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Chapter 19

Human Geography of Africa: From Human Beginnings to New Nations

Africa is the “Cradle of Humanity” and has been home to numerous empires. But today, its people’s lives are most affected by Africa’s colonial history.

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Section 1: East Africa

Section 2: North Africa

Section 3: West Africa

Section 4: Central Africa

Section 5: South Africa

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Section 1: East Africa

- East Africa is known as the “cradle of humanity.”
- East Africa’s location has made it a trading center.

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Section 1: East Africa

Continental Crossroads

Cradle of Humanity

- Prehistoric human remains found in **Olduvai Gorge**, Tanzania

A Trading Coast

- Region includes Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya
 - Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
- In A.D. 100s, Ethiopian civilization of **Aksum** trades with Egypt, Rome
- In 600s, Arabs, Persians, Indians trade in region
 - important Tanzanian trading city of Kilwa flourishes
- Area becomes cultural crossroads of goods, ideas, people

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Colonization Disrupts Africa

Scramble for Africa

- 19th-century Europeans seek African resources
 - 1884–85 **Berlin Conference** divides Africa; African input denied

Ethiopia Avoids Colonization

- Emperor Menelik II protects Ethiopia from Italian invasion in 1896

Conflict in East Africa

- Independent by 1970s, many countries suffer civil wars, disputes
 - colonial boundaries mix ethnic groups, lead to internal conflicts

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Farming and Tourism Economies

Farming in East Africa

- Countries grow **cash crops** for direct sale (coffee, tea, sugar)
 - such crops take up farmland needed for growing food
- People leave farms for cities like Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia
 - rapid urban growth strains resources, agricultural production

Tourism Creates Wealth and Problems

- Wildlife parks in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania attract tourists, income
 - need for food, farmland is threatening wildlife reserves

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Maintaining Traditional Cultures

Cultures of East Africa

- 160 different ethnic groups in region
- **Masai** live in rift valley grasslands of Kenya, Tanzania
 - herd livestock, farm, make intricate beadwork, jewelry
 - wear calfskin, buffalo-hide clothes, robes
- Kikuyu are largest Kenyan ethnic group, centered around Mount Kenya
 - in 1950s they organized Mau Mau society to fight British
 - British kill 11,000 Africans during Mau Mau rebellion

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Health Care in Modern Africa

Health Care in Africa

- Africa devastated by AIDS pandemic
 - **pandemic**—disease outbreak in large population over a wide area
- AIDS caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

- more people have HIV than AIDS, so AIDS numbers are misleading
- Some African governments hide scope of disease
- Experts fear worst-affected countries could lose 10-20% of populations

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Section 2: North Africa

- The Nile River valley and ancient Egypt, one of the world's great civilizations, formed a cultural hearth.
- North Africa shares the Arabic language and the Islamic religion and culture with Southwest Asia.

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Section 2: North Africa

Roots of Civilization in North Africa

North African Countries

- Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia

Egypt Blossoms Along the Nile

- Nile's flooding provides water, rich soil, to help civilization grow
- Nile villages united into first Egyptian dynasty around 3100 B.C.
 - Pharaohs rule Egypt for 2,600 years
- Egyptian geometry and medicine are spread by trade

Carthage

- Legend says great ancient city of **Carthage** was founded in 814 B.C.
 - location on Gulf of Tunis peninsula make it a trade center

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Continued Roots of Civilization in North Africa

Islam in North Africa

- Over time, invaded by Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Ottoman Turks
- **Islam** is main cultural, religious influence
 - monotheistic religion based on Muhammad's teachings
- Southwest Asian Muslims invade North Africa in A.D. 632
 - take Egypt in 634; control whole region by 750
- Muslims bind territory with sea-linked trade zones

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Economics of Oil

Black Gold

- Oil has replaced cash crops, mining as economic base
 - transformed economies of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia
- Oil also causes problems
 - Libya's workforce lacks training, education to work in oil industry
 - high-paying oil jobs go to foreign workers
 - despite oil, unemployment remains high
 - Libyan workers migrate to Europe for jobs

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A Culture of Markets and Music

North African Souks

- *Souks* (marketplaces) are located in the *medina* (old section of town)
 - best are in Marrakesh, Morocco
 - high-pressure sales and fierce bargaining over clothes, spices, food

Protest Music

- **Rai**—fast-paced Algerian music is developed in 1920s by urban youth
 - before independence in 1962, *rai* expresses anger at French colonizers
 - today, *rai* is criticized by Islamic fundamentalists for Western style
 - *rai* now a form of rebellion against Islamic fundamentalists

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Changing Roles of Women

Women and the Family

- Homes are centered around males, few women work after marriage
- Women's roles are changing, especially in Tunisia
 - multiple wives are prohibited; both spouses can seek divorces
 - high spouse-abuse penalties; no more arranged marriages for young girls
- More women have professional jobs, with equal pay for equal jobs
 - hold 7% of Tunisian parliamentary seats
 - manage 9% of businesses in Tunis, Tunisia's capital

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Section 3: West Africa

- The Nile River valley and ancient Egypt, one of the world's great civilizations, formed a cultural hearth.

- North Africa shares the Arabic language and the Islamic religion and culture with Southwest Asia.

