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. – Costal 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 7th-10th 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
- Sonike 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 Sonike 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 interest 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 Sahara
      - 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