

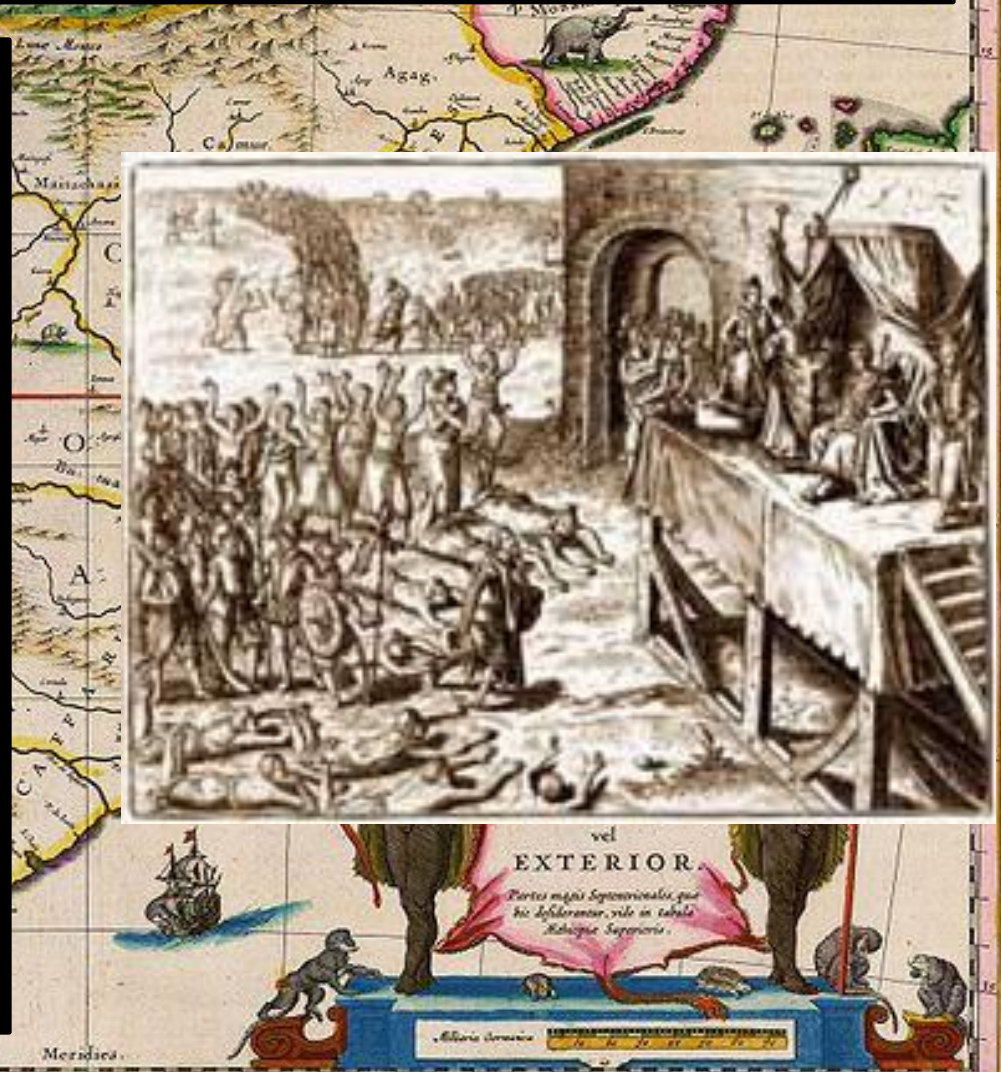
A historical map of Africa, likely from a 17th-century European atlas, showing the continent's outline and major regions. The map is decorated with various illustrations, including ships, animals, and a figure holding a spear. Two large black text boxes are overlaid on the map. The top box contains the title 'The Pre-Colonial Empires of Central and South Africa', and the bottom box lists 'Kongo, Luba, Great Zimbabwe, Mutapa'. The map includes labels for 'CONGO REGNUM', 'Angola', 'Sibia', 'Mozambique', and 'Ethiopia Inferior, vel Exterior'.

The Pre-Colonial Empires of Central and South Africa

Kongo, Luba, Great Zimbabwe,
Mutapa

Case Study: Kongo Kingdom

- Founded in 14th century in w. central Africa
- Kingdom divided into 6 parts each with a governor
 - Similar to government used by Alexander the Great



Decline of the Kongo

- 1482 – first Portuguese explorer
- Portuguese worked to weaken and control empire from inside
 - Controlled kings
 - Slave Trade



Kongo Central Question

While Europeans often claimed that the African peoples “needed” their help, how does the Kongo Kingdom help demonstrate otherwise?

