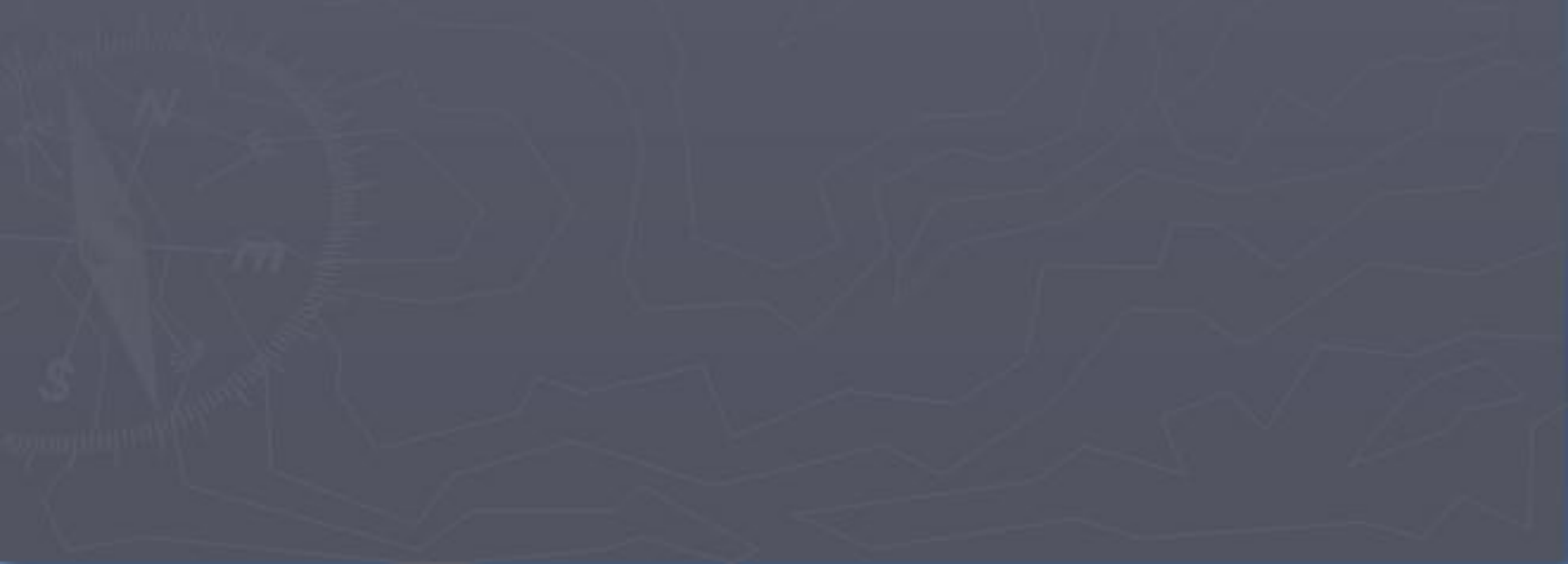
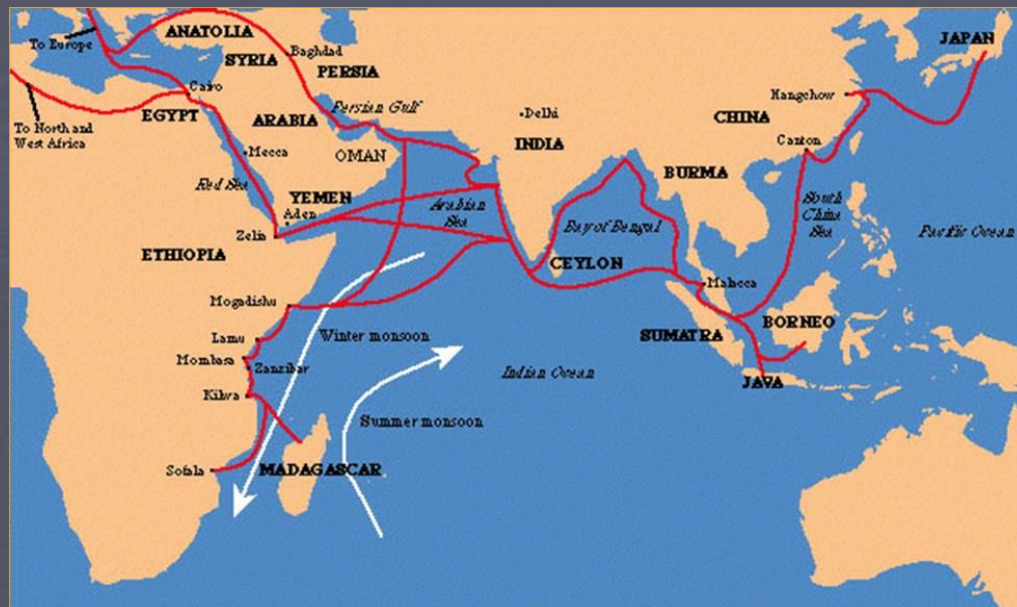


