

The lost libraries of Timbuktu

The lost libraries of Timbuktu have been through a lot of ups and downs. There have been groups of people trying to preserve it and some who wanted to take them from their region of origin. Although today many manuscripts have been preserved and played a big part in redefining everyone's understanding of Africa before the 18th century.

¹The documentary film even helped my understanding of Africa before the 18th century in many different ways. One of those ways is helping challenge the typical thought process of Africa's history of colonization and slavery. Due to the film I've learned that Africa has a really deep and rich historical background. The film depicts this by giving us interviews with the people preserving the manuscripts and they give in depth explanations about how people in the past knew about astronomy, medicine, literature, and many other ideas. The film also helped me understand that timbuktu was a thriving city and a hotspot for trade and scholarship. This is supported by the manuscripts and the insight they provided into how many people that traveled into the Timbuktu area and historical proof of many schools also in the same area of Timbuktu.

For some criticism about the documentary film, I believe overall they did a really good job in telling the story of the lost libraries of Timbuktu but because of that the documentary may seem kind of one dimensional. Another criticism that could be made is even though they did a good job of getting a lot of different interviews, they didn't spend too much time with one person but that's understandable because there is alot to cover when it comes to the lost libraries of Timbuktu.

In the end I find the film is relevant to class readings because they both allowed me to grow a greater appreciation for the history of Africa.

¹ BBC, The Lost Libraries of Timbuktu.