

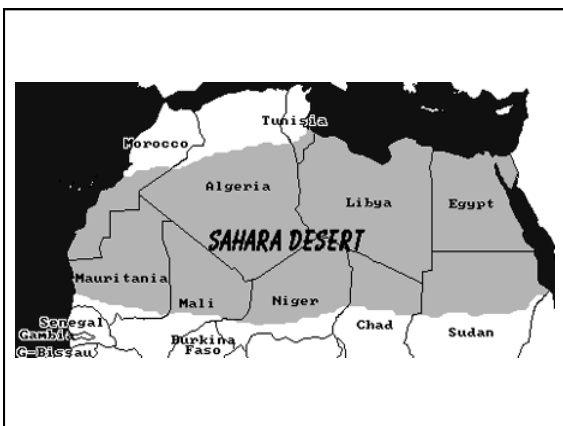
CHAPTER EIGHT: AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS AND THE SPREAD OF ISLAM



AP World History

AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS AND THE SPREAD OF ISLAM

- ✦ Between 800 and 1500 C.E., Africa below the Sahara and civilizations in the Mediterranean and Asia had more and more contact with one another.
- ✦ State building in Africa was influenced both by indigenous and Islamic inspiration.
 - + Mali and Songhay = military power and dynastic alliances.
 - + Western and eastern Africa = larger trading networks.
- ✦ Parts of Africa south of the Sahara entered into the expanding world network; many others remained in isolation.



AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES

- ✦ Africa is so large and has so many cultures, that diversity is prevalent.
- ✦ Political forms varied from hierarchical states to "stateless" societies organized on kinship principles and lacking concentration of power and authority.
- ✦ Christianity and Islam sometimes influenced political and cultural development.

AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES

- ✦ Stateless peoples were controlled by lineages or kinships.
 - + Lacked concentrated authority structures
 - + Incorporated many people
- ✦ Weakness of stateless societies
 - + delayed ability to respond to outside pressures
 - + mobilize for war
 - + undertake large building projects
 - + create stability for long-distance trade

AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES

- ✦ Bantu speakers= a common linguistic base.
- ✦ Animistic religion was common.
 - + Belief in natural forces personified as gods
 - + Concepts of good and evil
- ✦ African economies
 - + North Africa was integrated into the world economy.
 - + Settled agriculture and ironworking.
 - + Encouraged regional trade and urbanization.
- ✦ Africans exchanged raw materials for manufactured goods.

AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES

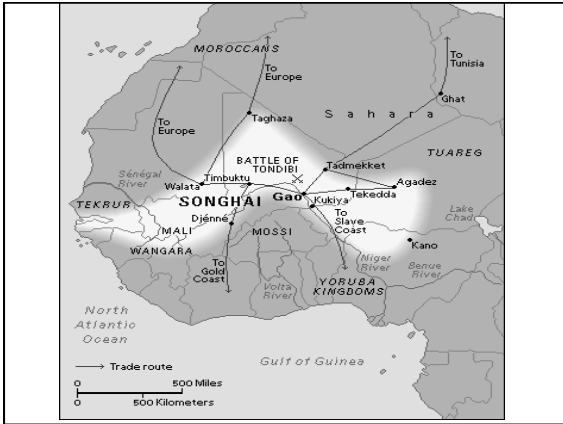
- ✘ Mid-7th century = Muslim armies moved west from Egypt across the regions called Ifriqiya by the Romans and the Maghrib (the West) by the Arabs.
- ✘ Berbers were an integral part of the process.
- ✘ 11th century = reforming Muslim Berbers, the Almoravids of the western Sahara, controlled lands extending from the southern savanna and into Spain.
- ✘ 12th century = the Almohadis, succeeded them.

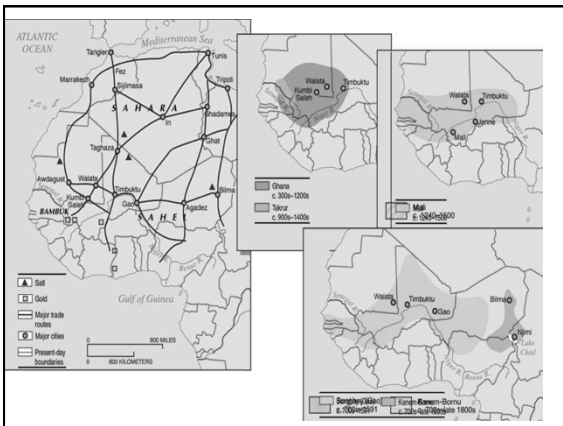
AFRICAN SOCIETIES: DIVERSITY AND SIMILARITIES

- ✘ Christian states were present in North Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia before the arrival of Islam.
- ✘ Egyptian Christians, the Copts, had a rich and independent tradition.
 - + Oppressed by Byzantine Christians caused them to welcome Muslim invaders.
- ✘ The Nubians resisted Muslim incursions until the 13th century.
- ✘ Ethiopia retained Christianity.

KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS

- ✘ Sudanic States
 - + States often were led by a patriarch or council of elders from a family or lineage.
 - + Most of their population did not convert
 - + Arrival of Islam after the 10th century reinforced ruling power.
 - + Important states = Mali and Songhay.





KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS

- ✘ Mali was formed by the Malinke peoples,
 - + They broke away from Ghana in the 13th century.
 - + Agriculture and with the gold trade= economic base
- ✘ The ruler Sundiata
 - + received credit for Malinke expansion
 - + a governing system based on clan structure.

KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS

- ✦ Jenne and Timbuktu
 - + residents = scholars, craft specialists, and foreign merchants,
 - + Timbuktu was famous for its library and university.
- ✦ The military expansion of Mali and Songhay contributed to their strength.
- ✦ Mali's population lived in villages and were agriculturists.
 - + Poor soils, primitive technology, droughts, insect pests, and storage problems

KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS

- ✦ The Songhay Kingdom
 - + Became an independent state in the 7th century.
 - + Capital city at Gao.
 - + Prospered as a trading state.
- ✦ Empire was formed under Sunni Ali (1464-1492)
 - + a great military leader,
 - + extended rule over the entire middle Niger valley.
- ✦ Sunni Ali's successors were Muslim rulers with the title of askia;
- ✦ Songhay remained dominant until defeated by Moroccans in 1591.

KINGDOMS OF THE GRASSLANDS

- ✦ Islam provided a universal faith and a fixed law.
- ✦ Rulers reinforced authority through Muslim officials and ideology.
- ✦ Many Sudanic societies were matrilineal and did not seclude women.
- ✦ Slavery and slave trade was prevalent.

THE SWAHILI COAST OF EAST AFRICA

- ✗ Bantu speaking migrants
- ✗ Immigrants from Southeast Asia
- ✗ Bantu Swahili language emerged in a string of urbanized trading ports
- ✗ They exported raw materials in return for Indian, Islamic and Chinese luxuries
- ✗ As many as 30 coastal trading towns flourished
- ✗ 13th-15th Century= Kilwa was the most important.



THE SWAHILI COAST OF EAST AFRICA

- ✗ Islam built a common bond between rulers and trading families.
- ✗ Allowed them to operate under the cover of a common culture.
- ✗ Rulers and merchants were often Muslim.
- ✗ Most of the population retained African beliefs.
- ✗ Culture= used Swahili as its language and incorporated African and Islamic practices.
- ✗ Maternal and paternal lines.

PEOPLES OF THE FOREST AND PLAINS

- ✘ The Yoruba
 - + Non Bantu speaking peoples
 - + Highly urbanized agriculturalists
 - + Small city-states
 - + Ile-Ife was the holiest Yoruba city
- ✘ Benin in the 14th century under the ruler Ewuare the Great
 - + Ruled from the Niger River to the coast near Lagos
 - + Edo peoples of east Yoruba
 - + Artists worked in ivory and cast bronze

PEOPLE OF THE FOREST AND PLAINS

- ✘ 13th century, Bantu speakers approached the southern tip of Africa
- ✘ The Luba peoples, in Katanga, created a form of divine kingship.
- ✘ A hereditary bureaucracy formed to administer the state
 - + Allowed the integration of many people into one political unit

PEOPLE OF THE FOREST AND PLAINS

- ✘ The kingdom of the Kongo= lower Congo River by the late 15th century
 - + Agricultural society
 - + Gender division of labor
 - + Family based villages
 - + Mbanza Kongo= 60,000-100,000 people
- ✘ Zimbabwe- the east, in central Africa
 - + Shona-speaking peoples
 - + Great Zimbabwe
 - + Ruler= Mwene Mutapa
 - + Dominated gold sources and trade with coastal ports
 - + Internal divisions split Zimbabwe during the sixteenth century

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:
INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND
EXTERNAL CONTACTS**

- ✦ The spread of Islam had brought large areas of Africa into the global community.
- ✦ The most pronounced contacts
 - + south of the Sahara were in the Sudanic states and
 - + East Africa
- ✦ Most of Africa evolved in regions free of Islamic contact.
- ✦ Many other Africans organized their lives in stateless societies.
