

## **A SEPARATE PEACE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GULLAH-GEECHEE NATION**

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From North Carolina to Florida, the Gullah/Geechee people live as an unintentional historical experiment. This slave-descended, self-sustained community was created after a malaria epidemic and the falling demand for Sea Island Cotton caused the plantation owners of the area to abandon their land, leaving the Gullah/Geechee people abandoned. Currently, the Gullah/Geechee are struggling to preserve their way of life in the face of tourism and the over-development of the marshy Sea Islands. Although they consider themselves Christians, their religious history and praxis indicate a unique combination of Christianity, Islam, and African tribal religions. The research for this paper was done in with the support of the Gullah/Geechee people and includes an interview with Queen Quet, the leader of the Gullah/Geechee Nation. The paper focuses on how the Gullah/Geechee used their religious and cultural differences to create a proud and thriving nation.