NEW YORK TIMES

“A POWERFUL HISTORICAL DRAMA.”
—Jenri Bernstein, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

ADANGGAMAN
A FILM BY ROGER GHOYA M'BALA
Conclusions

Dahomey is an exceptional kingdom in Atlantic Africa

Dahomey’s historical record makes it a great case study

Dahomey is both a polarizing and complicated kingdom

Dahomey was designed to meet the demands of the TAST

Dahomean kings welcomed European traders

European traders enjoyed trading in Dahomey
Creating Historical Sites

The Example of Ouidah, Benin