

Human Geography of Africa



Warm-up

- ◉ Is Agriculture important to African's? Why or Why not?
- ◉ In what part/area of Africa does it rain the most?
- ◉ What is the process of desertification?
- ◉ What were some of the problems with the Aswan High Dam?



Regions

1. North
2. East
3. Central
4. Western
5. South

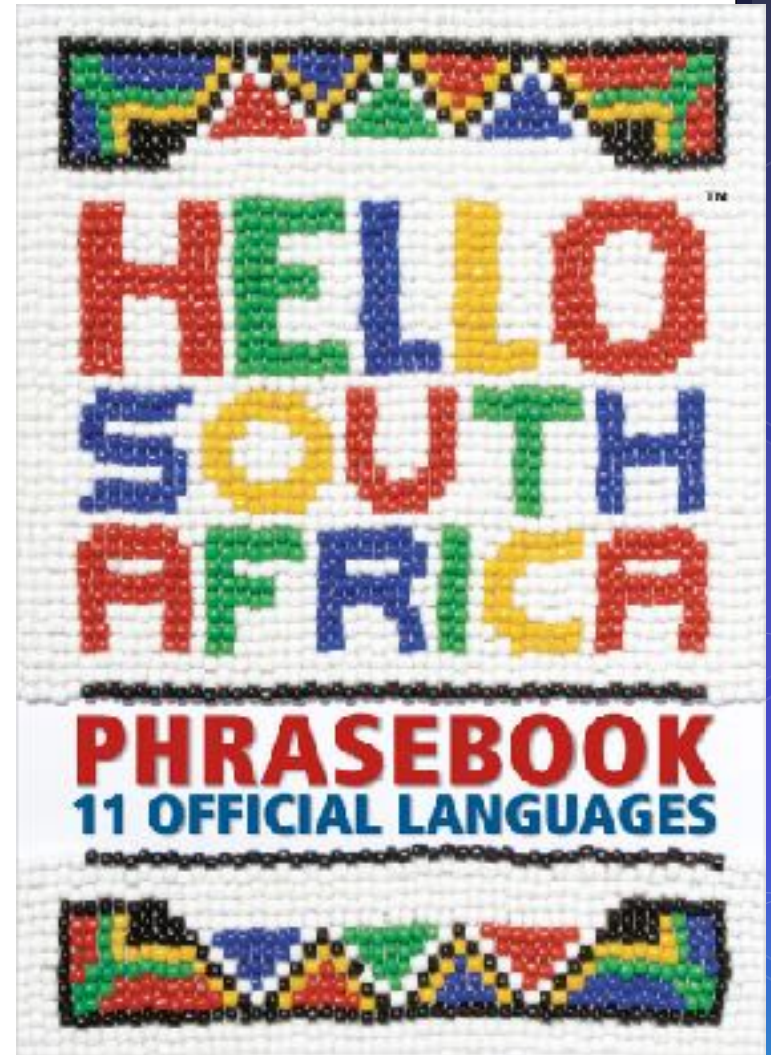


Language in Africa

- There are over 2100 and by some counts over 3000 languages spoken natively in Africa in several major language families



- **South Africa** has eleven official languages:
 - Afrikaans
 - English
 - Ndebele (un de bele)
 - Northern Sotho (sutu)
 - Sotho (sutu)
 - Swazi
 - Tswana
 - Tsonga
 - Venda (bin da)
 - Xhosa (cosa)
 - Zulu
- Most South Africans can speak more than one language.



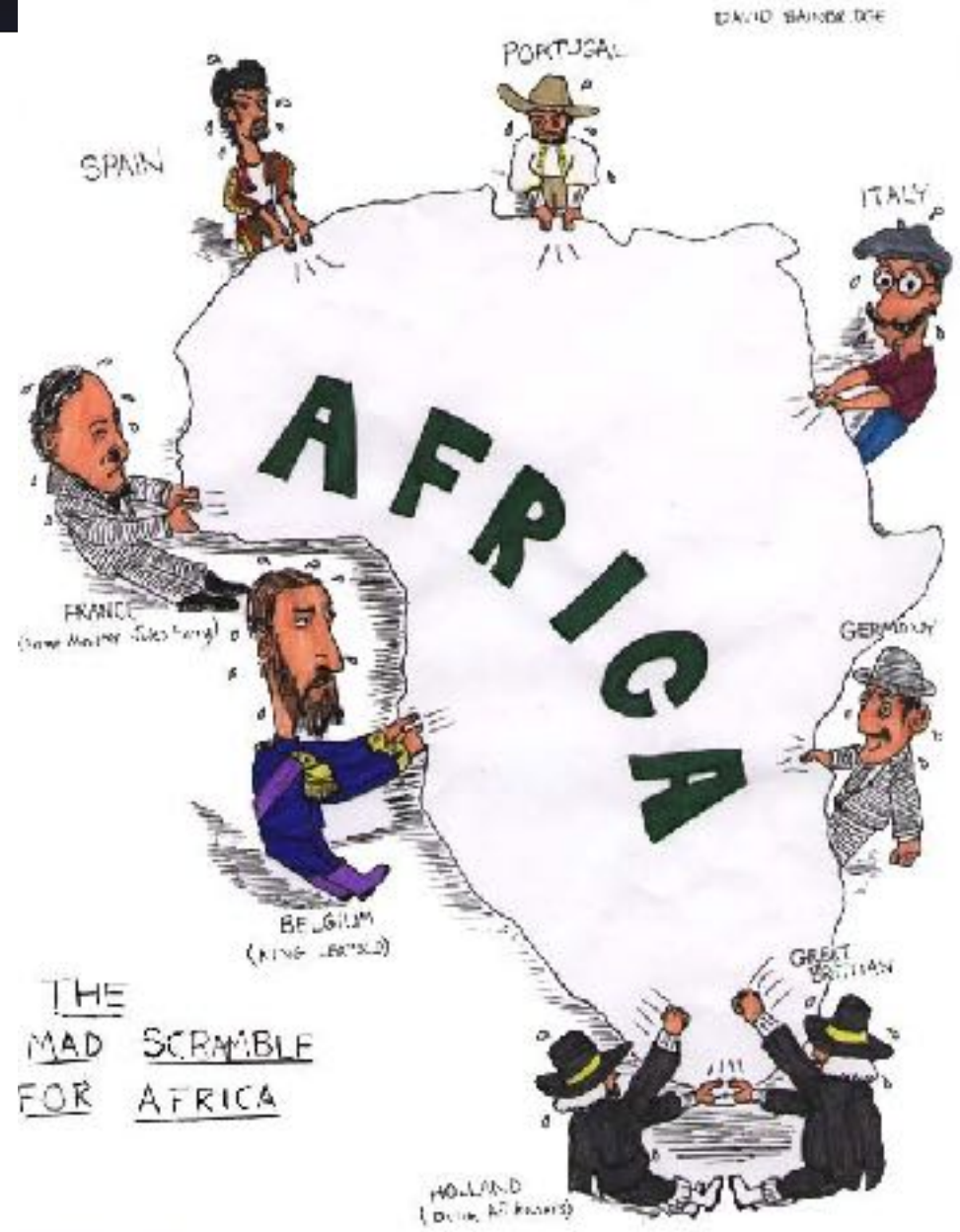
East Africa



A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE East Africa is called the “cradle of humanity” because of the large number of prehistoric human remains found in the region. In 1931, Louis Leakey, an English archaeologist, began doing research in Olduvai Gorge, located in northern Tanzania. Olduvai Gorge has contained the most continuous known record of humanity. The gorge has yielded fossils from 65 individual hominids, or humans that walk upright. In 1959, Leakey and his wife, Mary Leakey, discovered a fossil there of a species called *Homo habilis*, the first human creatures to make stone tools. They lived about two million years ago. Throughout history, East Africa has been a crossroads of humanity because of its geographic position near seas and oceans.

Scramble for Africa

- ◉ In the 19th century, Europe's industrialized nations "scrambled" to colonize Africa to gain their natural resources.
- ◉ All Countries were controlled by Europeans, except Liberia and Ethiopia (independent)
 - ◉ Most nations become independent in the mid 1900's



Ethiopia

- Was not colonized by Europeans
- Emperor Menelik II skillfully protected Ethiopia from Italian invasion with weapons from France and Russia.



112 3.13 Emperor Menelik II, r. 1889-1913

Farming and Tourism

- East Africa is more than 70% rural
- East Africa relies on **cash crops** such as coffee, tea, and sugar which are grown for direct sale.
- Agricultural production has decreased over recent years...why?
- Tourism is also a money maker in East Africa. Many lands have been turned into national parks to secure the land and safety of animals. How does this interfere with agriculture?



Cultures of East Africa

The Masai

- ◉ An ethnic group that lives on the grasslands of the rift valleys in Kenya and Tanzania
- ◉ Herd livestock and farm the land.
- ◉ Typical dress includes clothes made from calfskin or buffalo hide. Men and women wear long robes.
- ◉ Known for their intricate beadwork and jewelry.







growing up in...Kenya

The Masai are members of an ethnic group that live in Kenya. All Masai children address adults as either "mother" or "father."

A typical Masai girl (*pictured at the right*) takes on responsibilities that include:

- household chores
- child care
- the processing and distribution of milk

Each boy is assigned to a group called an age-set. Boys at the bottom of the age-set do the following:

- herd young animals
- learn to protect the herd from predatory animals

Between the ages of 14 and 18, boys receive a new name in a ceremony marking their transition from youth to manhood.

Around eight years of age, boys and girls have the upper part of their ears pierced. Two years later, the lower lobes are pierced. Wooden plugs are inserted into the holes to increase their size. Masai consider large ear lobes to be beautiful.



Healthcare in Modern Africa



The people of East Africa face many health care problems. The most critical is acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which spread throughout Africa in the 1980s and 1990s.

HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA AIDS has become a pandemic and is having a devastating effect on the continent. A **pandemic** is an uncontrollable outbreak of a disease affecting a large population over a wide geographic area. AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). People infected with HIV do not necessarily have AIDS and can carry HIV for years without knowing it. As a result, AIDS statistics can be misleading. The number of people who have AIDS lags behind the number of those infected with HIV. Though AIDS education is increasing, some governments hide the scope of the disease. Many doctors in Africa say that more AIDS cases exist than are reported. Some medical geographers predict that the populations of Africa's worst affected countries could decline by 10 to 20 percent. In 2010, AIDS took the lives of three million people worldwide. Of these, 2.4 million lived in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, nearly 26 million people in Africa were living with either HIV or AIDS.

North Africa



Egypt: The “Gift of the Nile”

Nile Delta



Annual Nile Flooding



95% of the Egyptian people live on 5% of the land!

Roots of Civilization in Africa

- Egypt and the Nile River formed a cultural hearth for this region.

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT

INTERACTION An irrigation ditch from the Nile River nourishes the fields outside Al Fayyum, Egypt. Why has Egypt been called the “gift of the Nile”?



Cairo, Egypt: Most Populated City in North Africa



**17,000,000+
People!**

NYC=8 mill

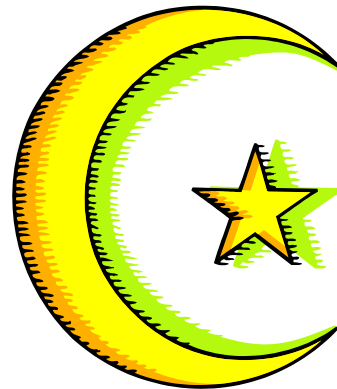
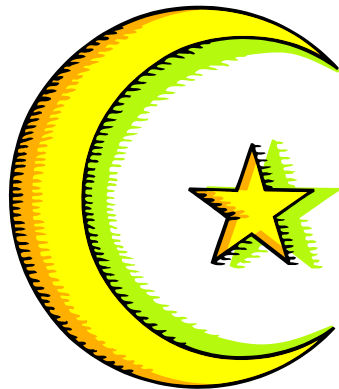
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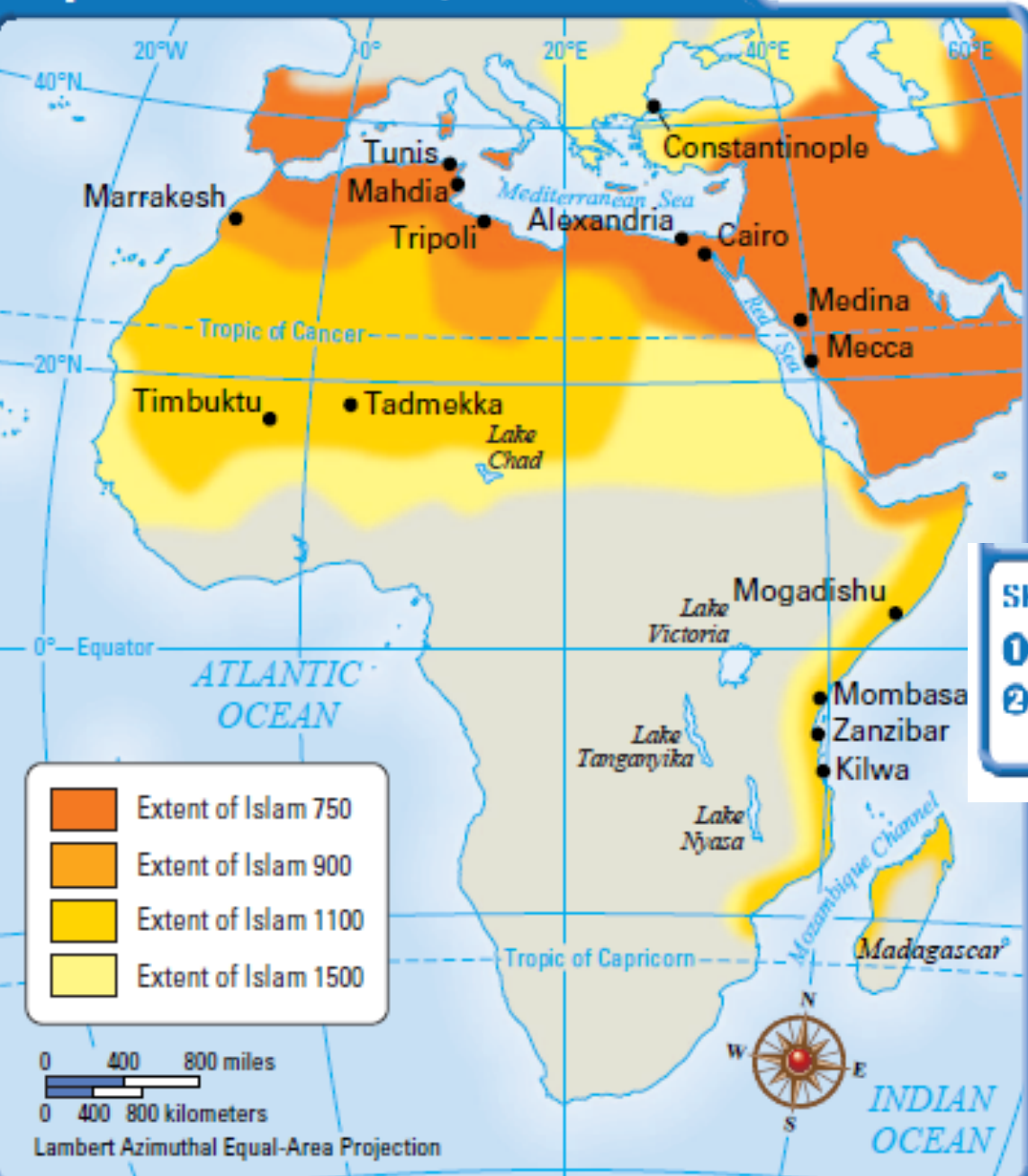
ISLAM IN NORTH AFRICA