Governmental Case Study: Luba

- 1585-1889
- Located in Central Africa
- Developed government similar to European and Japanese Feudalism



Luba's Government

Very strong government

- Mulopwe – King
- Bamfumus – nobles
- Balopwe – Clan Kings
- Mbudye – Historians/"men of Memory"



Decline of Luba

- Raiding by slavers brought division and mis-trust between Luba and kingdoms on the coast
- Area eventually fully taken over by Belgium in 19th century.



Luba Central Question

How does Luba's societal structure dispel the European myth of Africa as full of lawlessness?

Case Study: Great Zimbabwe

- 1100-1400 C.E.
- Center of Kingdom of Zimbabwe
- “Zimbabwe”=Stone House (Shona)
- Famous for making large walled city, with stone houses
- Built up trade network with continent (Kilwa) and beyond (China)



The Walls of Great Zimbabwe



Great Zimbabwe Ruins



Meridiana

Albergo Venezia

The Fall of Great Zimbabwe

- Decline in Trade
- Political Instability
- Famine
- Drought

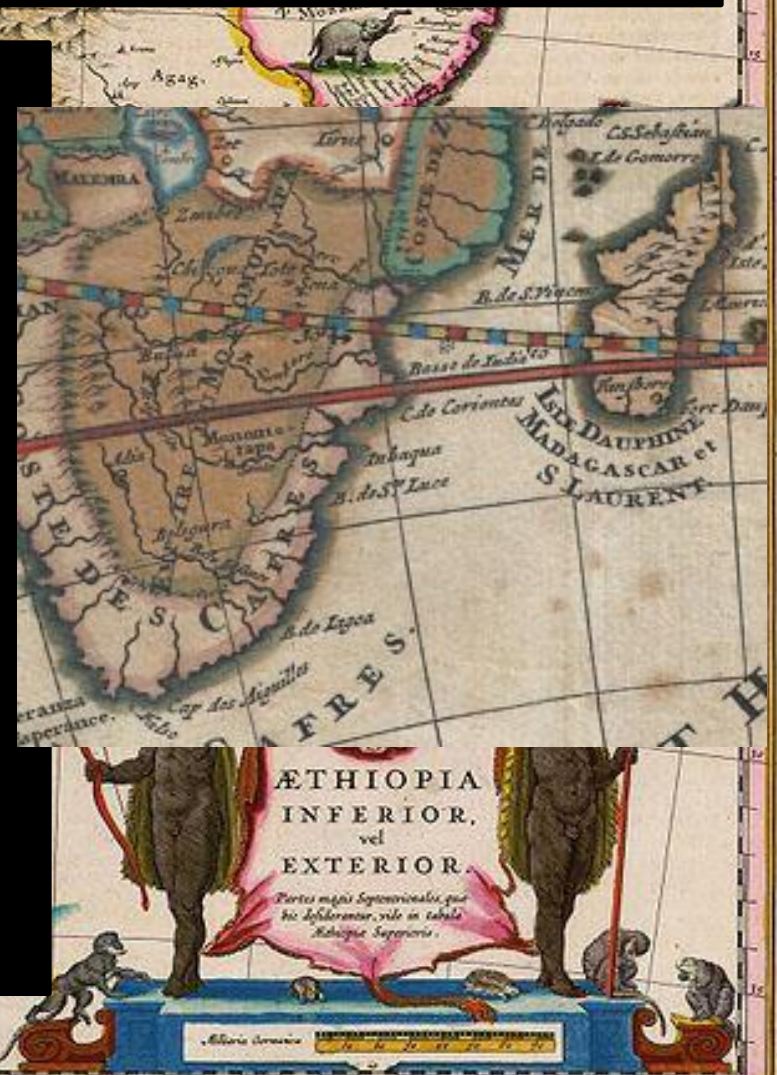


Zimbabwe Central Question

How does the example of Zimbabwe help demonstrate the sophistication of African societies?

The Mutapa Kingdom

- 1430-1760
- Built up as successor of Zimbabwe empire
- Located in Southern Africa around Zambezi river
- Built up as trading empire
 - Connections to Muslim traders of east coast



Culture of Mutapa

- Belief in spirits and cult of royal ancestors
- “Mhondoros” – maintained shrines, passed on oral histories
- “Chibadi” – men dressed as women (considered an honor)



Decline of the Mutapa

- Portuguese traders and missionaries influence begins around mid 16th century
- Empire declined and was absorbed by Butwa empire, then Portuguese



Mutapa Central Question

How might the ideas of Ethnocentrism help explain why the Europeans may have misinterpreted Mutapa culture?