

Chapter 7: African Civilizations

Geography

- Deserts-mountains –grasslands-river valleys-jungles
- 5 regions
- N. Africa- thin coastal plane & inland desert along Med. Sea
 - Sahara- worlds largest desert- along coast, rain & temperate climate
 - South of Sahara- lg. Plateau with Savannas (named Sahel) 40% of Africa
- E. Africa – Great Rift Valley E. edge 3,000 mi. N. to S.
- W. Africa- Sahel ends at narrow coastal plain
 - Major rivers- Niger and Zaire (or Congo)
 - No real ports along W. coast- no invasion and communication
- Central- near equator- rainforest -very thick- “Dark Africa”
 - Below rainforest- desert again to southern region
 - Kalahari desert
- S. Africa- highlands- cool and fertile

Nubia and Kush

- 3000 BC- Nubians develop early Kingdom of Nubia- Southern Nile R.
 - Traded w/ early Egyptians
 - Believed much cultural diffusion
- 2000 BC- Nubian civilization developed & became Kingdom of Kush
- 1500 BC – taken over by Egypt
 - Mostly economic reasons- taxes on trade and goods
 - Important cities: Napata & Meroe along main trade route (wealth)
 - 1000 BC broke away from Egypt
 - 724- BC King Pianki (pee-Ahnk-hee) defeated Egyptians
 - Both kingdoms ruled from Kush capital Napata
 - 671 BC Assyrians invade and take Egypt – used iron weapons
 - Kushites develop iron tech. From Assyrians and new capital- Meroe
 - Major iron production and trade center
 - Wealthy merchants pattern buildings and homes after Rome
- Around 500 BC Kingdom of Axum (along Red Sea) invaded (pg 187)
- Axum- along Red Sea –traded with Egypt-Greece-Rome-Persia-India
- Took many Roman elements of culture
 - Christianity- King Ezana first to convert
 - 2 shipwrecked Christians from Syria – found and brought to king
 - Lived several years there and convinced King to convert
 - 330 AD kingdom officially Christian
 - Christianity also dominate in Kush and Egypt
- Began to decline around 600 AD because of Islam
- Later became Ethiopia

-South of Sahara

- 700- 200 BC Nok culture (now Nigeria)
 - Clay pots & iron tools and weapons
- Pop. Increased b/c of better farming- land scarce and over worked
 - Pop. Began migration out of are & movement lasted 1000 yrs.
 - Migration called Bantu migration
 - B/c many people share elements of Bantu base language
- Bantu migration. – No real pattern
 - Some by rivers- others over land (new crops, bananas and yarn)
 - Cultural diffusion but Bantu dominate over others
 - Bantu speaking groups dominant South of Sahara
- Bantu village life
 - With diffusion and migration became divided into 100 ethnic groups
 - Different beliefs- customs-traditions
 - Mostly formed large communities where descends from one family
 - Many matrilineal
 - Jobs assigned to specific age groups of males and females
 - (Age sets) boys under 12 herded & girls planted with mother
 - Usually children 12 and older have ceremonies into adulthood
- Religion-
 - One main god –created and ruled universe
 - Many lesser gods- in charge of daily affairs of people and nature
 - Spirits dead relatives lived in village of living and guided
 - Stable society w/ religious beliefs
 - Still influenced by Asians (Persia- India) and Europe

-Arts

- Sculpture- figures/masks/decorative items
- Mostly wood- bronze-ivory-baked clay
- Masks were connection with the living and dead
 - By wearing- able to ask dead for guidance
- Music
 - Individual and choral
 - Used for royal court and manual labor
- Oral literature passed down

Kingdoms in West Africa

- Rich mineral deposits/ much trade
- Monotheistic and became mostly Muslim after 700 AD
- Kingdom of Ghana- richest b/c between salt and gold deposits
 - Between 300 and 1200 Ad controlled 100 sq. miles
 - Rich from taxes on trade
 - King called a “Ghana” a- land so vast- Kingdom known as Ghana
 - Muslims from N. - cloth/metal ware/salt important to Ghana
 - Traders from Ghana go north w/ Kolanuts and crops and gold
 - Muslim traders brought Islam and much of Ghana to convert
 - 1000 Ads Ghana trade centers attacked by Almoravoids
 - Muslims from N. Africa
 - Ghana kingdom decline and break up into Islamic states

Kingdom of Mali

- Breakaway state of Ghana
- Powerful kings- began taking other territory
 - Early king- Sundiata Keita- late 1200's took over old Ghana
 - Restored salt and gold trade interrupted by Almoravoids
 - Promoted agriculture- soldiers controlled burns
 - Surplus crops and many taxes
 - Greatest king –Mansa Musa- 1312- 1332 AD
 - Opened more trade routes and powerful army
 - Brought Islam to Mali
 - Made pilgrimage to Mecca- famous journey-
 - 12000 slaves- dressed in silk- bars of gold
 - Gave much gold away
 - Brought Spanish architect and built mosques
 - Built palace for Musa at capital- Timbuktu
 - Art and cultural center and scholars
 - Mansa dies and kingdom attacked by Berbers (from Sahara region)
 - Warriors from tropical south attack
 - Inside kingdom- people from Songhai region attacked
 - Niger R. Valley- had been taken over- revolted
 - By 1500s AD Mali split into several independent states
- Kingdom of Songhai
 - Farmers –fishers-traders and strong leaders
 - Late 1400's ruler Sunni Ali-territorial wars
 - Took Timbuktu and Djienne
 - Ali Muslim- son non Muslim
 - Alicies- son comes to power- Muslim pop. Revolt
 - Puts in Muslim ruler-Assika Muhammad
 - Assika ruled 1493- 1528 and greatest height of Songhai power
 - Divided emp. Into 5 provinces w/
 - Tax collectors, governor, court of judges, trade inspector
 - Army and navy maintain peace
 - Center of Timbuktu
 - Islamic law-Quran- Holy Book
 - 1528 overthrown by son
 - Several people fought for rule and weakened kingdom
 - 1589 Morocco sent army to attack gold trading centers
 - Used guns and cannons against spears- bows-swords
 - 1600s' Songhai kingdom ended
- African Trading Cities and States
 - Mostly in East Africa
 - By 500 BC many towns trading with Arabian Peninsula and South Asia
 - By 900 AD Arab and Persian merchants settled along East Africa
 - Dominated trade along coast
 - Coastal City-States
 - By 1200 several African trading settlements became major trading centers
 - Kilwa- Sofala- Malindi- Mombassa
 - Exported gold-ivory-iron-rhino horn to Asia
 - By 1300's became multicultural centers

- Blend African and Islamic cultures
- Cultural diffusion by trade and intermarriage
- Muslims brought written language
- Inland trading centers-Bantu dominate
 - Mining communities became sites of major trade for E. Africa
 - Imports- silk/porcelain/glass/carpets
 - Exports- slaves/ivory/minerals
- Territorial Divisions
 - Bantu states grew wealthy
 - By 1400's began fighting each other for control of routes
 - Trade disrupted
 - Europeans began to arrive and want control of all

STONEKING'S NOTES - DO NOT USE TO MAKE YOUR OWN