North Africa lies close to Southwest Asia and across the Mediterranean Sea from Europe. As a result, it has been invaded and occupied by many people and empires from outside Africa. Greeks and Romans from Europe and Phoenicians and Ottoman Turks from Southwest Asia all invaded North Africa. **Islam, however, remains the major cultural and religious influence in North Africa.**

Muslim invaders from Southwest Asia brought their language, culture, and religion to North Africa. Around 634, Muslim armies swept into lower Egypt, which was then part of the Byzantine Empire. They used the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean to connect North Africa and Europe with Southwest Asia.



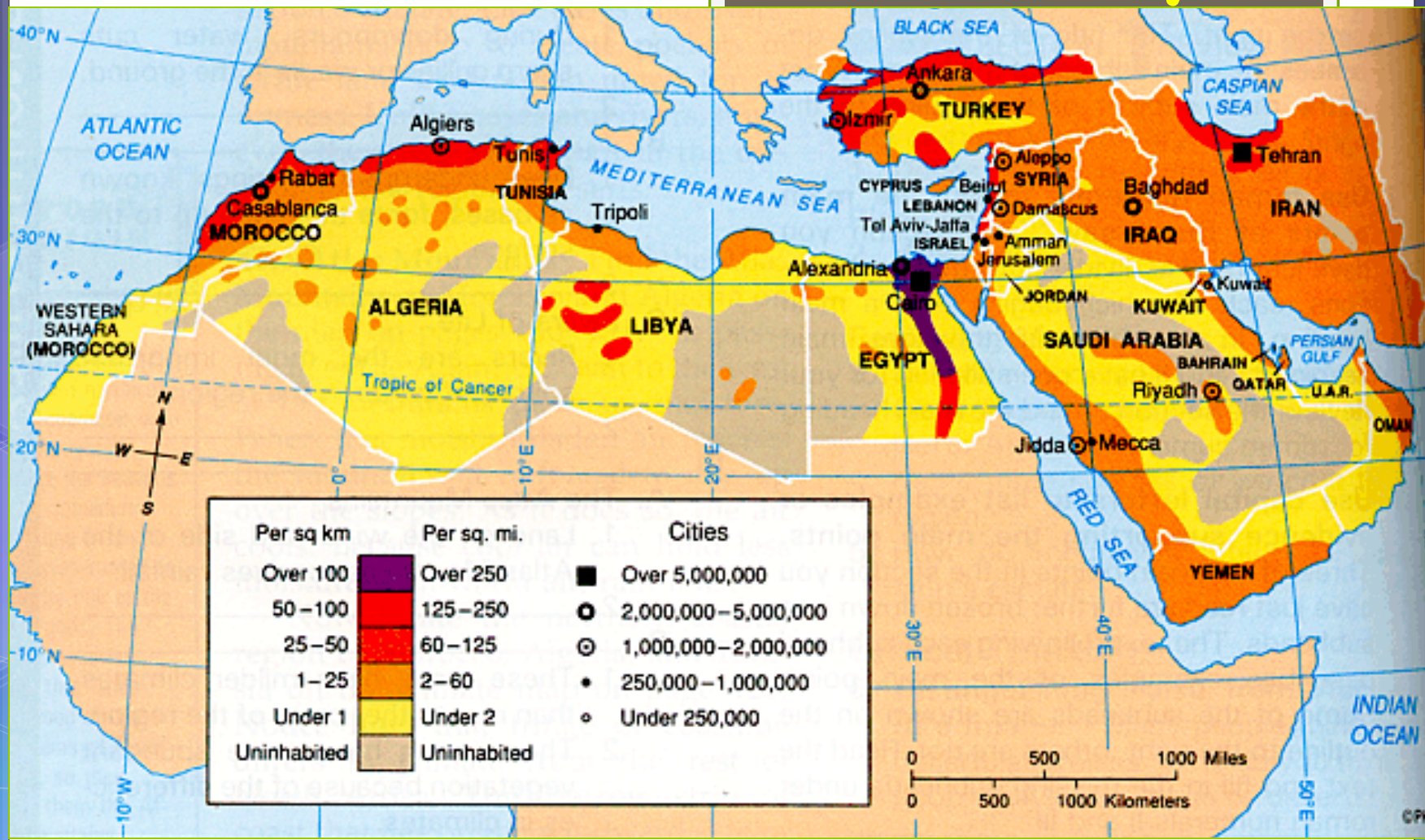
