ESCAPE
European Slaves: Christians in African Pirate Encounters
Barbary Coast Captivity Narratives (1550–1780)

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Stand-Alone Project
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Project Leader
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer

Piracy: In the sixteenth century, privateering developed into a global economic factor. Barbary Coast corsairs from North Africa competed with European pirates for captives in the Mediterranean.

Slavery: Several hundred thousand Europeans and North Africans fell victim to corsairs, were sold in slave markets, put on galleys, or held for ransom.

Narratives: European slaves produced popular autobiographical accounts of their captivity in North Africa. These texts influenced the development of African-American slave narratives as well as the modern novel.

Research: Drawing on over one hundred texts from all major European languages, the team will transcribe, translate, and research these early modern captivity narratives.

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