

# Review of: "Blacks in the Middle Ages – What About Racism in the Past? Literary and Art-Historical Reflections"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

1) It seems wrong to me that relationship between race, racism and prejudice in the Middle Ages, since they are terms unknown to medieval thought.

2) Although the article is about literary criticism, it seems to me unfortunate that it does not make any mention of Christian thought and, especially, natural law or revelation, which frankly made more sense for medieval thought. I am concerned that at no time does he use the concept of barbarism, which includes characteristics such as cannibalism, not living politically, etc. From what I've read and seen, the ability to live civilly and accept revelation made more sense than color.

3) Little knowledge of texts and authors (outside the Anglo world) who really had more contact with Africa: Portuguese and Spanish. Another issue that bothers me not to see, not even as a reference, is the absence of mentions of the legend of Prester John or even of Baltazar, the magician king (there is even a chapel in Köln dedicated to them).

I think it would be positive to incorporate the following readings:

MÉNDEZ ALONZO, Manuel: "The Thomist Philosopher and the Cannibals: Alonso de la Veracruz's Theses on Cannibalism and Crimes against Nature " *Mediaevalia*, v. 32, pp. 197-212, Porto, 2013.

MÉNDEZ ALONZO, Manuel: "From Slave Driver to Abolitionism: Bartolomé de las Casas on African Slavery", Arts & Humanitas, 2017.

SANTANA PÉREZ, Juan Manuel: "Los otros: indios y negros de la colonia a la independencia", In Durante, Laura (ed): *Un secolo di Cuba. Storia e attualità di un'isola difficile da afferrare*. pp. 19 - 41. Bordeaux Edizioni, 2017

SANTANA PÉREZ, Juan Manuel: "O medo dos povos indígenas e afrodescendentes no final do antigo regime. Análise Historiográfica". *Latinidade*. 10, pp. 235 – 255, 2018