Defining African Culture



Introduction

- Just like pretty much everywhere else in the world the culture of Africa is a mix of local or foreign influences
 - Heavy influence from Asia and Europe Historically



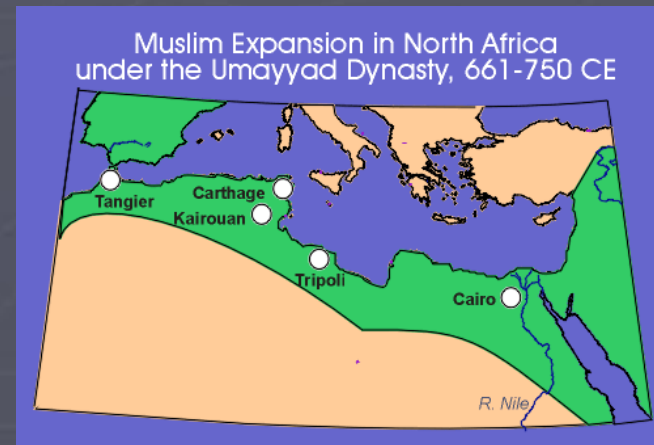
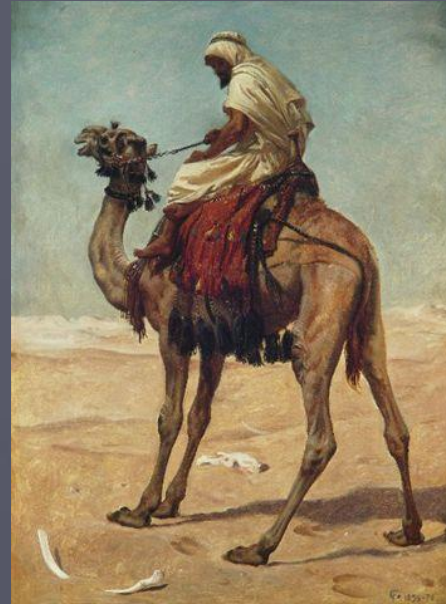
The Egyptians

- One of the oldest continuous civilizations in the world
 - Evidence of Agriculture about 7000 years ago
- Interaction and conflict with a number of other powers throughout history
 - Mesopotamians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Ottomans, and eventually Europeans



