

AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS 600-1800s

Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Varied geography (coastal, savanna, desert, rainforest acting as a mirror like image moving out from the equator) = diverse cultures ❖ Power shared among village people (decisions by consensus and councils) ❖ Powerful trading empires of west developed – Ghana, Mali, & Songhai (West African Kingdoms) ❖ Ghana: 800 -1000; \$ from gold trade, Muslim influences (military, gov't, Arabic writing, architectural styles) but distinct culture preserved ❖ Mali: 1200-1450; conquers Ghana, most powerful ruler was Mansa Musa (converted to Islam, based laws on the Quran, went on hajj), Timbuktu (center of Muslim learning) ❖ Songhai: 1450-1600; largest West African state, efficient bureaucracy ❖ Ethiopia: East African empire, trade network connecting Africa, India, & Mediterranean; introduced to Christianity due to location near Red Sea and Middle East; defeats Italy during the Scramble for Africa but taken over under Mussolini (doesn't last) ❖ Benin: West African civilization in rain forests, traded ivory, pepper, & slaves, dealt w/ Portuguese in 1500s (learned to cast bronze sculptures) ❖ Great Zimbabwe: 1500s powerful centralized city-state in rainforests of Sub-Saharan Africa by the Limpopo River; dominated gold trade & commerce w/ Swahili merchants but declined due to unknown reasons ❖ East African city-states: Mogadishu, Kilwa, Sofala, etc.; trade w/ Arab & Persian merchants & India; cultural blending (Arabic + Bantu = Swahili)
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Africa's biggest contribution to global trade has been raw materials and slaves ❖ Early trading networks (gold, salt, iron, copper, & minerals) such as Indian Ocean trade network (dominated by Muslim merchants) & the Asian sea trade (e.g. China would manufacture goods & SEA spice islands would provide the raw materials) thrived peacefully ❖ West African empires traded gold (Wangara) from savanna for salt from (Taghaza) Sahara ❖ Slave trade (Muslim merchants bought for domestics) ❖ Portuguese arrive in the late 1400s (Prince Henry the Navigator sets up schools to map the East coast of Africa to find a trade route to Asia w/o middlemen) → 1652, Cape Colony set up in southern tip of Africa by Dutch; British take Cape Colony in 1806 – independence granted in 1910 ❖ Introduction of crops and animals from Europe & Asia ❖ Coffee native to Africa but sugar would be grown after it comes in from South Asia
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Different forms of animism (worshipped forces of nature w/ rituals) ❖ Islamization of North Africa began in late 600s as Umayyad conquered, Islamic merchants brought Islam to East African city-states & West African Empires; but as Christianity spread during New Imperialism Islamic conversion became somewhat violent, ❖ Christianity in Ethiopia; during slave trade, Portuguese missionaries introduced Christianity to places like the Kongo kingdom
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bantu migrations = basic similarities in language/culture/farming techniques/tools in Sub-Saharan east, south and southeast; share cognates ❖ Population affected adversely by slave trade (families disrupted, unequal proportion between sexes as men were shipped to the New World yet introduction of New World crops like the potato would recover the populations)
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Timbuktu developed & manuscripts were translated in its universities ❖ Traditional literature (folk tales) passed down orally by griots ❖ Documents used in law, religion, & history written in Arabic
Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Created in ivory, wood, & bronze (particularly Benin Kingdom) ❖ Jenne Mosque in Mali showed a cultural blending of Islamic architectural influences with native architecture ❖ Ethiopian Churches carved into the mts. ❖ Closely tied to animistic religion (statues & masks)
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Trading empires declined due to civil wars, slave trade allowed for some civs to thrive while other weaken, invasions, & corruption; New Imperialism caused serious issues!
Global Connection/ Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Portuguese merchants began to set up trading posts on the West and East African coast in the 1500s ❖ Cape Town was set up in the 1400s on the Southern tip; changed hands through the centuries ❖ Slave trade expanded w/ the European arrival = growth of triangular trade sent thousands of African slaves to the New World to work in plantations (families & demography disrupted) but African slave traders & kingdoms in alliance w/ the Europeans profited w/ new weapons & technology ❖ Scramble for Africa in the 1800s would end all African independence (with exception of Liberia and Ethiopia)