

UNIT ELEVEN

PEOPLES AND STATES IN PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA (1000-1884)

Introduction

This unit explains major historical developments in Africa between AD 1000 and 1884. The unit is organized in five sections. The first section deals with North Africa, the political and economic conditions in the Nile valley and the Maghrib region. The major political development in the Nile Valley was Mamluk rule or Egypt and the rise of the Funj Sultanate of Sennar in Nubia. In the case of the Maghrib, important developments were related to the Muslim revivalist movements called Almoravids and Almohads. Although both movements were religious, at the beginning, they later assumed political and economic character which resulted in the conquest and establishment of large empires.

The second section deals with West Africa. In this part of the continent, several small states grew to become large empires. Among these states, the most important were Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Kanim- Bornu and the Hausa city-states. In the third section conditions in Equatorial, Eastern and South Eastern Africa are assessed. Developments in this part of Africa were associated with the Kingdom of Kongo, the civilization of Great Zimbabwe and the Kingdom of Mwene Mutapa.

The fourth section treats historical developments in Southern Africa. Compared to the other regions, Southern Africa did not achieve major state formation up to the end of the 18th century. The political organizations of the Khoi-Khoi, the San

and the Bantus were based on chieftaincy. The exception is the new development among the Bantu who attained major state formation in the 19th century. The development occurred in response to inter-tribal upheavals and movements as well as the encroachment of the Dutch farmers and the British colonizers. Finally, in the fifth section, a brief history of the trans-atlantic slave trade is presented.

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss the features of African states and civilizations that had existed prior to the advent of European colonialism;
- analyze the causes and results of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Terms to Know

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| - Abolitionists | - Hierarchy | - Manikon go |
| - Al- Murabitun | - Immigrants | - Mercenaries |
| - Al- Muwahhidun | - "Kasar Hausa" | - Shrines |
| - Boers | - Mais | - Swahili |
| - Hegemony | - Maghrib | |
| - Hermitage | | |

11.1. North Africa

Mamluk Egypt

Mamluks (also spelled Mamelukes) were a self-preserving military aristocracy that ruled Egypt from about 1250 to 1517 virtually and upto 1805 nominally. They originated from a white Turkish slaves and came first to Egypt as mercenaries in the late 12th century. They were originally Turkish slaves first brought to Egypt in the late 12th century. Mamluke is an Arabic word meaning "owned" or "slave". The Mamluks were trained as

soldiers and rose to high army and government posts before they revolted and seized control of Egypt.

Before the Mamluk's rise to power in 1250, Egypt was under the rule of the Muslim dynasty called the Ayyubid. The major cause for the rise of the Mamluks was the prevalence of an acute power struggle within the Ayyubid family. Several provinces of Egypt were ruled by princes of Ayyubid family. These princes always fought against each other to take the position of Sultan in Egypt. Thus, as a means to avoid such political rivalry the Ayyubid sultans began to depend on mercenary soldiers, who were loyal to them alone. The Mamluks were such mercenaries who succeeded in establishing their rule over Egypt.

As they were mercenaries, the Mamluks rendered to any sultan or prince who wanted their military service and could afford to pay for it. The Ayyubid Sultan who employed the regiment of Mamluks was al-Malik al-Salih.

The immediate factor that enabled the Mamluks to seize power in Egypt was the Mongol invasion of the Middle East. An unruly armed band moved to Syria and Palestine where they pillaged the provinces and massacred the Christians of Jerusalem in 1244. This crime led to a strong reaction among the Western Christian States. As a result, the army of the Sixth Crusade, led by King Louis IX of France, invaded Egypt by landing near Alexandria.

At the time of the invasion, the ruling Sultan, al-Malik al-Salih was dead. His successor, Turan Shah, was in a campaign on the Euphrates. There was no authority to organize the defense of Egypt. But, the Mamluks confronted the Crusades, defeated them and took their leader, Louis IX, prisoner. Thus, they saved Egypt from possible destruction. Turan Shah, the last Ayyubid ruler of Egypt was treacherously assassinated in 1250. Thereafter, Egyptian sultans began to be selected from among the Mamluks. In fact, the Ayyubids did not accept the Mamluks

at first. However, another round of invasion from the Mongols once again served the Mamluks to continue in power. The Mongols controlled Baghdad and executed the Caliph in 1258. But during their confrontation with the Mamluks, they were defeated and the Mamluks once again saved Egypt. This service to the cause of Islam won the Mamluks prestige and acceptance which helped them to successfully seize power in Egypt.

Egypt attained greatness and prosperity under the Mamluks. Here are some of the factors for the economic prosperity of Egypt. First, Mamluk Egypt actively participated in the trans-Saharan trade. Secondly, the rulers of West African empires passed through Cairo laden with gold on their pilgrimage to the Islamic Holy Land. Thirdly, for some time, the Red Sea became the spice route and this valuable item passed to Europe through Egypt. Inevitably, all this contributed to the economic growth and prosperity of Mamluk Egypt.

This economic growth in Egypt strengthened the power of the Mamluks who launched military expansion towards the south. In this direction, they annexed the Christian Kingdoms in Nubia in 1275. The rulers of the Kingdoms were subsequently converted to Islam.

At the beginning of the 15th century, the Mamluks began to face the danger of foreign invasion. The invasion was again by the Mongols. The leader of the Mongol army, Tamerlane, chose first to establish Mongols' power in Anatolia where he turned against the Ottomans and defeated them in 1402. After this battle, Tamerlane did not resume the attack against Egypt, because another problem arose in the Far East and the Mongols' army was called back to Asia. Thus, Egypt was again saved from the danger of Mongol invasion. Furthermore, the Mongol victory over the Ottomans weakened the latter who were the main enemy of the Mamluks. Consequently, for the subsequent two centuries Ottoman Turkey ceased to be a major threat to Egypt.

The end of the Mamluk virtual rule in Egypt was caused by the revival of the Ottoman power at the beginning of the 16th century. At the time, Ottomans were engaged in a rivalry with the Portuguese for the control of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean regions. So the Ottomans invaded Egypt in 1516. The Mamluk were utterly defeated. In the following year, 1517, Ottoman rule was extended to the whole of Egypt. From this time onwards, and until the rise of Mohammad Ali in Egypt in 1805, the Mamluks continued to rule in Egypt under the suzerainty of Ottoman Sultans.

The Funj Sultanate

The Funj Sultanate emerged in 1504 in Nubia, the present-day territory of the Republic of Sudan. Before the rise of the Sultanate, two Christian Kingdoms existed in Nubia. They were called Alwa and Makuria. Both of them were annexed by the Egyptian Mamluks in 1275. Since 1317, Islam gradually spread into Nubia. Various Arab clans also expanded to Nubia. Consequently, the Arabs established their supremacy in Nubia.

The supremacy of the Arabs in Nubia did not last long. At the beginning of the 16th century, they were challenged by cattle-breeding nomads called the Funj, who practiced their traditional religion. The origin of the Funj nomads is still controversial. But various hypotheses are held. Some say they belong to the Shilluk people. Others associate their origin with the state of Bornu around Lake Chad. Still others locate their origin to the northern part of the Ethiopian region.

In Nubia, the Funj soon adopted Islam. In 1504, they established the Funj Sultanate with its center at Sennar. Besides the Funj, a rival Arab state called Abdallabi also existed in Nubia. Abdallabi contended for grazing rights in the southern Gezira as well as for political supremacy in Nubia. Amara Dunqas was one of the renowned chiefs of Funj who fought many battles against the Abdallabi state for supremacy in Nubia. Finally, victory went to the Funj, while the Abdallabi

chief, got a subordinate position. The Funj Sultanate ruled Nubia in partnership with Abdallabi Arabs. It extended its hegemony to a large territory of the Nilotic Sudan, which opened a new period in the country's history. Subsequently, Nubia attained political stability which facilitated the further growth of Arab prestige and effective Islamization.

The Funj Sultanate Survived until the rise of Mohammed Ali in Egypt in 1805 and his conquest of the Sultanate in 1821. During its long period of history, the Sultanate undertook territorial conquests on the neighboring peoples, states and chiefdoms. It was also subjected to similar attacks from the neighboring states. One such attacks came from the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia. The Funj Sultanate faced two rounds of attacks from the Christian Kingdom. The first was the expedition of King Suseniyos in about 1620. In this expedition several villages of the Funj Sultanate were destroyed and looted by the Christian army. The second expedition was launched by king Iyasu II in the 1730's which ended up in defeat for the Christian army. In the years that followed, the Funj Sultanate succeeded in extending its hegemony over Kordofan and Darfur and remained the most important state in the Sudan until it was conquered by Egypt in 1821.

The Almoravids

The western half of North Africa is called the Maghrib, the name the Arabs gave to the region. In the 11th century, the Maghrib region was the center of Islamic revival movement called the Almoravids.

The Almoravid movement was organized by Sanhaja Berbers. The movement was a reaction to the attack they faced from the wandering Arabs who came westwards across North African. The victims of the Arab attack were the Berbers of northwest who lived around the present Mauritania. The invading Arabs destroyed everything the Berbers had. Farms

and towns were looted. So, the Berbers were forced to look for a new means of livelihood and they started the movement.

At the beginning, the movement had a religious character. The leader of the movement was called Abdallah ibn Yasin, a devoted and strict Muslim. He established his center on an island in the Senegal River and preached a **jihad** against non-Muslims. **Abdallah** and his followers became known as the peoples of the hermitage - **al Murabitun**. This was later corrupted to Almoravids.

The Almoravids launched their jihad in two directions. One branch was led by Abdallah himself. At first, he brought the Berber communities in the far western lands under his authority. Then, he led them northwards and captured the city of Sijilmasa in 1056. Morocco and part of Spain fell under the control of the Almoravids later in the second half of the 11th century.

The second branch, led by Abu Bakr, headed southwards against the empire of ancient Ghana. The Almoravids made alliances with the people of Tekrur and waged a long war against Ghana. They captured the city of Audaghust in 1054. After two decades of fighting with the army of Ghana, its capital, Kumbi Saleh, fell to the Almoravids in 1076. Subsequently, the Almoravids continued to dominate the Western Sudan until they were overthrown in the middle of the 12th century by a rival movement led by the Almohads.

The Almohads

The Almohad movement also began as a religious reform movement. It was antagonistic to the Almoravids. But it soon assumed political and economic dimensions. The economic motive arose from a desire to control the great trans-Saharan trade routes, while the political goal was aimed at building an Islamic Empire.

The movement was led by a man called Ibn Tumart who was born in the present-day Morocco about 1075. Born from a

Masmuda Berber family, Ibn Tumart was a learned and pious man. He had been a well - experienced administrator and community leader. People were impressed and attracted to his teachings.

Ibn Tumart's reforms were mainly related to morality, theological dogma and law. He criticized the Almoravids for their religious laxity. At first, the Almoravids tolerated his criticism. But gradually they began to consider him dangerous, when his criticism was no longer limited to the religious field only. The rebellion of Ibn Tumart was first instigated by an incident that took place in the Almoravid capital of Marrakesh. In the capital, Ibn Tumart gave a series of lectures that criticized the rule of the Almoravids. When the Almoravids attempted to detain him, he fled to a near by village called Aghmat, where he started an open rebellion. Since then, Ibn Tumart officially began to establish and organize the Almohad movement. The main purpose of the movement was the overthrow of the Almoravid regime.

As Muslims, the Almohads were believers in one god, in Arabic, **al- Muwahhidun**, which was later corrupted to Almohads.

Ibn Tumart and his followers played an important role in the expansion of the Almohad movement. Ibn Tumart got wide acceptance from among the Berbers. He preached in the Berber language which was an important factor for attracting the Berbers. His teachings about religion got approval of the Berbers. His political principles of kinship organization and tribal membership in the central government were based on Berber traditions. The propaganda tactics of Ibn Tumart were also important in gaining many supporters. He sent his followers to various Berber tribes who preached the ideas of the movement. Because of this, Almohad membership grew strong and began to threaten the Almoravid regime.

Almohads were not successful to over throw the Almoravids when Ibn Tumart was alive. The Almohads won their first victory over the Almoravids in 1122. The Almohads besieged the capital, Marrakish, in 1128, after a six-year war. But they were unable to capture it, because the Almoravids cavalry successfully defended the capital. In this battle, Ibn Tumart lost many of his prominent companions.

Ibn Tumart died in 1130, and a long period of crisis followed in the Almohad movement. Ibn Tumart was finally succeeded by one of his companions named Abd al-Mumin who became **caliph** in 1133. During his reign (1133-1163), al - Mumin succeeded in building a strong empire. It was during this period that the Almoravids were completely defeated and most of the Maghrib was conquered. By the time of his death in 1163, al-Mumin had established the Almohad movement on a strong base. Several other Muminid caliphs (members of the Muminid dynasty) took the leadership of the movement up to the collapse of their empire in the middle of the 13th century.

The Almohad Empire finally collapsed because of the following factors. First, the conquest of the vast territory made efficient and centralized administrative very difficult. The constant wars also drained the resources of the empire. The attempt to solve the economic problem by imposing heavy taxes did not succeed, because it brought about popular dissatisfaction. On the other hand, the military weakness of the Almohads was a decisive factor. In the later years, the Almohad army began to include in its rank heterogeneous groups such as the Arabs and Christian mercenaries. Because of this, the army lost its original fighting spirit.

In 1212, the Almohad army was defeated by the combined forces of the Spanish Christian Kingdoms. The territory of the Almohads shrank after this battle. Muslim Spain, Ifriqiya (present day Libya), and central Maghrib slipped out of Almohad

control one after another. However, the Muminid dynasty continued to exist with a diminishing territory in Morocco until 1269. In that year the last Almohad Caliph, al-Wathiq (r. 1266 - 1269) was over thrown by a rival family called Marinid. With this the Almohad movement and empire came to an end.

11.2. Western Africa (Western Sudan)

The region immediately to the south of the Sahara is part of Western Africa. The Arabs called this region "Bila d al-Sudan", meaning the country of the Blacks. The Sudan is a vast territory that extends from the Nile Valley in the east to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in the West. This vast territory is divided into western and eastern Sudan. The region that runs from the Atlantic Ocean to the Lake Chad is called Western Sudan, while the region from Lake Chad to the Nile Valley is known as Eastern Sudan. In this section, we will look at the history of the most important states of Western Sudan which came into being as a result of the trans- Saharan trade.

Ghana

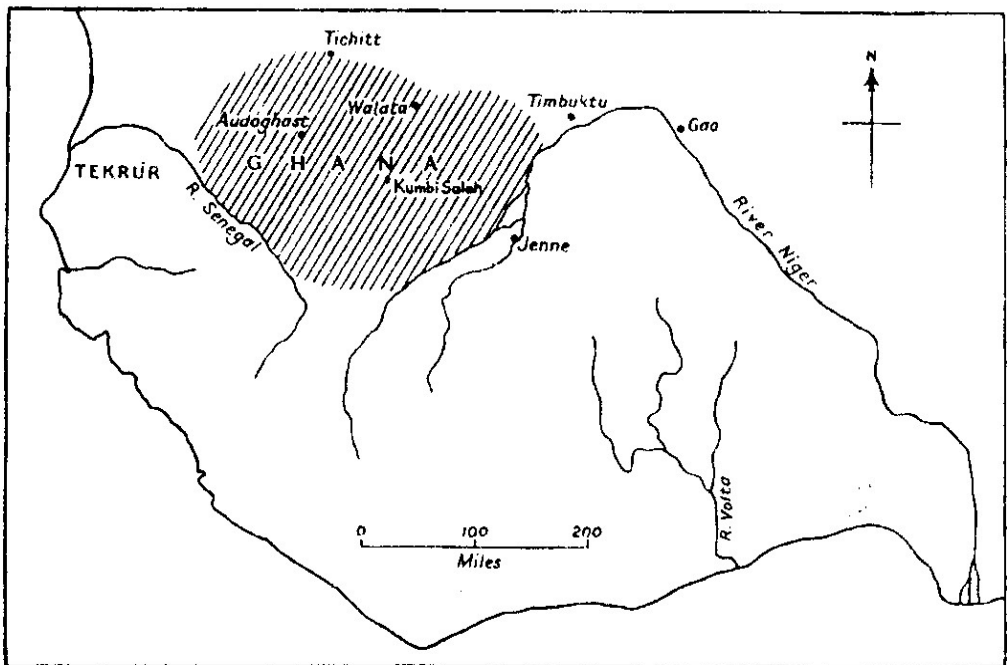
The oldest kingdom in western Sudan was Ghana. The kingdom got its name from the title of the kings known as Ghana, meaning "War Chiefs". The 8th century Muslim Spanish writer called Ibn Hawkals reported that the proper name of the kingdom was Aoukar. But, since the 8th century, North Africans began to use the name Ghana for the region, and the kingdom retained the name thereafter.

Although Ghana was founded around the 4th century, the kingdom reached the height of its power at about 1000 A.D. Several cities were established as a result of trading activity in the region. Kumbi Saleh was the most important one and the last capital of Ghana.

The main factor for the prosperity and greatness of Ghana was trade. Ghana was located on the trans Saharan trade routes between North Africa and the forest belt. This gave the

merchants of the kingdom an advantage of being middlemen in the trade between the two regions. The income obtained from the trade enabled the rulers of Ghana to set up a strong central government. The establishment of a strong central government helped the maintenance of peace and security in the kingdom, which in turn encouraged the growth of trade. A strong army also was organized and used to conquer the neighboring people. Ghanian craftsmen were skilled in iron works. This gave them an upper hand over their neighbors who did not have iron working technology, like the Ghanians. Thus the rulers, of Ghana were able to build a vast empire, which covered parts of what are now Mali and Mauritania.

The decline and fall of Ghana was caused by the invasion of the Almoravids in the 11th century. The Almoravids controlled the city of Audaghaust in 1054. After two decades of military struggle, the Almoravids controlled the capital of Ghana, Kumbi Saleh, in 1076 and this brought an end to the kingdom of ancient Ghana.



Map 11.1 Ancient Ghana

Mali

The kingdom of Mali was founded before 1000 AD by the Kangaba people, one of the clans of the Mandinka people. They were traders, mainly engaged in the gold trade of the region. They took the gold of Wangara region to the markets of ancient Ghana. After the fall of Ghana, there was a fierce power struggle in the former territory of the kingdom. Eventually, a powerful chief called Sumanguru emerged as a strong ruler. Sumanguru controlled the ancient capital of Ghana, Kumbi Saleh, and the trade routes of the region. Since then, the Kangaba merchants who also settled in part of the territory of ancient Ghana, began to conduct business with Samanguru. But Sumanguru was unable to maintain peace and security. As a result, trade routes became unsafe and this affected the livelihood of the Kangaba merchants. They had already been dissatisfied with the oppressive rule of Sumuaguru. Therefore, they decided to fight for the control of power. Accordingly, they fought under the leadership of Sundiata against various contenders and finally became the rulers of Mali. According to tradition, the name of the kingdom was initially Kangaba. Later on it was changed to Mali, which means "where the king resides".

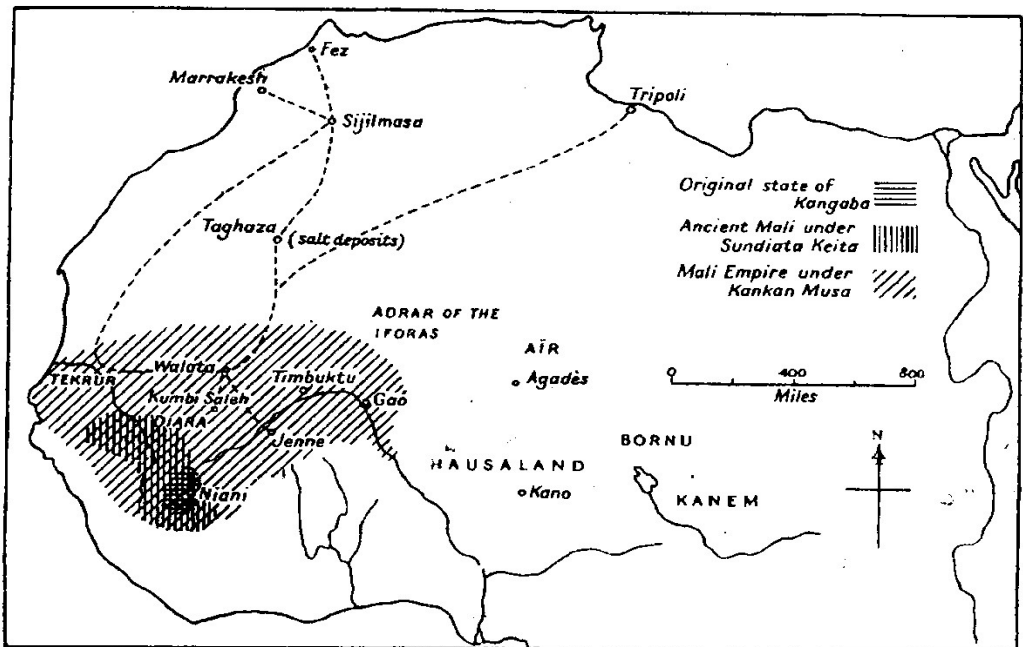
Sundiata ruled Mali from 1230 to 1255. He was succeeded by Mansa Uli (r. 1255-1270) who continued the conquests began by Sundiata. During the reign of these two rulers, Mali regained the control of the gold- bearing lands of Wangara and Bambak.

Mali attained greatness under Mansa Kankan Musa, commonly known as Mansa Musa. Mansa Musa ruled Mali from 1312 to 1337. During his reign, not only Islam made a big progress, but Mali also became one of the largest and powerful empires of the world.

The first person to be converted to Islam in Mali was Mansa Musa. His empire was visited by a number of Arabs and Egyptians. In 1324, Mansa Musa himself made a magnificent

pilgrimage to Mecca. The Muslim world was so impressed that Ibn Battutah, the Arab historian who heard about the reputation of Mansa Musa and his empire, wrote that "Musa was the most powerful, the richest, the most fortunate, the most feared by enemies and the most able to do good to those around him."

The decline and fall of Mali was the result of the over extension of the territory of the empire. The limitless expansion of the territory created difficulty in maintaining effective communication and organized defense system. Only strong rulers like Mansa Musa were able to maintain effective administration under such conditions. But his successors were so weak that they were unable to defend the attacks from the neighboring peoples or the secession of the former tributaries. The Tekrur and Wolof seceded and made themselves free from the domination of Mali. However, in spite of all the difficulties, the rulers of Mali exercised nominal power until 1550, when the empire of Mali finally came to an end.



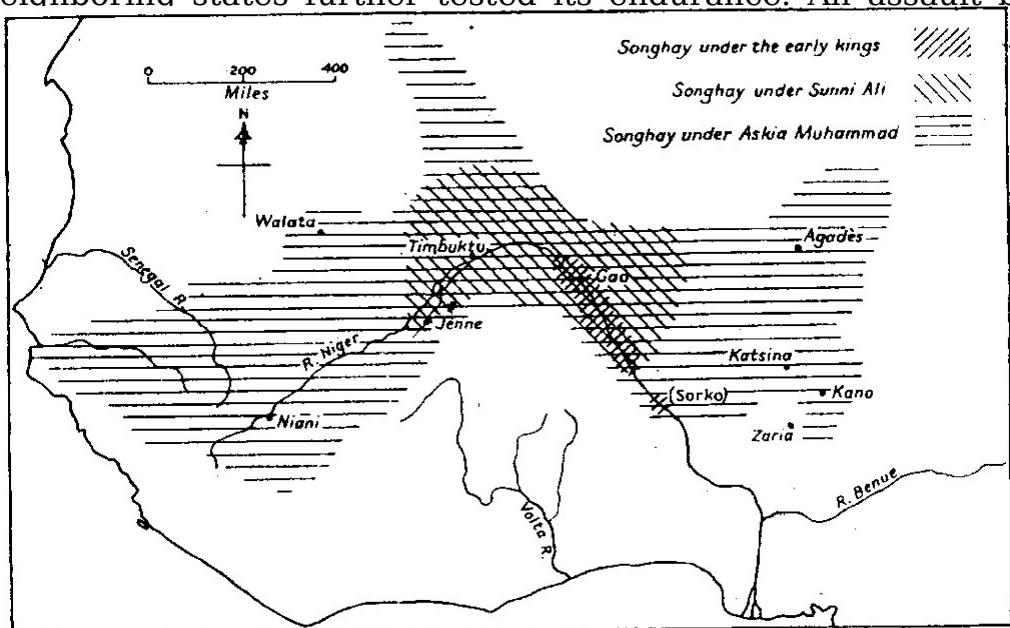
Map 11.2 Ancient Mali

Songhai

Songhai was a West African empire, centered on the largest bend of the Niger River, that reached its zenith in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Songhai, a fishing and trading people who originated in the Dendi region of north western Nigeria, gradually extended their domination up stream in the 8th century and by 800 had established themselves at Gao, which soon became a flourishing market town. Having come into contact with Muslims from the North, the Songhai accepted Islam, at least nominally, shortly after 1000. For some centuries they dominated the petty adjacent states while being in turn overshadowed by the powerful Mali Empire to the west.

In the late 13th century, power in Songhai was consolidated in the Sunni dynasty, which gradually gained independence from Mali and thereafter began to encroach upon the weakening Mali power. Songhai expansion was most aggressively advanced by Sunni Ali, who incorporated the eastern part of Mali into his empire, subjugating Djenné in 1471. He was followed by Mohammed Ture, of the Askia dynasty, who further extended Songhai's influence and made Tumbuktu again a thriving cultural center. After his reign, however, dynastic rivalry perilously weakened the empire, while revolts and raids from neighboring states further tested its endurance. An assault by



Map 11.3 The Songhai Empire

Kanem - Bornu Empire

It was an African state in the Lake Chad region. It lasted for a thousand years, from the 9th to the 19th century. Kanem-Bornu state was founded by the Kanuri, a mixed Negroid and Berber people living east of Lake Chad. It was ruled by mais or sultans of the Saifuwa dynasty which came to power in about 850 AD. The capital city was called Njimi.

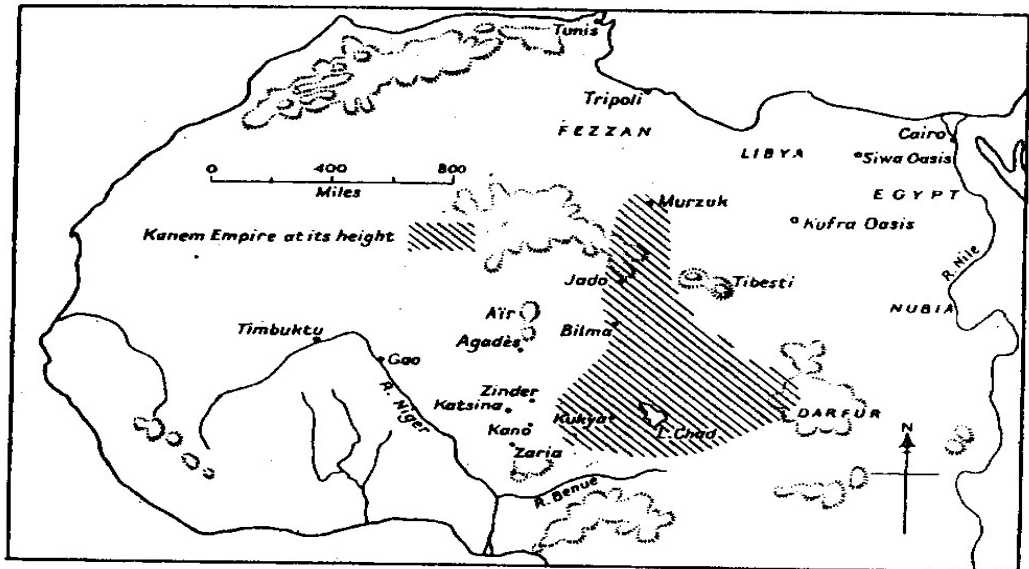
The economy of the state was based on trans-Saharan trade. Since the empire was conveniently located in the center of the Sudan, it was in contact with Nubia in the east, Egypt and other north African states in the north, and also with its western and southern neighbors. As a result, Kanem-Bornu exploited the trade of half of the continent north of the equator.

The state was subject to the influence of Islam, which in the 11th century became the accepted religion.

Conquests during the next 200 years expanded the empire as far west as the Niger River and east to Wadai, to the north its power extended into the Fezzan. In the 14th century, wars with the Bulala people to the south forced the mais to move west to Bornu, where succeeding mais reestablished the empire and, under Ali Ghaji, founded a new capital at Ngazargamu. The 16th century was one of renewed expansion and power for the state, especially under Mai Idris Alooma, who had acquired firearms from North African Turks.

The empire declined again in the 18th century, due in part to infiltration by the Fulani from the west. Barely withstanding an

onslaught by Usuman dan Fodio in 1808 -9, the empire was finally absorbed by Wadai in 1846.



Map 11.4 The Empire of Kanem - Bornu

The Hausa City- States

Originally, the Hausa people lived in a small region in the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. However, they expanded their territory as a result of continuous migrations and assimilations. Several non-Hausa people, such as the Tuareg and the Fulani entered the region and settled there. They adopted the Hausa culture and language. Different people with different ethnic identity were assimilated into the Hausa culture and language. Because of this, at present, the people of the region have no particular ethnic identity and they are simply known as the Hansa- speaking group of peoples.

Before the advent of colonial era, the territory occupied by the Hausa language speakers had no particular name. It was simply called "Kasar Hausa." In the Hausa language, "Kasar Hausa" means the country of the Hausa language. Because of this, the early Europeans also called the region Hausa land.

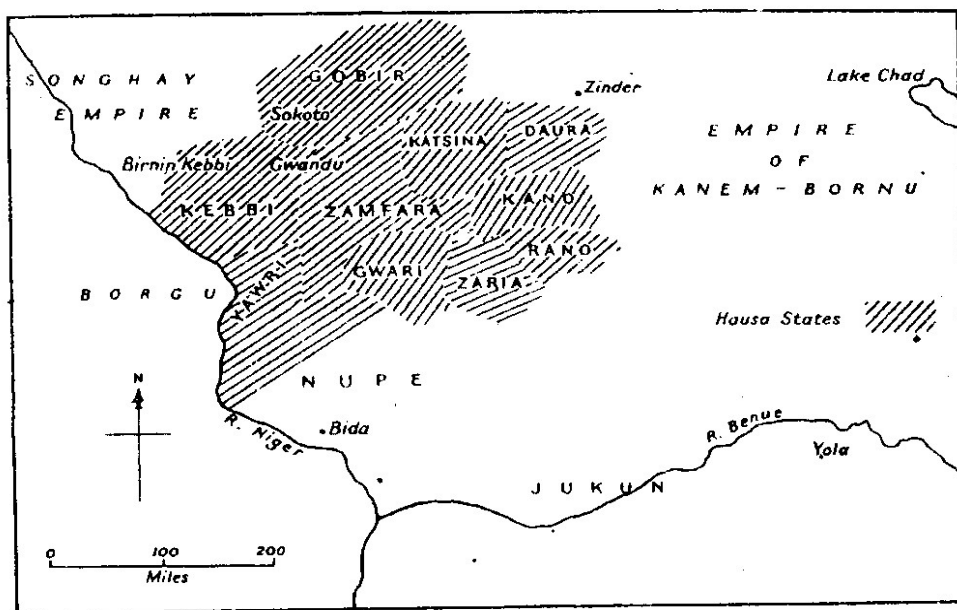
Hausaland had never been politically united, but rather consisted of several small states. These states emerged as a result of the establishment of large cities, most of which developed into city-states after the 14th century. The most important Hausa city-states were Kano, Katsina, Zazzu (Zaria), Gobir, Kebbi, Rano and Zamfara.

The Hausa city-states were prosperous. Several factors were responsible for their prosperity. Firstly, Hausa land had rich deposits of iron ore, most of which were located close to wooded land, where a large quantity of firewood and charcoal could be obtained for smelting the ore. Secondly, the region was endowed with rich and fertile soil. Because of this agriculture had become the most important economic activity in all Hausa states. Crops like millet, sorghum, rice and other food crops were abundantly cultivated in Hausa land. Commercial crops such as cotton and indigo were also grown in some of the states. Finally, Hausa land was located between the Sahel and the Sahara in the north and the tropical forests in the south. This location gave the Hausa cities the advantage of being intermediaries in the trade between the two regions.

There had been years of closer relationships between the Hausa city states and the neighboring state of Kanem - Bornu. Islam spread into the Hausa land from Kanem-Bornu. The latter also provided a model for the administrative system of the Hausa city-states. The administrative structure was organized hierarchy. At the bottom of the hierarchy were small rural communities organized under the authority of a chief. The next in the hierarchy was the village ruled by a village chief, and at the top of the hierarchy stood the chief of the country.

The Hausa city-states maintained their power up to the beginning of the 19th century. The only threat to their sovereignty was the empire of Kanem-Bornu. However, the final blow to the Hausa city-states did not come from this old neighbour. It rather came from the rise of the Fulani Jihad. By

1811 the Fulani had become the masters of Hausa land as a whole.



Map 11.5 The Hausa City- States

11.3. Equatorial, Eastern and South Eastern Africa

Before the Europeans arrived in Africa, several states and kingdoms existed in equatorial, eastern and south eastern Africa. Among these states and kingdoms, the most important were the kingdoms of Kongo, Zimbabwe and Mwene Mutapa.

The Kingdom of Kongo

The Kingdom of Kongo was founded in the late 14th century by a Bantu people called Bakongo and their King was called Manikongo. When the Portuguese reached the west African coast around the equator in 1483, the capital of the Kingdom of Kongo was situated at Mbanzakongo, the present San Salvador in northern Angola.

The Bakongo people were clever smiths. They had been formidable hunters and warriors and were able to attain dominance over their neighbors and build a powerful kingdom. The kingdom was densely populated with a strong administrative structure. Its administration was divided into six provinces. The provincial governors were mostly the immediate

relatives of the king. They collected taxes and tributes which they submitted to the king. In his state administration the king was assisted by a central administrative body which could be dismissed by the king at any time.

Agriculture and trade were the bases of economy in the kingdom. The major trade items were iron tools, pottery, sea-salt, mats, basketwork, copper and iron trinkets. The last two items were prestigious goods while weaving and iron smelting were also prestigious professions reserved only for the nobility.

The Portuguese had some contact with the kingdom of Kongo since around 1482, when navigator Diogo Cam visited the mouth of the Congo River and claimed the surrounding region as Portuguese territory. In 1489, a Kongolese embassy was sent to the Portuguese King, and in 1491, Portuguese missionaries and crafts men (masons, carpenters, etc.) visited the Kingdom. Soon, thereafter, the Manikongo together with his family and importance chiefs converted to Christianity. But his attempts to impose the religion on his people provoked violent opposition. His son Afonso succeeded him in 1507. Literate in Portuguese, Afonso modeled his government on the Portuguese system and built many churches. Under Afonso, Kongo participated in slave raids in neighboring regions and in slave trade with the Portuguese, making Kongo a significant supplier to the Atlantic slave trade.

The slave raiding brought unrest to the region, however, and the Kongo Kingdom declined by the end of the 16th century, in part because of the invasions by the Jaga, an eastern warrior people. Centuries elapsed before another serious European expedition to the region was undertaken. However, Arabs from the sultanate of Zanzibar in East Africa reached the region west of Lake Tanganyika in the mid 18th century, establishing plantations and conducting extensive slave raids.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, at present, is a south-central African country. In this country, archaeologists excavated a large site with ruins of stone buildings. It was found out that the ruins were the remains of the civilization of the Great Zimbabwe.

It is believed that the Bantu people called the Shona had built the civilization of Great Zimbabwe. The Shona immigrants came from the northern part of the present state of Zimbabwe and entered the region in about 1000. They introduced mining techniques and the cults of their ancestors, for which they built many shrines. One of the shrines named Dzimbadzemabwe which means houses of stones, was built on a hill called Mbanwa. Later on, this shrine and its surroundings became the center of the civilization of Great Zimbabwe.

At its height in the 14th century, the capital city of Great Zimbabwe housed up to 11, 000 residents. The great stone walls for which Great Zimbabwe is famous were built with slabs of locally available granite carved so carefully that no mortar was required to hold them together.

The remains of trade articles and coins of Syrian, Persian and Chinese origin excavated from the site of Great Zimbabwe, indicate that the state of Great Zimbabwe maintained trading contacts with the peoples of far away countries. The state also maintained trade relations with the ports of East Africa such as Sofala and Kilwa who benefited from the gold of the Great Zimbabwe.

The greatness of Zimbabwe came to an end towards the close of the 15th century. Great Zimbabwe was abandoned possibly due to the kingdom's over exploitation of the environment. But its stone ruins remain to this day as a monument to this large and thriving early Shona state. However, it was finally succeeded by a state that came to be known as Mwene Mutapa.

Mwene Mutapa

Towards the end of the 15th century, Mutota founded the state of Mwene Mutapa. Mutota belonged to the powerful Rozwi clan of the Shona people. Originally, Mwene Mutapa was a title of the Rozwi Kings.

The territory of Mwene Mutapa was expanded in the northern direction by Mutota's son, Mutope. The capital of the new state also moved northwards from the former center of the Great Zimbabwe. In about 1490, political disorder in Mwene

Mutapa resulted in secession of the southern part of the kingdom which became a powerful state under the Changamire dynasty. Therefore, Mwene Mutapa was limited to a territory between the Zambezi River and the Indian Ocean.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Mwene Mutapa dominated the gold trade between the plateau and the Zambezi River valley, notably with Swahili trading posts at Sena and Tete. In the 16th century, the Portuguese established bases at both posts in an attempt to seize control of the trade and conquer Mutapa and the plateau. Mwene Mutapa resisted Portuguese intrusion until the mid 17th century, when the empire was at last subjugated.

In the 1670's a new power arose on the plateau of western Zimbabwe led by a Shona military ruler called Changamire. His army of followers, known as the Rozwi, seized control of the region, drove the Portuguese from the plateau in 1693, and established the Rozwi Empire (also called Changamire).

11.4. Southern Africa

The Southern part of Africa was occupied by three major ethnic and linguistic groups. The dominant people of the region were the Bantu. The other two groups were the Khoi-Khoi and San peoples. The European colonizers called these people Hottentots and Bushmen respectively. The languages of the two peoples are grouped under the language super family of Khoisan.

The Khoi - Khoi

The Khoi Khoi were a pastoral people who inhabited what is now Southern and Western South Africa, when this region was colonized by European settlers in the 17th century. The Khoi Khoi have also been called Hottentots, and name given them by whites in South Africa. In their own language, Khoi Khoi means "men of men". The majority of the remaining Khoi Khoi live in the southern part of Namibia, and the term has been extended to include the culturally mixed descendants of the original Khoi Khoi, who are now scattered through out the Southwestern part of South Africa.

The Khoi Khoi were related to the two neighboring people, the San (Bushmen) and the Bantu. True Khoi Khoi closely resembled the San and average a little more than 1.5m (5ft) in height.

Originally, the Khoi Khoi were hunters. They abandoned hunting and started cattle raising. Beginning from 1300, the Khoi Khoi expanded from what is now Botswana and by the 15th century, they were already well-established in Southern Africa. However, the Khoi Khoi had been under strong pressure from both the Dutch settlers and the Bantu people. Consequently, they became a minority group reduced to a settlement area in the Kalahari Desert.

The San

The San have lived in Southern Africa for thousands of years. Their territory, once extensive, was constricted by white settlers after the early 1700's. At the stage when the San lived as a hunter-gatherers they were organized in small groups, or bands, of about ten families. At this stage women gathered wild plants and fruits while men killed animals with light bows and poison-tipped arrows. The San sometimes lived in caves or thatched shelters and wore short aprons and sandals made of skins.

In the past, the San have been called Bushmen by Southern African whites. The San spoke Khoisan languages characterized by click sounds. They have short height, yellow and copper skin colour and kinky hair.

The Bantus

The Bantus are a linguistically related group of about 60 million people living in equatorial and southern Africa. The Bantu probably originated in the border land of what is now Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, migrated from where they downward into Southern Africa. Up to 1000, the Bantu migration was one of the largest in human history. The cause of the movement is uncertain, but many anthropologists believe that it was caused by increase in population. The population increase is believed to have been a result of the introduction of

new crops, such as the banana (native to South Asia), which allowed to more efficient food production. Early in their history, the Bantu split into two major linguistic branches, the Eastern and Western Bantu. The Eastern Bantu migrated through present-day Zimbabwe and Mozambique, down to South Africa. The Western Bantu moved in to what is now Angola, Namibia, and North western Botswana. Tribal groups descended from the Bantu include the Shona, the Xhosa, the Kikuyu, and the Zulu, of the Eastern Bantu language branch, and the Herero and Tonga peoples, of the western Bantu languages branch.

The Bantu of Southern Africa constitute five major linguistic groups. They are Venda, Sotho, Tsongo, Nguni and Inhambane. The date for the arrival of the Bantu speakers in Southern Africa is not yet known. Some scholars suggest 1000, while others maintain the 15th century.

The Southern Bantu continued to lead an undisturbed life until the 1780's, when they encountered the Dutch farmers known as **Boers** for the first time. The Boers came to South Africa after the establishment of a small post for Dutch ships in 1652. The post grew to a settlement, which later became Cape Colony. From the Cape Colony, the Dutch settlers, many of whom were farmers, gradually expanded northwards to the center of Southern Bantus in the last two decades of the 18th century. Subsequently, a century-long war was conducted between the Bantu and the Boers. In response to this struggle, several Bantu states emerged in Southern Africa. One of them was the Zulu Kingdom which attained dominance in the region particularly during the reign of Shaka Zulu (1818-1828). Shaka successfully defended the kingdom from the neighbouring Bantu clans as well as the Dutch farmers. However, after his death, the Kingdom was weakened and became a prey to the neighbouring rival clans as well as to the British colonizers. In the middle of the 19th century, the region came under the British control. From Cape Colony, Britain further expanded northwards to the

territory of the Bantu people. In the 1860's the Zulu Kingdom and many other Bantu clans, were conquered by the British.

11.5. The Trans - Atlantic Slave Trade

The background to the beginning of the Atlantic slave trade had been set up by the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the new continent, America in 1492. Soon afterwards, the Spanish conquerors and other adventurers entered the territory of North, Central and South America. In these areas, very large plantations were established by the Europeans. The native Americans, the American Indians, called Red Indians by Europeans in the past, had been brutally exterminated by the Europeans. Those Red Indians who escaped the brutal extermination were forced to work in the European plantations and mine fields under dreadful conditions. This was completely unknown to the natives of America in their traditional way of life. When they tried to rebel in mass they were suppressed with great atrocities.

Most of the American Indians died from European diseases and harsh treatment. As a result, a severe shortage of free labour was created in the European plantations. The Europeans tried to solve the problem by transporting the indentured white slaves from Europe. However, the white slaves were unable to resist the hardships. Therefore, the idea of transporting the natives of West Africa originated at this critical point.

Portugal was the first European country that began the slave trade in Africa. Then Spain followed. The Portuguese and the Spanish had already transported a limited number of West African slaves to their own countries before the demand for free labour arose in the American plantations. After the demand for slaves grew in the American plantations, they now began to export West African slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to the American continent.

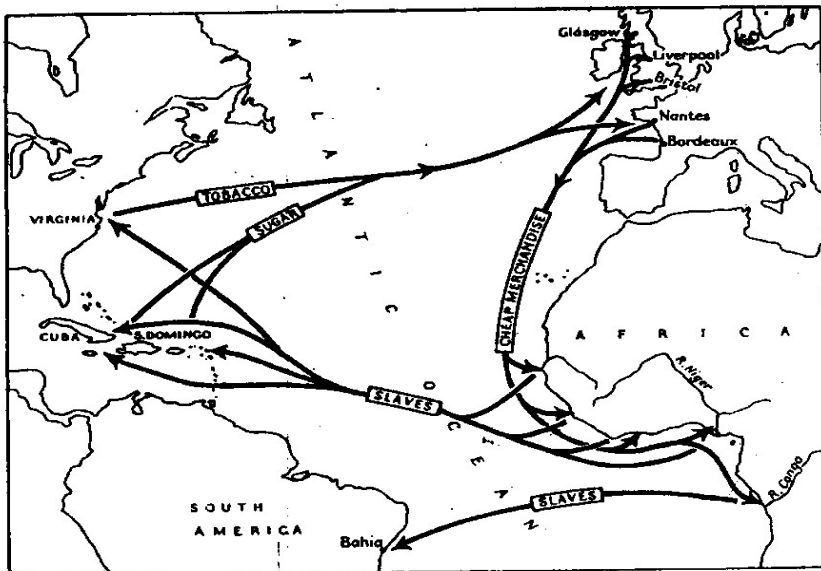
In Africa, the slave trade was conducted for over 300 years. During these years, the Atlantic slave trade passed through three distinct phases. The first phase was commonly

known as the **piratic** slave trade. In this phases the traders who hunted slaves in West Africa were individual merchants, adventurers, navigators or sea robbers. In this phase, European governments did not take part in the slave trade nor did they give official support to their citizens engaged in this evil business. The slave trade which began in this manner in the 15th century continued upto the last quarter of the 16th century.

The second phase, which began in the 1580's, was known as the **monopolistic** slave trade. In this phase the trade was conducted by monopolistic slave trading companies, which were officially **chartered** by their respective governments. These companies operated in a highly organized system which was assisted by regular armed forces. With the help of these forces they penetrated deep into the interior of West Africa where they captured the natives in great numbers. The slave-hunting ground was widened and the volume of the trade also increased. Slave merchants and companies made enormous profit. The price of a slave in Africa was 100-200 francs. But in America the market price of the same slave was 1000-2000 frames.

The second phase is also known as the **triangular trade**, because the route of this trade tied, in somewhat a triangular shape three continents-the Americas, Europe and Africa. From western European parts, goods such as cotton, alcoholic beverages, metal wares and firearms were transported to West Africa, where they were exchanged for slaves. African slaves were transported across the Atlantic to be sold to the plantation owner in exchange for sugar, tobacco, rum and other products.

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Map 11.6 The Triangular Trade

The third phase which began in the second half of the 17th century, was called **free trade**. In 1689, the British government took a legal action by instituting free trade. The law provided for every individual of the British Empire the right of participation in any kind of business, including the slave trade. Several men joined the slave trade on an individual bases. The increasing number of slave dealers, incited a fierce competition between the companies as well as among the individual traders.

The Horrors of the Salve Trade

African slaves suffered torture of various degree at different stages of the trade. First, slaves were captured like beasts. Then they were chained and hurried, often bearing heavy burden of ivory, to the coastal ports which might be located hundreds of miles from places of origin. The African slaves underwent a bitter hardship in the voyage across the Atlantic. The following description given by one scholar seems to give us some idea about the hardship.

----- they were stripped, branded and pushed into airless under decks, crushed together, often chained by hand and foot. Like this, they crossed the Atlantic in harsh weeks of sailing. Perhaps as many as one in every six captives died on their voyage across the ocean.

The last stage of the horror, which was a lifelong hardship, began in the American plantations. They toiled daily from dawn to dusk, often in chains. During this lifelong torture, their owners provided them only with basic necessities barely enough to keep them alive and work. Death was preferable to living and working in the plantations.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade

With the growth of the **abolitionist movement** in Europe, the volume of the slave trade started to show a marked decline. From the very beginning there had been movements against the slave trade in Africa. But it was not well-organized at its early stage. Religious people and humanitarians who had read the accounts of travelers on the evil trade put pressure on their governments for the abolition of the civil business. However, the European governments ignored the pressure of the abolitionists. As a matter of fact, it was only when they found that the abolition of the slave trade served their economic interest that the European governments began to take action against the slave trade. One of the leading European nations to champion the abolitionist movement was Great Britain. In 1807, Britain abolished the trade in slaves in her empire and put pressure on other European nations to follow suit. This change in the British policy was the result of industrialization. The profit of the slave trade had helped Britain to build modern industries. British economic interest shifted from slave trade to the search for cheap labour power, raw materials and markets, for industrial products.

Their economic interest could be served only with the abolition of the slave trade. African manpower had to remain in Africa to be used by Europeans to extract raw materials inside Africa for the European industries. Therefore, Britain organized a military campaign which was supported by the British navy. It was this concerted action that brought the Atlantic slave trade to an end in the middle of the 19th century.

Consequences of the Slave Trade

The slave trade had many consequences for Africa. In the whole course of the slave trade, more than 15 million young Africans were exported to the Americas. As a result, Africa lost its most valuable human resource. With the industrialization of Europe and America, the markets of Africa were flooded with cheap industrial products that ruined the traditional crafts of the continents. The livelihood of African craftsmen had also been ruined.

The political consequences of the slave trade were equally fatal for the continent. African chiefs and kings acquired a large amount of firearms. The possession of this large quantities of firearms intensified war and conflict in Africa. On the eve of European colonial expansion, there was severe divisions among peoples and states of Africa. As a result, the Africans could not put up a united resistance against the European colonizers. In this way, the Atlantic slave trade helped to open the way for the colonization of Africa.

Summary

In this unit we have discussed major historical developments in Africa from 1000 to 1884. Before the 16th century, Africa was the center of major civilizations. In North Africa, Egypt attained greatness under the rule of the Mukluks. In the Maghrib region, great empires were founded by the Almoravids and Almohads. In Western Sudan, several states came into prominence largely through the control of trans-Saharan trade. In Southern Africa, states like the Great Zimbabwe was a civilization of the highest standard. All this was the achievements of Africans before the 16th century.

The 16th century was also important in the history of Africa. Most of the great kingdoms and empires of Africa came to an end in this century. This same century also marked the

beginning of the Atlantic slave trade. This evil trade retarded economic development in Africa. It also opened the way for the colonization of Africa.

Review Questions

I) Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives

1. The Mamluk virtual rule in Egypt came to an end in 1517 as a result of the
 - a) invasion of the Mongols
 - b) revival of the Ottoman power
 - c) invasion of the army of the Sixth Crusade
 - d) restoration of the Ayyubid dynasty to power.
2. In about 1620, several villages of the Funj Sultanate were destroyed and looted by
 - a) a rival Arab state called Abdallabi
 - b) the Egyptian army under Mohammed Ali
 - c) the Christian army of Ethiopia under King Suseniyos
 - d) the Christian army of Ethiopia under Iyasu II.
3. Which of the following places was captured by the second branch of the Almoravids army led by Abu Bakr?
 - a) the city of Sijilmasa
 - b) Kumbi Saleh
 - c) Morocco
 - d) part of Spain
4. The cause which was not responsible for the collapse of the Almohad Empire was
 - a) the extent of the vast territory made efficient administration difficult
 - b) the constant wars drained the resources of the empire
 - c) the military weakness of the Almohads
 - d) the death of Ibn Tumart
5. The main factor for the prosperity and greatness of ancient Ghana was
 - a) the income obtained from the trans-Saharan trade
 - b) the establishment of a strong central government
 - c) the establishment of a strong army

- d) All are possible answers.
6. Which of the following West African kingdoms emerged immediately after the fall of Ghana?
- a) Mali
b) Songhai
c) Kanem Bornu
d) Hausa city-states
7. The kingdom of Mali attained prosperity and greatness under
- a) Sumanguru
b) Sundiata
c) Mansaukli
d) Mansa Musa
8. Which dynasty freed Gao from the domination of Mali?
- a) Sunni
b) Askia
c) Dia
d) Za
9. The powerful empire of Kanem-Bornu collapsed because of
- a) the attack by Uthman dan Fodio
b) the rise of the Fulani Jihad
c) the Moroccan invasion
d) a and b
10. Which of the following was not among the most important Hausa city-states?
- a) Kano
b) Kebbi
c) Abuja
d) Zazzu

II. Match the following

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Manikongo | A. Dutch farmers in South |
| 2. Dzimbadzemabw | Africa |
| e | B. Third phase of the |
| 3. Mutota | trans Atlantic slave trade |
| 4. Khoi Khoi | C. King of the Kongo |
| 5. San | Kingdom |
| 6. Boers | D. A Bantu State in |
| 7. Zulu Kingdom | Southern Africa |
| 8. Piratic slave | E. Founder o f Mwene |
| trade | Mutapa |
| 9. Traingular trade | F. First phase of the |
| 10. Fee trade | trans-Atlantic slave trade |

- G. The name of a shirne in
 Great Zimbabwe
- H. "Bushmen"
- I. Second phase of the
 trans-Atlantic slave trade
- J. "Hottentots"