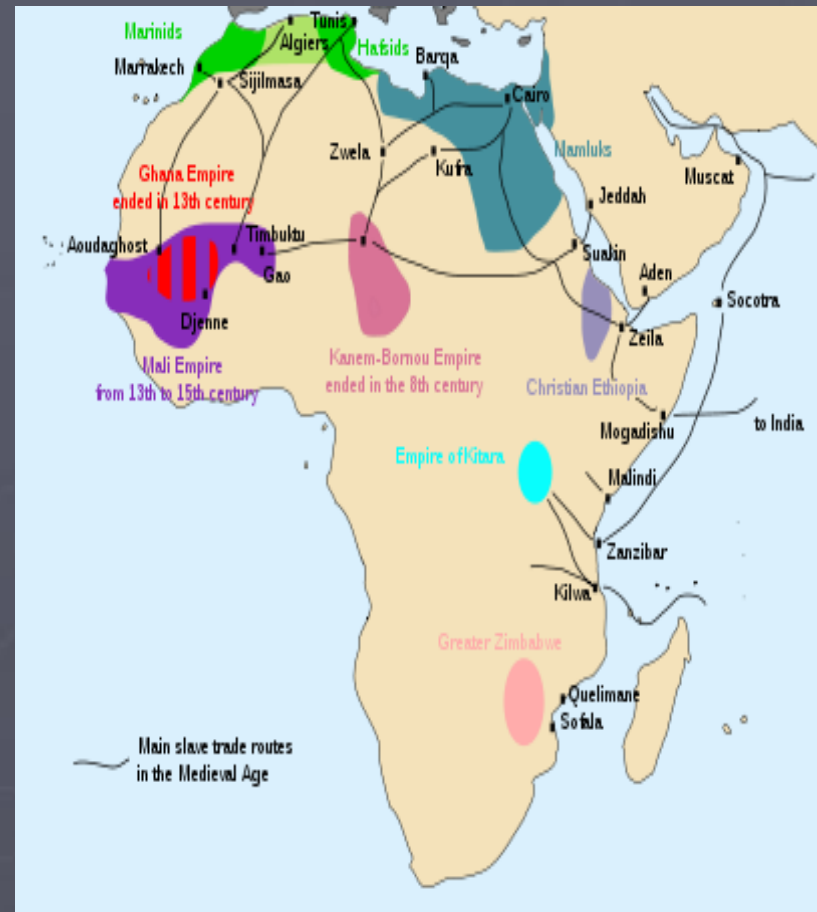
The Spread of Islam

- Beginning in the 7th Century Muslims began pushing into Egypt and across North Africa
 - Economically beneficial for North Africans to convert to Islam and learn Arabic
 - More likely to get favorable deals with wealthy Arab merchants
 - Did not pay *Jizya* (Tax on non-Muslims)

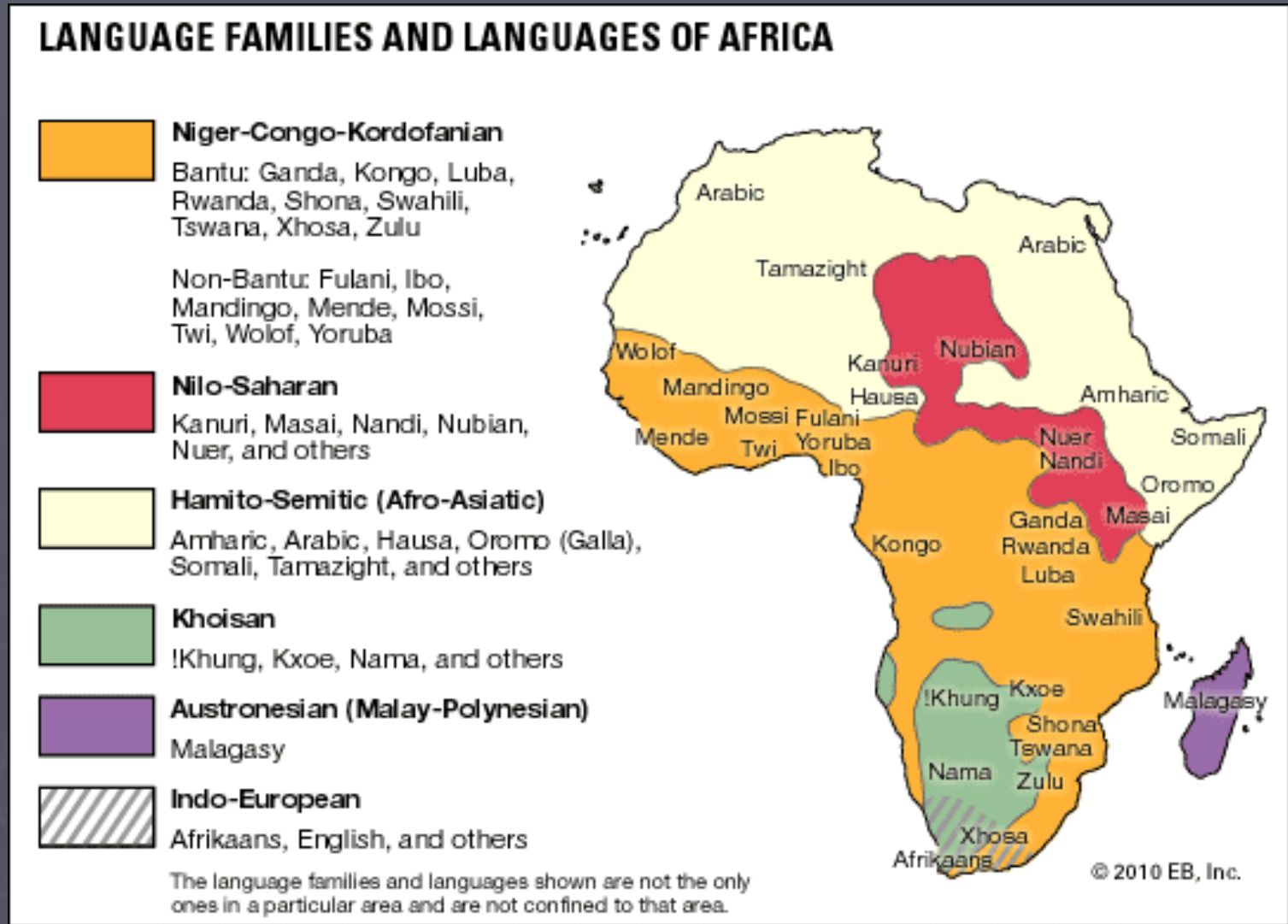


Trade and the Spread of Culture

- Trans-Saharan Trade
 - Brought goods from Middle East and Europe to south, brought slaves and gold north from Northern and Western Africa.
- Indian Ocean Trade
 - Connected Eastern Africa to Middle East, India, and China through Indian Ocean trade routes
- Encouraged the spread of Islamic and Arabic



Influence on Languages of Africa

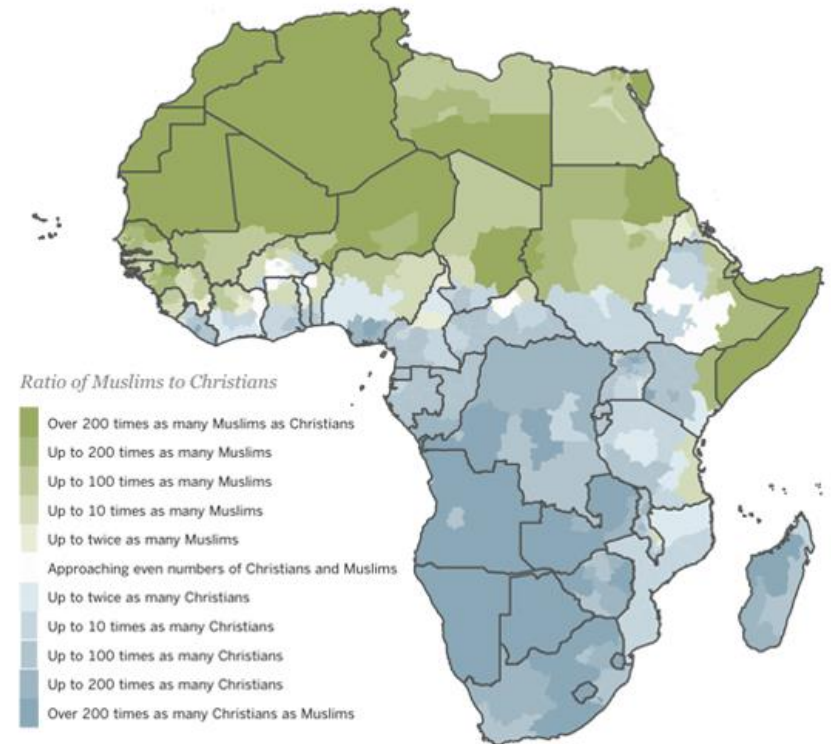


The Religious Split in Africa

- Christianity and Islam are still the two major religions on the continent
 - Some traditional religions still exist
- Religious division still source of many conflicts on the continent

Muslims and Christians in Africa

This map shows the ratio of Muslims to Christians in each country and province. The north is heavily Muslim, and the south is heavily Christian.

