

Summary of One Pager-

In 1240, Sundiata (The Lion King) defeated a powerful local king and established his kingdom of Mali. Mansa Musa was considered one of the greatest kings of the Mali Empire and under his rulership the Mali empire expanded to become one of the biggest Empires in west Africa and one of the wealthiest. Mali grew and expanded as a result of the salt trade to the point where it grew to be almost the size of western Europe. They controlled the trade routes in the upper Niger river and the gold mines at its source. Mali represented a unification of several environmental realms: desert, short and tall grasslands. Mali's religion was Islam. Following Mansa Musa's death around 1337, the empire fell victim to declining influence around Africa.