Expansion of Islam, 750–1500



SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

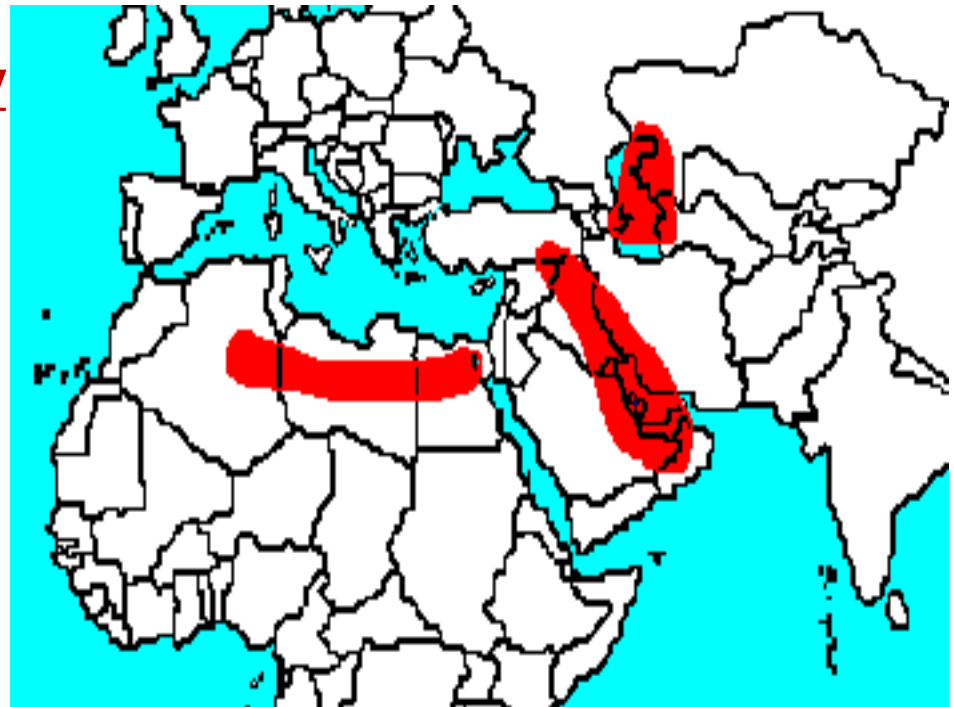
- 1 PLACE** On which continent did Islam begin?
- 2 MOVEMENT** Between which years did Islam achieve its greatest growth in Africa?

Population Density



Economics of Oil

- ◉ North Africa began as an agricultural economy but it now revolves around oil.
- ◉ Oil makes up 99% of Libya export and source of revenue.



A Culture of Markets

- ◉ Souks, or marketplaces, are common features of life in North Africa.



MOVEMENT

Moroccans flood this typical market in Marrakesh.

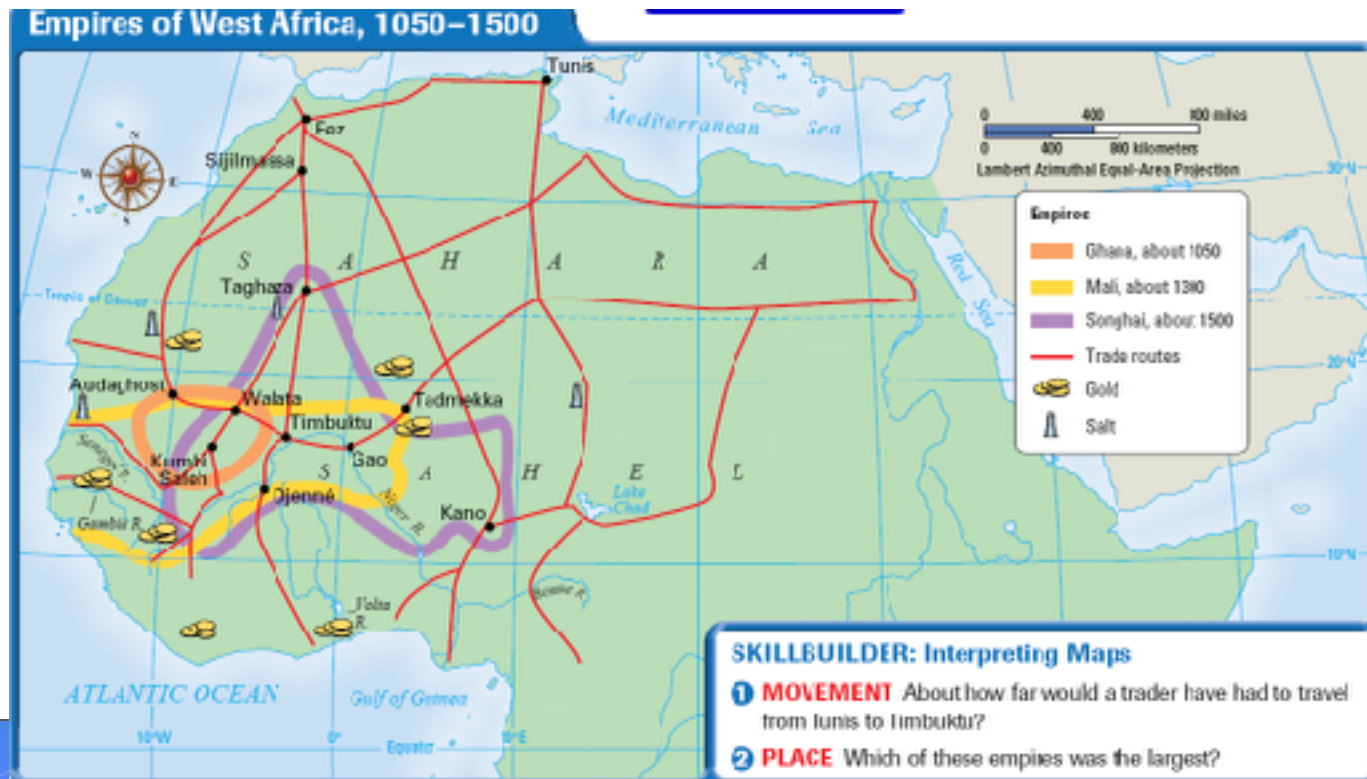
What role do markets play in the movements of goods and people?

West Africa



History

- Before colonialism, most of West Africa was a **stateless society**, which is where people rely on family to govern themselves, rather than an elected gov't or monarch.



Economy in West Africa is still reliant on trade...

- Ghana:
 - Exports gold, diamonds, magnesium, and bauxite (used for aluminum).
 - Political stability in the 90's allowed this country to gain a stable economy
- Sierra Leone:
 - Have the same resources as Ghana but political instability and civil wars have held them back from economic gains.



Ethnic Groups

- ◉ Ashanti live in what is now Ghana. They are known for their work in weaving colorful *asasia*, or *Kente* cloth.
- ◉ The cloth contains colorful woven geometric figures with specific meanings.
- ◉ Only royalty were allowed to wear *Kente* cloth



West
Asha
elabo
textil

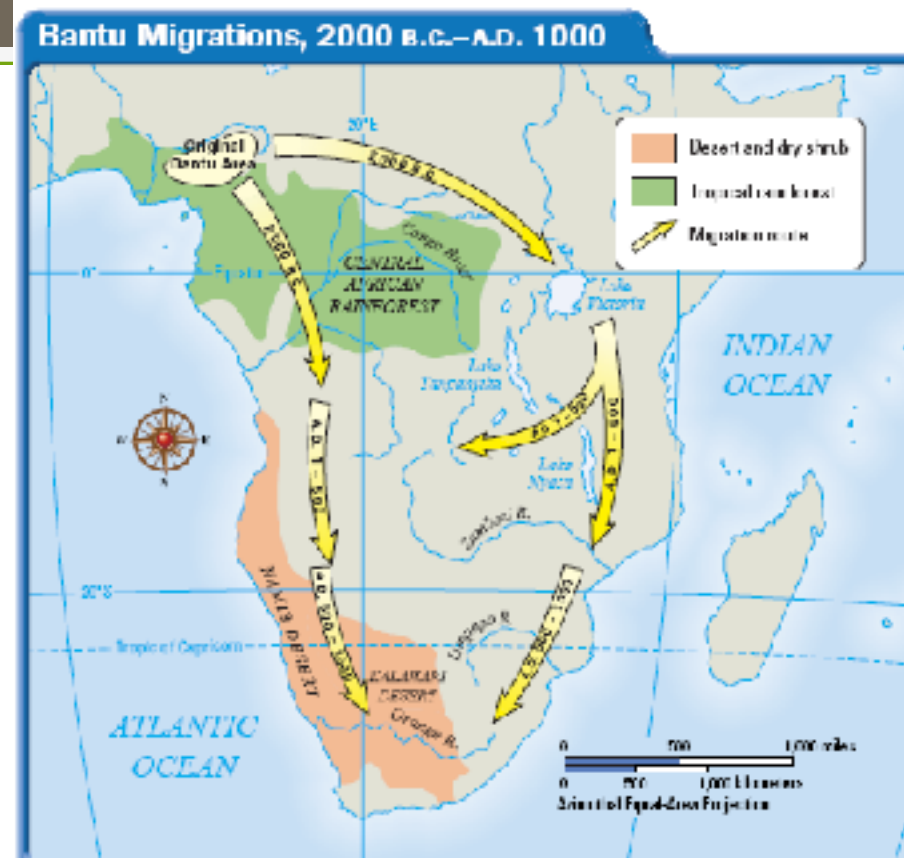
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Central Africa



Bantu Migrations

- The term 'Bantu' refers to group of people who speak the same or similar language with common word "NTU" which means a person.
- In 2000 B.C. beginning in Nigeria, the Bantu people moved southward throughout Africa. On the way they spread their language and cultures.
- There are about 250 Bantu languages, though the distinction between language and dialect is often unclear
- Today about 120 MILLION Africans speak a Bantu language



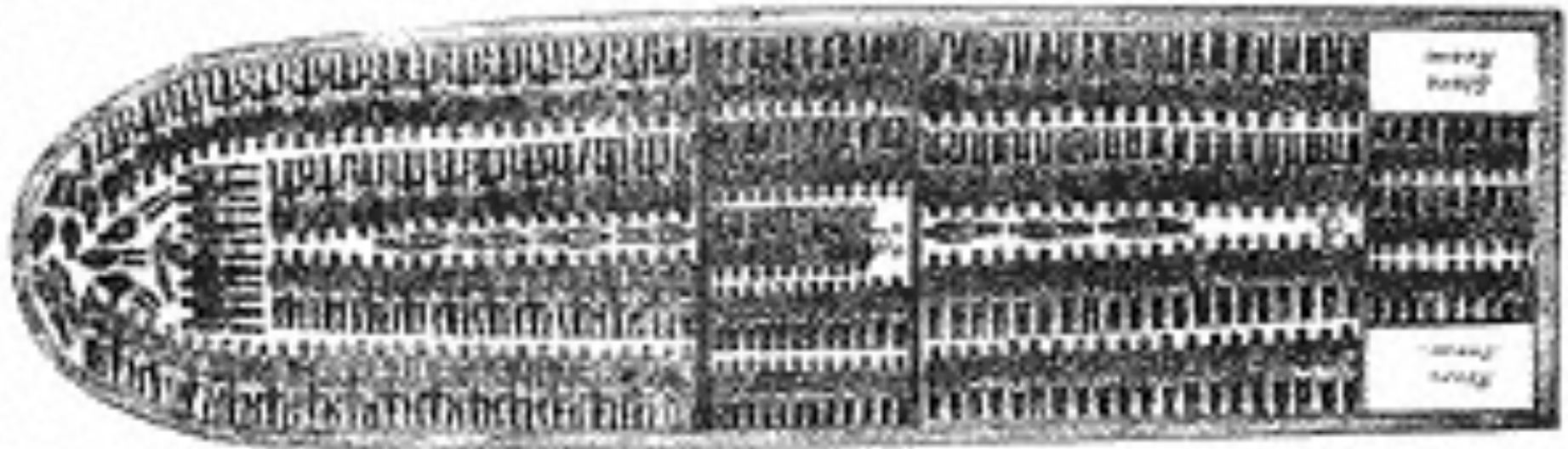
http://www.eduplace.com/kids/socsci/ca/books/bkf3/imaps/AC_06_206_bantu/AC_06_206_bantu.html

European Colonization

◉ The Slave Trade

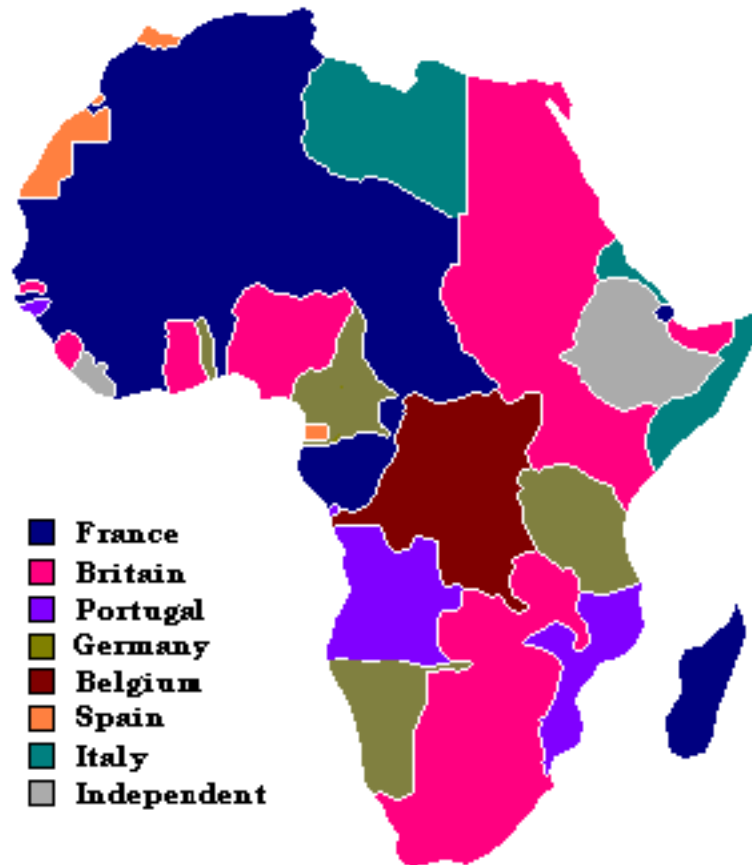
- ◉ Existed for centuries, however Europeans dramatically heightened the traffic
- ◉ Middle Passage- slave trade from Africa to the “New World” (North America)
- ◉ Many died during this month long trip across the Atlantic





Colonial Legacy

- Political boundaries made by Europeans was/is causing **ethnic conflict (2 or more opposing groups occupying same land)**



- Most Central African countries gained independence by the 1960s but the borders that were drawn posed problems.

