



# History of Benin = History of Reconciliation



**National Conference in 1990**  
Successful democratization by dialogue for 10 days  
**Reconciliation!**



**President Kérékou**

Representative of government



**Archbishop de Souza**

Representative of all religions and the people  
Symbol of spirituality





President Soglo



President Kérékou



President Yayi & Pope

- 1994 UNESCO Project Slave Route was launched in Benin to disclose the truth of slave trade  
Gate of No Return was built in the coast of the Republic of Benin.
  - 1996 Kérékou re-elected as the president
  - 1999 President Kérékou apologized for slavery.
- International Conference for Reconciliation & Development**      **Slavery nations made new beginnings**
- 2011 Benedict XVI visited Benin and stressed the message on reconciliation, justice and peace for all Africa
  - 2012 President Yayi was elected the chairman of the African Union
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## National Reconciliation

- 1. Recognizing the facts**
  - Collapse of national policy
  - Collapse in economics
  - Confusion in and among people
- 2. Recognizing the problem sincerely and objectively**
  - Overcoming the conflict in one's heart
  - The Head of State himself recognized the wrong
  - Following the intention seeking for the right direction
- 3. Patriotism**  
Apologize for failure and ask for forgiveness

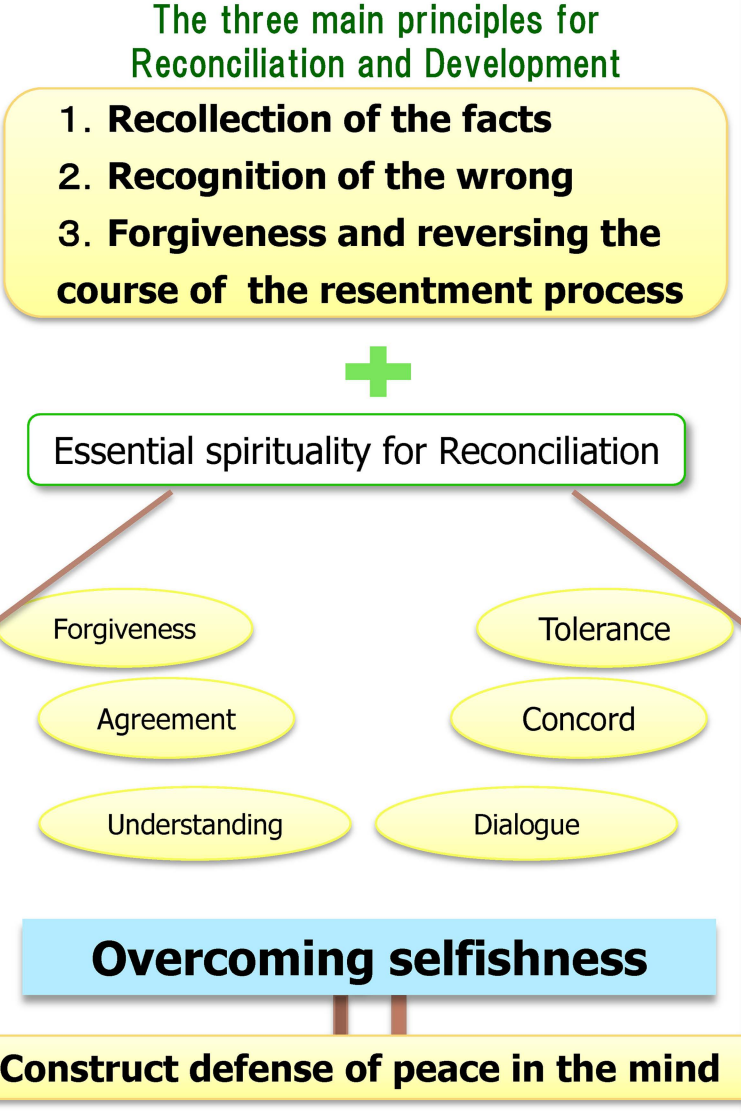
**Facts**

- Tradition & Culture of Beninese**
- To value spirituality
  - Forgiveness and tolerance
  - Social structure centering on elders
    - Role of former presidents
    - Activities of Beninese living abroad



**Overcame the National Crisis**

## Factors for successful Reconciliation



## Historical reconciliation for slavery issue

- 1. UNESCO Slave Route Project**
  - Crime against humanity
  - African involvement into the slave trade
  - Slave trade is not a simply racial issue
  - Confusion among all African people
  - Delayed African development
- 2. Recognizing problems of ancestors**
  - Descendants of slave traders and accomplices
  - Overcoming internal conflict
  - Recognizing the "sins" of one's ancestors
  - Resolving ancestor's crime
- 3. Love for ancestors**  
Apologize for ancestors' failure and ask for forgiveness on the behalf

**Facts**

- Spirit of Christianity**
- Faith base organizations, traditions and practice
  - Philanthropy
  - Forgiveness and tolerance

**Settlement of Historical Issue**

**Subject** To involve all humanity regardless of religion, sex, race and creed, we need universal and objective truth (UNESCO Constitution)