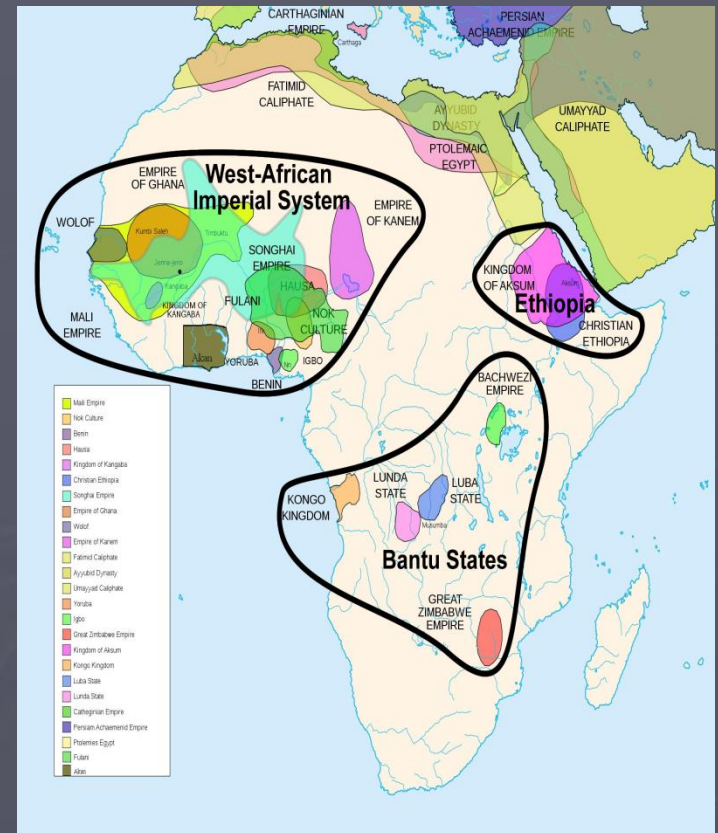


Sources: censuses, demographic and health surveys, and the World Religion Database

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, April 2010

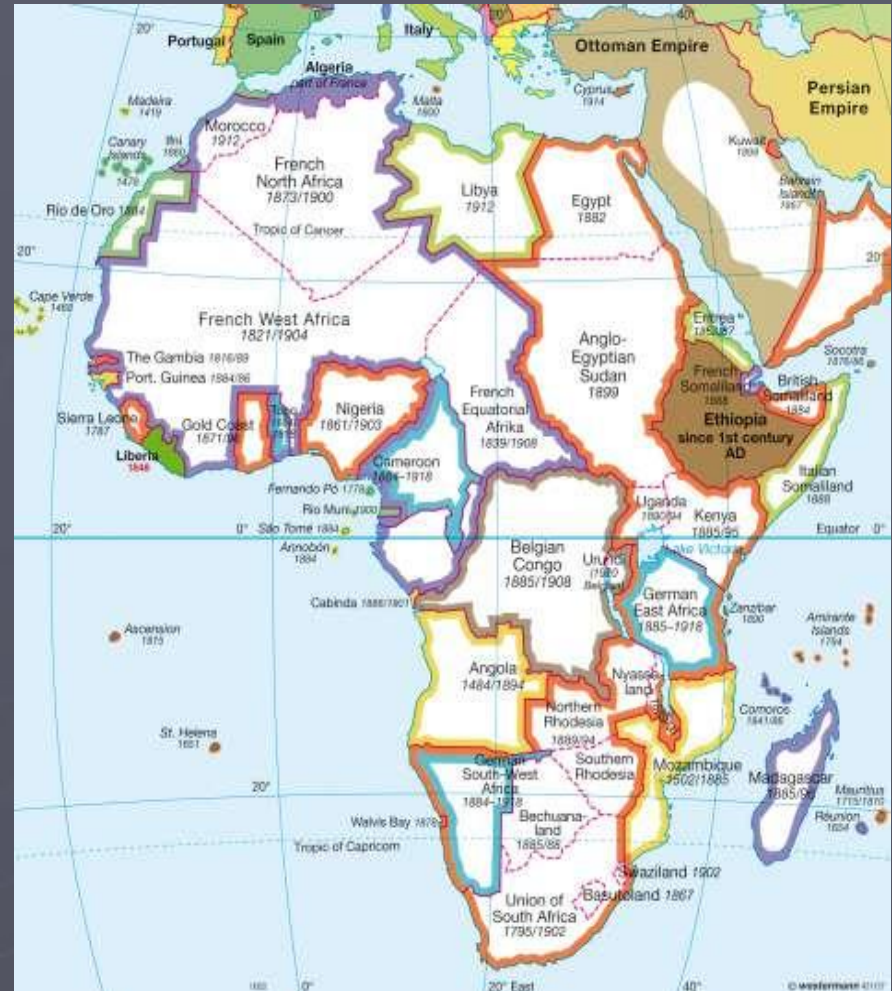
Pre-European Empires

- Africa was a patchwork of Empires with their own unique customs and traditions
 - Lots of evidence of rich cultures and a lot of interaction between cultures
 - Mostly oral traditions, a lot was wiped out during European colonization



European Colonization

- In the 19th century Africa was divided among powerful European countries to begin the process of Imperialism
 - Heavy influence by Europeans beforehand
- Europeans very influential in molding of modern African culture
 - Most sub-Saharan countries have a European language as at least one of their official languages



Modern Africa

- Technology is still shaping the cultural landscape of Africa
 - Mostly as interconnected as the rest of the world
 - Technological growth will further connect Africa

