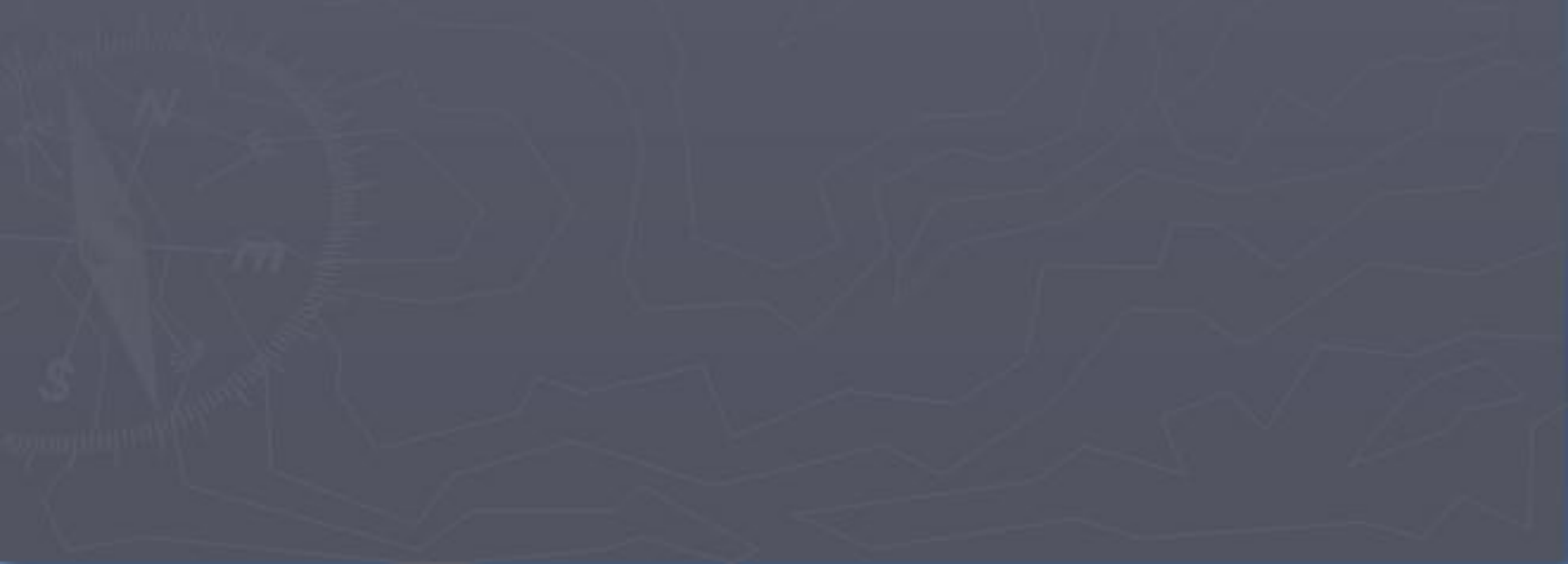


The Political Divisions of Africa



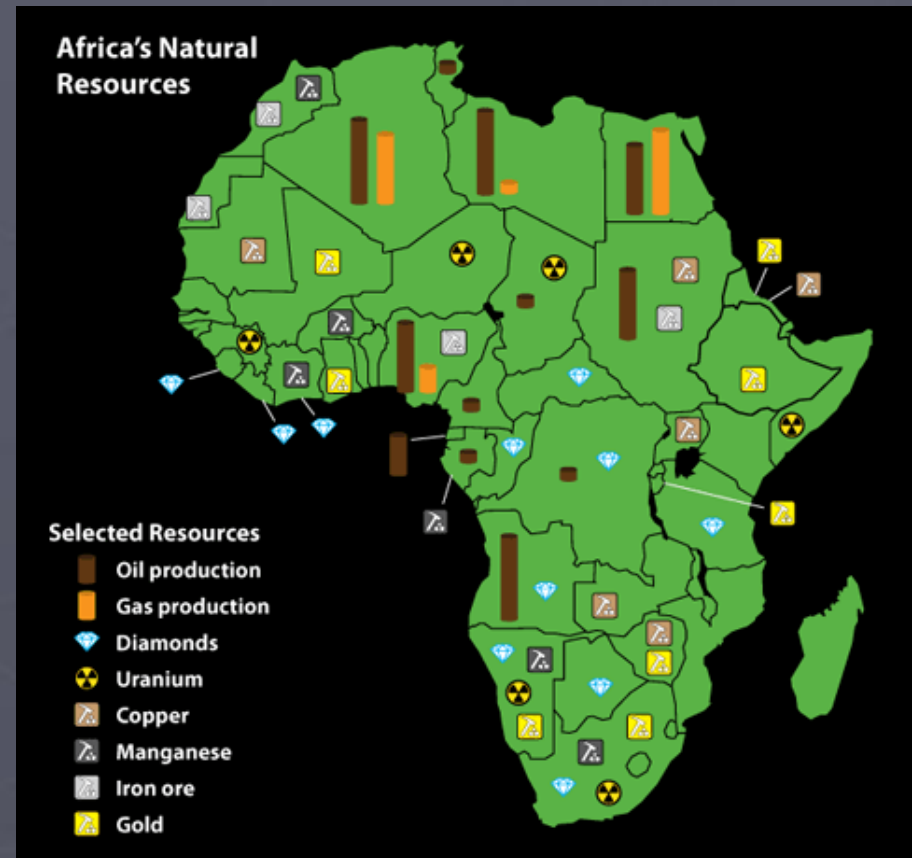
Continent Introduction

- Continent home to nearly 1.1 Billion people (2015 Population Reference Bureau estimate)
 - Population growing rapidly
- Over 2000 different languages spoken
 - Mix of local, European, and Arabic languages



