

# Empires of Africa

## Central Sudanic States

### Kanem-Bornu

- Kanem organized first millennium C.E.
  - o Long lasting empire
- Organized mid-15<sup>th</sup> Century
  - o Replaced Kanem
  - o Created by separatists from Kanem
  - o Kanuri ethnic group ruling class
- Centralized Government
- Organized descent system
- Islamic
- Trouble with neighbors
  - o Competitor of Hausa for trade
  - o Resisted Fulani advancements
- Existed in form till mid-19<sup>th</sup> century

### Hausa

- 1000-1500 C.E.
- Made up of seven major city-states
  - o Kano and Katsina
  - o Autonomous
  - o Dependent of Trans-Saharan Trade
  - o United by common language and culture
- Primarily agriculturist
- Converted to Islam in mid-15<sup>th</sup> Century
- Heavily influenced by Fulani migrants
- Formed model of Islamic culture for west Africa
  - o Patrilineal family structure
  - o Bilateral descent
  - o Secondary social role for women

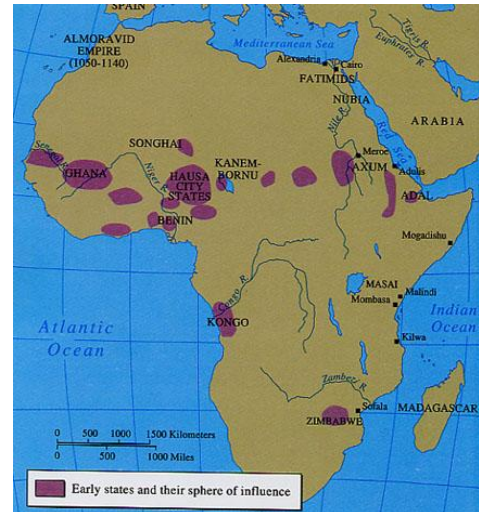
### Fulani

- Migrated to area mid-14<sup>th</sup> Century
- Nomadic herdsman
  - o Cattle
- Settled Hausa lands 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century
- 1804 declared Jihad against Hausa
  - o Overthrew Hausa ruling class
- British later ruled Nigeria through the Fulani elites
- Impacts
  - o Dominated Nigeria area during colonial era
  - o One of the largest ethnic groups

## Forest States of West Africa

### Ashanti

- Rose around 1680 C.E.
- Expanded 1700-1750 C.E.
  - o At the expense of smaller weaker neighbors
- Government
  - o Central government
    - Worked with tribal chiefs



- Asantehene
      - King
      - Had full power
        - Consulted chiefs and people
- Society
  - Large gold deposits
  - Matrilineal
  - Rich language and culture
    - Oral literature and music
  - Used Arabic for official purposes but were not Muslims
- Involved in Slave Trade with Britain
  - Shut down in 1807
- Declared a British crown colony in 1901
  - Now Ghana

### Yoruba

- Consisted of 50 or so city-states
  - Now western Nigeria
  - Common language, belief system, and creation myth
  - Oyo was main city
    - Destroyed by Fulani 1820-1830 C.E.
    - Ibadan replaced as cultural center
- Government
  - Each city ruled by an Oba
    - Hereditary
    - Ceremonial
  - Chiefs
    - Day to day decisions
    - Not hereditary
  - Lots of wars between city-states
    - Captives sold into slavery to Americas



### Benin

- Mid-14<sup>th</sup> Century
- Edo speakers
- Modern day mid-west Nigeria
- Early contact with Europeans
  - 1485 C.E. first contact
    - Portuguese
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Century
    - French, Dutch, Portuguese, and English
    - Conquered by British in 1897
- Militarily strong
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Century expanded westward
  - Benin City
    - Earth walls and dry moats
      - Over 100 miles
- Government
  - Oba ruler
    - Religious and administrative leader
  - Uzama
    - Seven Hereditary nobles