

Whitewashing of Historical Markers in France

1. Historical Institutions Involved in Whitewashing

France had several elite institutions responsible for rewriting or erasing historical narratives that acknowledged Moorish, African, or Indigenous presence in Europe:

- École des Chartes: Rewrote French history through paleography, often stripping documents of non-European references.
- Institut de France / Académie Française: Controlled intellectual and linguistic narratives, suppressing African or Arabic linguistic traces.
- Sorbonne University: Promoted a Eurocentric lens in history and philosophy, marginalizing African scholars and their contributions.

2. Erasure of Moorish and African Influence

- Renaming Towns and People: Arabic or Moorish names were changed or whitewashed.
- Religious Iconography: Black Madonnas and saints were repainted as European.
- Portraiture: Noble and royal figures with melanated features were whitened over time.
- Colonial Textbooks: Promoted the idea of Africa as uncivilized, omitting figures like Toussaint Louverture or Benjamin Banneker.

3. Modern Resistance and Acknowledgement

- Cheikh Anta Diop: Faced academic resistance for proving African roots of Egypt.
- Frantz Fanon: Critiqued colonial psychological erasure of Black identity.
- Decolonial Movements: 'Décolonisons les arts' and others are reclaiming suppressed narratives.

These efforts aim to reverse centuries of misinformation and reveal the rich, melanated foundations of European civilization.

4. Summary Table

Institution	Role	Actions Taken
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École des Chartes	Archive Rewriting	Erased African names and influences
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Académie Française	Language Control	Removed Moorish and Arabic roots
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Sorbonne University	Academic Whitewashing	Ignored Moorish science and Black scholarship
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Catholic Church	Religious Recoding	Repainted icons, saints, and holy figures
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Colonial Schools	Indoctrination	Taught racial superiority, omitted Black heroes
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5. Symbolism of 'Gamay' or 'Gamete'

- Mainstream: Known as a wine grape in France, named after a village near Dijon.

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- Suppressed Narrative: Believed to refer to a Moorish or African bloodline or tribe, encoded into agricultural culture.
- Symbolic: Wine symbolizes bloodline and divine knowledge; Gamete means 'seed of life,' referencing Moorish divine heritage.

The banning of Gamay grapes by Burgundy elite reflects not just class warfare, but the rejection of Moorish influence in Europe.