Resources and Borders

- Africa does not have a resource problem, it has a resource distribution problem
- Whenever a resource of value is found the people suffer
 - Ex. Oil in Sudan, Diamonds in Sierra Leone, Gold in South Africa, etc...



The Current Political Map

- With creation of South Sudan on July 9th, 2011 Africa now has 56 Countries
 - Numerous independence movements in process
 - Status of Western Sahara is disputed



Colonial Africa



- Berlin Conference 1884-1885
 - Meeting of European Imperial leaders to divide African lands amongst themselves
- During the colonization era Africa's people and land were used for the benefit of European states
 - Used human and natural resources
- Superimposed borders created problems in colonial and post-colonial era

Problems of Superimposed Borders

- Country boundaries largely established by Europeans
 - Little consideration for pre-existing ethnic and cultural divisions
 - Some estimates of the number of ethnicities in Africa number in the 1000s
- States left with problem of ruling Multi-ethnic states
 - Often after European antagonized ethnic divisions

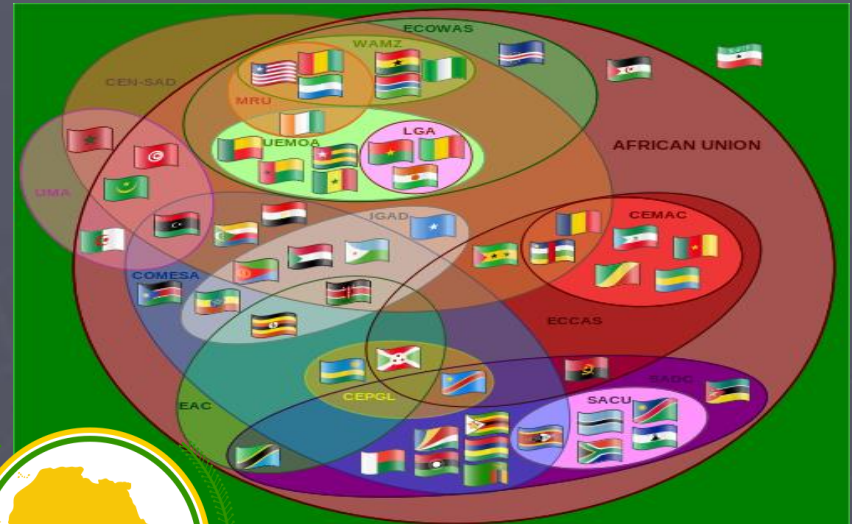


African Ethnicities Map

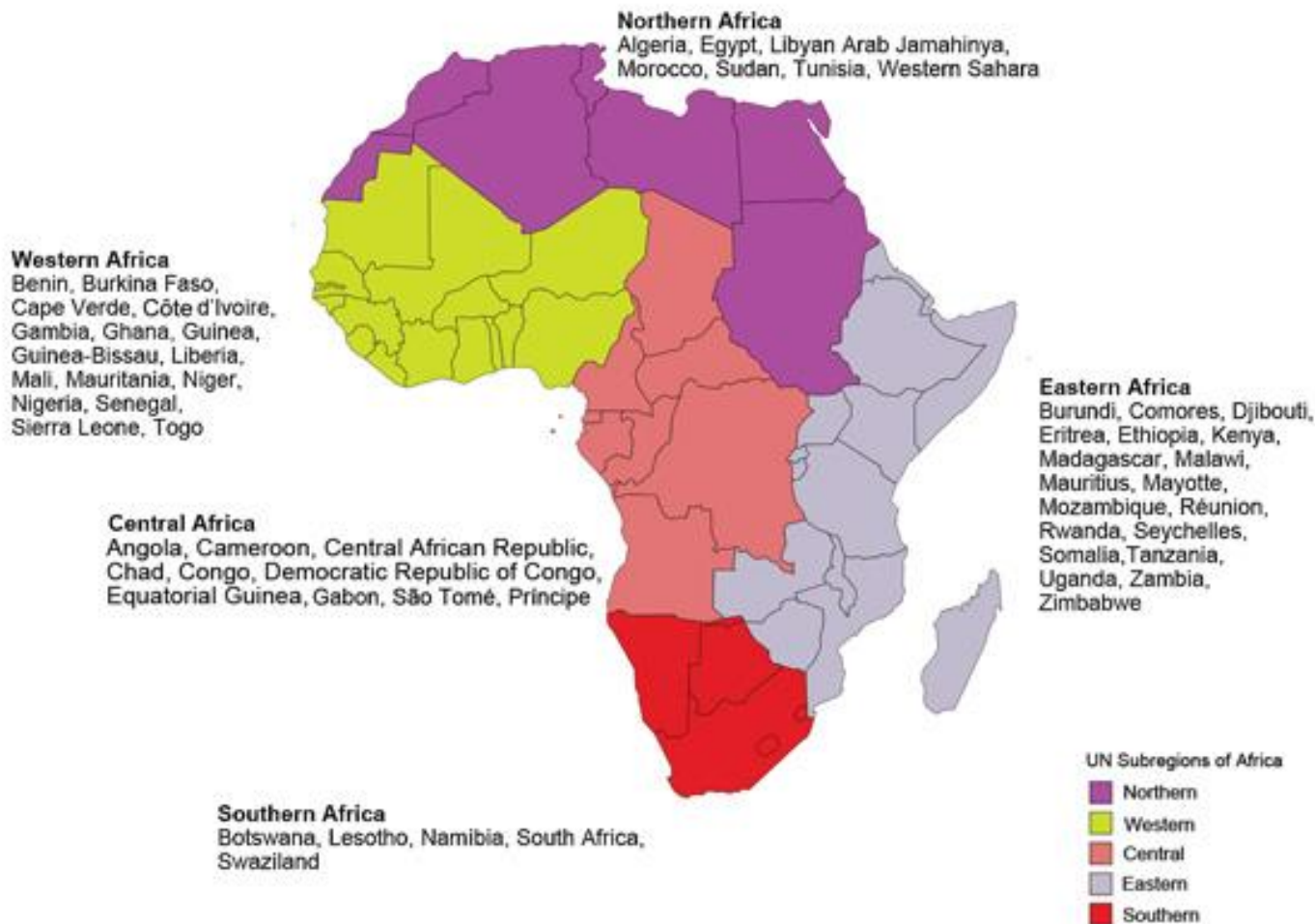
Map from Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University

