

# Thematic Timelines:

## Sub-Saharan African Civilization

### Period 1: 1200 CE - 1450 CE

#### Period 1 – Post-Classical Era – 1200 CE - 1450 CE

- Bantu-speaking people migrate to eastern and southern Africa, bringing the Bantu language, tech, iron, and animals to the regions (1000 CE)
- Swahili city-states established as base for gold and salt trade, being converted by Muslim diaspora missionaries and mosques via interaction with the Indian Ocean Trade Network (IOTN)
- **Great Zimbabwe** functioned as an imperial and trade center from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century with traces of goods from as far as China
- Polynesians migrate to Madagascar, bringing bananas
- **Timbuktu** established as the premiere trade city in the TSTN, adopting **Islam**, and providing some of the only manufactured goods in sub-Saharan Africa
- Later established many Islamic schools and mosques (150+ Quranic schools), but Islam not enforced by any West African state officially
- Ghana established as the dominate West African kingdom from 800-1200 CE
- Growing wealth and power of **Mali** through trade (Timbuktu) conquers and incorporates Ghana as a vassal state, and exerts Mali power throughout West Africa
- **The Hausa kingdoms** formed a Confederation Empire ( led mostly through Kano) that stretch in the Niger River to Lake Chad from the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century
- The **Zagwe** (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries) and **Solomonic dynasties** (1270-1974) ruled as a Christian empire in present-day Ethiopia and Eritrea from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to 1974 These kingdoms gained wealth, prestige, and advise from trade and interaction with Muslims and Muslim leaders from the **Abbasid Caliphate** to the north
- Islamic law was not incorporated into Mali or Ghana, and women did not share the Arab / Persia cultural traditions of covering up; W. Africans also open about sexuality (much to the disliking of Arab Muslims)
- **Mansa Musa** of Mali wealthy and influential; pilgrimage to **Mecca**, spread gold and inflation in caliphates as he traveled

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### Period 2: 1450 CE – 1750 CE

#### Period 2 – Early Modern Era – 1450 CE – 1750 CE

- Empire of Mali weakened and dissolved after losing connection to the Islamic caliphates in the 14th and 15th centuries
- **The Asante Empire** was formed in West African from 1670 to 1957
- **The Kingdom of the Kongo** was formed in Central and West Africa from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and benefited from the slave trade with Europeans
- **Songhai Empire** arose out of West Africa to dominate the former areas of Mali and parts of Ghana
- Islamic law imposed by Songhai rulers, forcing Islam on West Africans and incorporating Islamic / **Quranic law**
- Songhai rulers forced and coerced the rich merchants and elites to convert to and enforce Islam, and additionally established and used existing Islamic schools to indoctrinate the population and preach obedience to rulers and the king
- Songhai Empire was largely ended by the invading **Saadi Dynasty** from Morocco in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century; the Moroccans sought wealth
- Portuguese begin exploring the coast of West Africa, and establish some trading forts and port cities
- West African slave trade began by Portugal, with slaves being used or sold by Europeans in the Americas on the plantations and haciendas,
- **Triangular Trade** system used to enrich African kingdoms, European states and companies at the expense (Middle Passage death and disease) and exploitation of West African prisoners of war
- The slave trade caused demographic and social changes in the families and hierarchies of sub-Saharan Africans
- **Ana Nzinga** resisted Portuguese colonialism in Central Africa

# Thematic Timelines:

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### Period 3: 1750 CE – 1900 CE

#### Period 3 – Modern Era – 1750 CE – 1900 CE

- Second wave imperialism, Scramble for Africa by Europeans for raw materials (French Algeria, British Ghana, South Africa, and Egypt, Portuguese Angola, Belgians Congo, etc.)
- Europeans brutally controlled colonies for raw materials and exploited natives for cheap labor (**King Leopold** and the **Belgian Congo**)
- **Boer Wars** in South Africa remove the Dutch and establish South Africa as a British settler colony
- **Unilever** operated as a transnational English-Dutch company in British West Africa in the Belgian Congo
- **Zulu Kingdom** formed in South Africa in the 1830s by **Shaka Zulu**
- **Anglo-Zulu War** in 1870s incorporates Zulu Kingdom into South Africa, but not after the first defeat of European forces by native Africans at the **Battle of Iswalanda**
- **Apartheid** and segregation policies established in the early 20th century to keep native black Africans suppressed socially, politically, and economically
- **Samory Touré** founded the Wassoulou Empire as an Islamic empire and resisted French colonial rule in West Africa from 1882 to 1898
- **Yaa Asantewaa** lead and the Chante resistance against British colonialism in West Africa in 1900
- **Sokoto Caliphate** operated in Nigeria from 1804 to 1903 when defeated and corporative of the British Empire
- **Palm oil** produced in sub-Saharan Africa and exported to European countries 19<sup>th</sup> century

# Thematic Timelines:

## Sub-Saharan African Civilization

### Period 6: 1900 CE – Present

#### Period 4 – Contemporary Era – 1900 CE – Present

- Self-determination themes of **WWI** and **WWII** heard in Africa as millions of former colonial subjects and military servicemen gain knowledge and education in Western universities (**Kwame Nkrumah**)
- Movements to de-colonize after WWII in Algeria, Angola, Ghana, and the Congo
- Peaceful exit from the British Empire under Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana after Ghanaese elections
- **Pan-Africanism** developed as an idea for political and economic cooperation and support of the freedom and independence of African peoples by Kwame Nkrumah, opposed to imperialism
- African socialism develops as a response to the harsh imperial capitalist system in the Congo and Angola; Soviets provide financial support to Angolan fighters vs. the US-aided Portuguese
- **Mengistu Haile Mariam** attempted to establish a Marxist- Leninist economy in Ethiopia through totalitarian tactics
- **Julius Nyerere** established a one-party authoritarian Marxist- Leninist regime in Tanzania in 1960s and 70s
- Violent independence movements succeed in Algeria, Angola, and the Congo (know details)
- **Idi Amin**—a brutal, genocidal dictator—supported in Uganda by the U.S. simply because it was anti-communist
- **Tutsi** killings and genocides by the **Hutu** begin in the poorly-drawn post-European border of Rwanda in the 1990s
- **Nelson Mandela** (inspired by Gandhi and MLK Jr.) peacefully move for the end of Apartheid segregation and racist policies in South Africa, succeeding in the 1990s and advocated peace and reconciliation afterwards