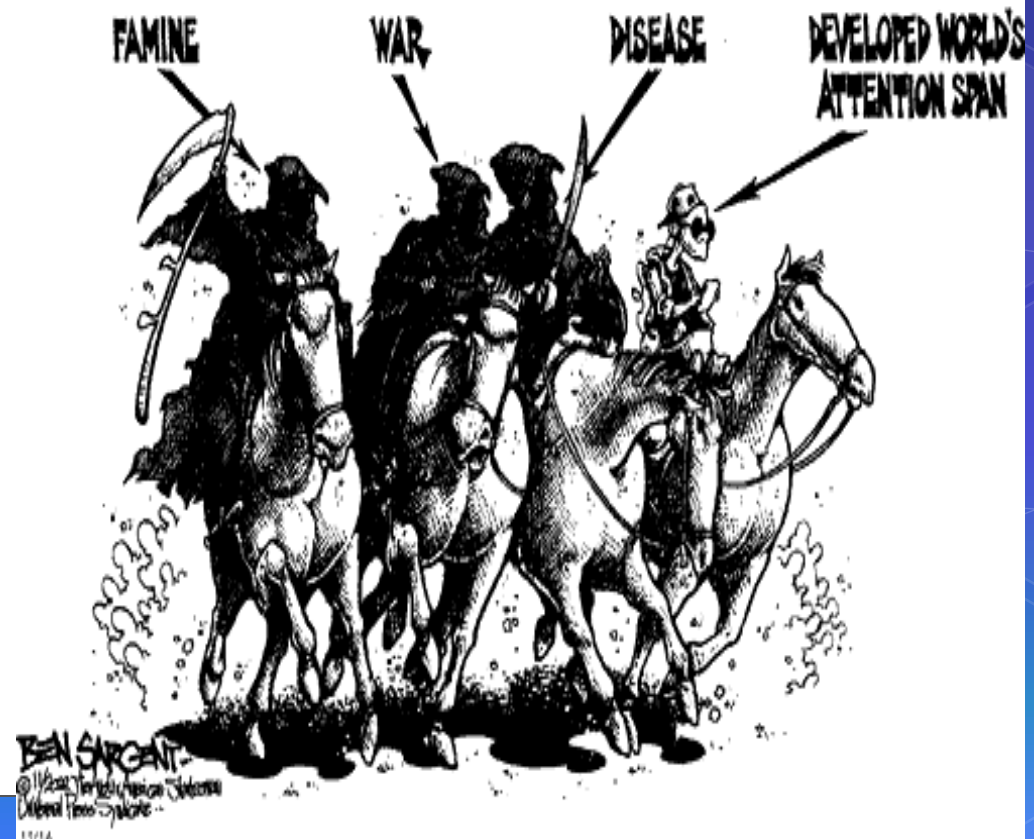
Effects of European C

- ◉ Loss of resources
- ◉ Disruption of political systems
- ◉ Cultural and ethnic oppression of the people
- ◉ No infrastructure (roads, railroads, airports, education system)



Parts of Africa are battling itself

- Some African countries are in a civil war
- One of the main reason's Africa struggles is because each country refuses to look at themselves as ONE entity; ONE unit.



CENTRAL AFRICAN ART For much of the 20th century, some of Central Africa's art has reflected attitudes toward colonialism. After having attained independence in the 1960s, however, these countries wanted to establish their own identities. As a result, many countries banned Western influences in their art. For example, in the 1970s, Mobutu Sese Seko launched a program to promote African—in particular, Congolese—culture above that of the West. Artists who participated wanted to recover the personality of African art by using materials they considered African in origin. ▶

Today, artists from a new generation who did not experience colonialism are coming of age. They are focusing on issues of political instability, urban life, social justice, and crime.



In this painting, *When There is Work, the Village Expands*, the houses in the background represent the village. The people moving in front are cooperating to make the village grow.



Southern Africa



Zulu

- One of the largest South African ethnic groups
- Their language Zulu, is a Bantu language.
- The Zulu kingdom played a major role in South African History
- In the early 19th century the Zulu controlled most of South Africa



South Africa

- ◉ In 1948, the white minority government of South Africa instituted a policy of apartheid.
- ◉ apartheid (complete separation of the races)
 - ◉ separate schools, hospitals, neighborhoods...No political rights
- ◉ Although blacks made up 75% of the population, they received only a small % of land.
- ◉ Apartheid ended in 1991



- Under Apartheid, Zulu were classed as third class citizens and suffered from discrimination



African National Congress



- ◉ In 1912, while Apartheid was still going on, blacks had founded the African National Council (ANC) to fight for their rights.
- ◉ In 1949, Nelson Mandela emerged as one of the leaders. He led a long struggle to end apartheid that resulted in his being imprisoned (sentenced to life!)
- ◉ In the 1980s, nations around the world including the US, pressured South Africa to end Apartheid.

Mandela

- ◉ Mandela worked on ending apartheid from his jail cell.
 - ◉ He was released in 1990
- ◉ In 1994, held first election following policy of universal suffrage (everyone can vote)
- ◉ Nelson Mandela was elected 1st black president of South Africa
- ◉ In 1996, the government passed a new, democratic constitution that guarantees the rights of all citizens.