Governmental Systems

- Most African systems have some type of democratic government set up
 - Mostly some form of Republic
- Growing importance of the African Union
- Helping to promote stability and development in Africa
 - Encourages democratic governance
 - Increased cooperation and communication
 - Building of Infrastructure
 - Increase living standard of all
- Reliance on outside assistance



United Nations Africa Geoscheme



West Africa

- Large Population Center
 - Nigeria is continent's most populous country
 - 181.8 (2015 Population reference bureau estimate)
- Stable growth
 - Economic growth backed by relative political stability



North Africa

- Most developed region of Africa
 - Strong connections to Europe and the Middle East
- Recent political turmoil
 - Arab spring revolutions began in Tunisia and continue to impact countries of North Africa



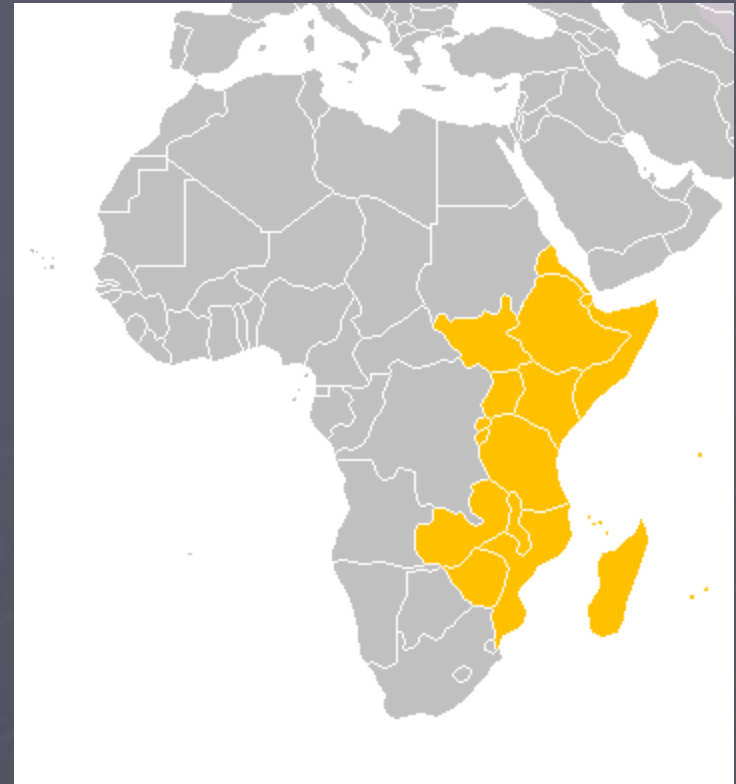
Central Africa

- Incredibly wealthy in resources
 - Congo basin source of wood
- Severe Governmental issues destabilize area
 - Particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic



East Africa

- Beneficial proximity to Indian Ocean
 - Historical and current trade
 - Many cultural influences
- Recent instability threatens peace
 - Ineffective governments in Somalia, South Sudan, and nearby DRC lead to refugee crisis



Southern Africa

- Relatively stable
 - Countries like Botswana and South Africa are attractive to people from all around Africa
 - Zimbabwe potentially destabilizing
- Advantage from access to Atlantic and Indian Ocean

