

## Slave revolts (see Chapter 7. Slave revolts and Coromanti leadership in the West Indies)

### ■ Syncretized forms

There was a selective survival of African cultural forms in the Americas: African technology, political organization, and clothes largely disappeared; religion, magic, music, superstition, forms of amusement remained in pure or in syncretized form. Syncretistic mixing and merging in the area of religion has often been commented on (see especially Herskovits 1970; Alleyne 1971). Orthodox African cults have survived in north-east Brazil. Mixed cults developed in Haiti, Cuba, and Trinidad and attenuated Africanisms were retained in American Negro Protestantism. Various spirits have been retained as Christian saints (especially in Haiti, Brazil, and Cuba). This is especially noticeable in Catholic countries because there it was possible to identify saints with African spirits and gods. Examples: in Haiti the Yoruba warrior god Orgun was associated with St. James; the Dohomean snake god Damballah, with St. Patrick. In Trinidad the Yoruban god Shango merged with John the Baptist; in Cuba, with St. Barbara.

Alleyne, Marvyn C. "Acculturation and the Cultural Matrix of Creolization," in: D. Hymes (ed.) *Pidginization and Creolization of Languages*. Cambridge; CUP, 1971, 169–186.

Herskovits, M.J. (1970 [1941]) *The Myth of the Negro Past*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith.