Empires of Africa

Islamic Empires of Sub-Saharan Africa

Alhomads
- 1130-1269 C.E.
- Led by religious zealots
  o Led by Ibn Timart
  o thought Almoravids had strayed from Islamic beliefs
  o Conquered Almoravid lands and replaced rulers
  o Expanded into Spain

- Cultural Revolution
  o Mosques became centers of learning
  o Spread the Arabic Language
  o Spread proper following of Islamic faith
  o Advancements in numbering system as well as creation of algebra
  o First to start secular study of chemistry
    ■ Allowed for medical advances

Mali
- 1235-1610 C.E.
- Region divided among warlords
  o Formerly Ghana Empire

- Sundjata of the Keita clan
  o organized and defeated other factions
  o established Mali empire
  o Established title of Mansa“”
- Empire converted to Islam after Sundjata

- Mansa Musa
  o Went on pilgrimage to Mecca
    ■ 1324 – 1325 C.E.
    ■ Became an even more traditional follower of Islam
    ■ Brought presents with him
      ■ wealth and greatness
      ■ lowered the value of gold in Egypt
  o Brought an Islamic revival back to Western Africa
  o Also brought back scholars
    ■ Helped instill Islamic faith in Urban Population

Songhay
- 1340-1591 C.E.
- Established independent Kingdom
  o Broke from Mali
- Expands trans-Saharan trade
- Came heavily in contact with Muslims
- Grew from original cities of Gao and Kukiya
- Expands along Niger River and captured Timbuktu
  o Sonni Ali the Great
    ■ 1464-92 C.E.
    ■ Began golden age
  o Timbuktu was a traditional Islamic city
  o Vital to the trans-Saharan trade network
  o Cultural center

Impacts
- Heavy Islamic influence in area
- Empires taken over by Europeans
  o Brought Christianity to coasts