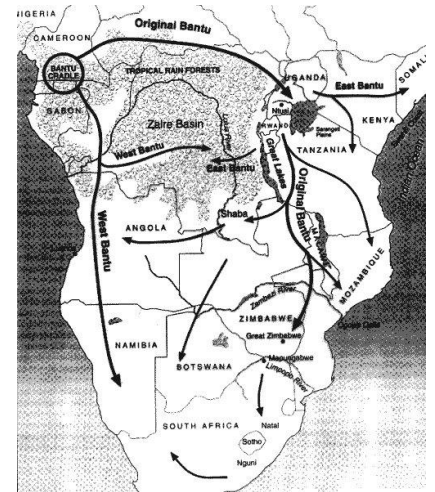


# Empires of Africa

## Bantu Migration

### Origins

- Bantu
  - o Group of people that shared similar language and cultural traits
- Spread
  - o Started in modern day Nigeria
    - 3000-500 B.C.E. – Spread to Interlaken and Congo Area
    - 500 B.C.E. – 400 C.E. – South Central Africa
    - 400 – 1100 C.E. – Coastal and Southern
- Causes
  - o Slash and burn agriculture
  - o Population increase
    - Could not move North
      - Too densely populated
  - o Needed resources to make Iron
    - Iron ore and wood
- Effects
  - o Forced out inhabitants
    - San and BaMbuti
  - o Carry culture and language with them
  - o Intermingle with inhabitants
  - o Agricultural practices
  - o Ironworking



## Christian States of North Africa

### Axum

- Ancient History
  - o Menelik I – original king
    - Related to King Solomon
  - o Related to Kushites
    - Also Berbers
  - o Conversion to Christianity
    - King Ezana
      - Trading Relationship?
    - Ca. 340 C.E.
    - Frumentius and Aedesius
- Geography
  - o Located in NE Africa
    - Centered in Ethiopia area
  - o Hard to unify
    - Desert
    - Mountains in north
- Political Control
  - o King had centralized power
    - With regional rulers and chieftains
    - King's power derived through control of trade
- Conflict with Muslims
  - o Muslims conquer northern Africa
    - Axum cut off from the rest of Christian world
  - o 702 C.E.

- Ethiopian Pirates sack Jidda and Mecca
      - Muslims destroy Adulis
        - Throws Area into dark age 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century
        - Axum decline and fall
- Decline
  - Switch of trade routes to Persian Gulf
    - Not Red Sea
  - Soil erosion and destruction of forests
  - Muslims taking control of trade

#### Christianity in Africa

- Introduced by Romans
- Broke off in 451 C.E.
  - Egyptian Coptic Church
- Spread into Nubia
  - Resisted Islamic spread
  - Militarily united against anything out of Egypt
    - Including Islam
- Conflict with Muslims
  - Muslims stronger

#### Ethiopia

- 850-1550 C.E.
- Successors to Axum
- Prester John Myth
  - Europeans “discover” Ethiopia and help them vs Muslim neighbors
- Trade
  - Recovered around 1000 C.E.
  - With Fatimid Egypt
    - Sold mostly women slaves

#### Spread of Islam in North Africa

- 642 C.E. Arabs expelled Byzantines in Egypt
  - Moved capital inland out of reach of Byzantine navy
    - Could still dominate Nile
- Al-Maghrib
  - “The West”
  - Fierce opposition from Byzantines and Berbers
  - 690 C.E. Arabs capture Carthage from Byzantines
  - Berbers similar fighting style
    - Light attacks
      - Camels
    - Lacked unity and cooperation
    - Berbers fall by 711 C.E.
- Occupation
  - Taxed non-Muslims
    - Berbers quickly dropped Christianity
      - Slow to pick up Islam
    - Tax good source of income for Muslims
      - Berber captives sold for slavery another
  - Inclusion in Army
    - Berbers good fit
      - Converted as part of training
  - Language

- Arabic became language of Administration and Religion
- Religion
  - Mostly Shi'ite
  - Kharijite
    - Acceptance of non-Arabs
    - Resisted Arab rule

## Islamic States of North and Sub-Saharan Africa

### Trans-Saharan Trade

- Camels used for extensive trade
- Encouraged by Muslims
  - Mediterranean world got a taste for Sub-Saharan goods
    - Ivory
    - Ostrich feathers
    - Furs
    - Salt
    - Gold

### Ghana

- Soninke people
  - Located in modern Mali and Mauritania
  - Used Iron technology in agriculture
- Located at start of major Trans-saharan trade routes
  - Allowed kings to grow massively powerful through taxation of trade
    - Arabs wrote of Ghana as the "Land of Gold"
- Ca. 1050 Ghana expanded into Muslim lands
  - Led to conversion of Ghana
    - Berbers claim victory over Ghana
  - Came into conflict with Almoravids
    - Lost control of trade
  - Conquered in 1076
  - Early 1200s Soninke disperse

### Almoravids

- Abdallah ibn Yashin
  - 1036 C.E.
  - Islamic scholar brought to western Berbers
  - Began process of introducing strict Islamic followings
    - Accused of becoming too interested in plunder and not as interested in spreading faith
  - Established base at a Ribat
    - equivalent of Castles, became cultural centers on frontier
    - Almoravids means "people of the Ribat" in Arabic
- Conquest
  - Abdallah Gain converts
    - Yahya ibn Umar and his brother Abu-Bakr
      - Helped Abdallah in conversion of western Saharah
      - Army spurred by religious fervor and promise of plunder
  - 1055 – Controlled Trans-Saharan trade routes
  - 1057 Yahya dies, 1059 Abdallah dies
    - Leaving Abu-Bakr in control
  - Abu-Bakr begins jihad against south
    - Leaves cousin Yusuf ibn Tashufin in charge of North
    - 1076 C.E. Abu conquers Ghana
    - Abu dies in 1087 stopping expansion of empire