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Section 3: West Africa

A History of Rich Trading Empires

The Slave Trade

- **Gorée Island** off coast of Senegal
 - departure point for slaves during slave trade, mid-1500s to mid-1800s
 - Europeans moved 20 million Africans through the island
 - 20% of Africans died in transit to the Americas

West African Countries

- West Africa includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad
 - Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali
 - Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leon, Togo

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Continued A History of Rich Trading Empires

Three Trading Empires

- Ghana, Mali, Songhai empires grow on Sahara trade routes (gold, salt)
- Routes cross Soninke farms; Soninke leaders called *ghana* (war chief)
 - area becomes known as Ghana; taxing traders creates Ghana's wealth
 - Ghana becomes empire around A.D. 800, declines by 1100
- Kingdom of Mali rises by 1235; conquers Ghana, dominates gold trade
 - by 1440, gold trade falls—other gold fields are found further east
- By 1400, Mali is replaced by Songhai, until Morocco invades in 1591

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Continued A History of Rich Trading Empires

Stateless Societies

- **Stateless society**—people rely on family lineages to govern themselves
 - no elected government or monarch; members cooperate, share power
 - lineage—family or group descended from common ancestor
 - for example, the Igbo of southeast Nigeria
- 1700–1800s, African stateless societies are challenged by colonizers
 - Europeans expect societies to be governed by single ruler

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West Africa Struggles Economically

Ghana's Stability

- Exports gold, diamonds, magnesium, bauxite to industrialized countries
 - second highest per capita income in West Africa
- Post-colonial switch to democracy brought military rule, civil war
 - past decade's free elections and political stability grow the economy

Problems in Sierra Leone

- Once produced high-quality diamonds, but civil wars destroyed economy
- Low 31% literacy rate means few skilled workers
- Poor transportation system, few highways and roads

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Cultural Symbols of West Africa

Ashanti Crafts

- Ghana's **Ashanti** known for weaving *asasia* (*kente*) cloth
 - cloth has colorful, meaningful designs; once worn only by royalty
- Carved stools symbolize unity between ancestral spirits and the living
 - kings' stools represent unity between state and people

Benin Art

- Kingdom of Benin arose in Nigeria area in 1200s
- Artists made metal and terra cotta objects
 - brass "bronzes" included statues, masks, jewelry

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Music in Daily Life

West African Music

- Popular music blends traditional with jazz, blues, reggae
 - often use French, English lyrics to attract international audience
- Played on drums and instruments like the kora
 - kora, from Guinea-Bissau, a cross between harp, lute
- Nigeria's "minister of enjoyment," King Sunny Adé, is very popular

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Section 4: Central Africa

- The Bantu migrations helped to populate the African continent.
- European nations divided Africa without regard to ethnic groups or language.

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Bantu Migrations and Colonial Expansion

Central African Countries

- Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe

Bantu Migrations

- **Bantu migrations**—2000 B.C., Bantu spread from southeastern Nigeria
 - land shortage may have sent them south spreading language, culture
- Migrations created cultural diversity, but languages link continent
 - forms of Bantu spoken by 120 million Africans today

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Continued **Bantu Migrations and Colonial Expansion**

The Slave Trade

- Europeans wanted slaves for plantations in Americas
- In 1400s, Portugal established base on island of São Tomé off Gabon
 - slave traders exchange guns, goods for captive Africans
- Many African rulers sold slaves to other Africans, Arabs, Europeans
- By end of trade in 1870, millions had been taken to Americas, Europe

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Continued **Bantu Migrations and Colonial Expansion**

Start of Colonialism

- Until mid-1800s, Europeans don't move far inland
- Belgium's **King Leopold II** opens Congo trade, controls interior by 1884
 - holds Berlin Conference, forms Congo Free State
 - uses forced labor to get rubber, palm oil, ivory

Effects of Colonialism

- Belgium, France colonize region; most countries independent by 1960s
 - European borders disrupt traditional governments, ethnic regions
 - new governments face diverse populations, corrupt leaders

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The Economic Legacy of Colonialism

Economic Effects

- Lost resources; cultural, ethnic oppression of people
- Little infrastructure or money for transportation, education systems

Congo's Economic Chaos

- Democratic Republic of the Congo has gold, copper, diamonds
- From 1967, **Mobuto Sese Seko** runs businesses, uses army to keep power
- Laurent Kabila replaces Mobutu in 1997; neighbors send in troops
 - Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda want land, resources
 - Kabila assassinated in 2001, succeeded by son Joseph

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The Influence of Central African Art

Central African Art

- Since independence, many countries banned colonial influences
 - sought to recover African personality in art
- Today, artists address politics, urban life, social justice, crime

Fang Sculpture

- In 1907, Pablo Picasso was influenced by **Fang sculpture**
- Fang of Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea are famous for carving:
 - wooden masks painted white with black-outlined features
 - boxes for ancestors' bones; decorated with protective figures

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Improving Education

Education Faces Barriers

- In 2001, less than half the sub-Saharan young adults attend school
 - shortage of teachers and secondary schools, high dropout rate
- Language problems: different languages spoken in homes, schools

Learning in Central Africa

- In Cameroon, most children leave school at age 12
- In Central African Republic, kids 6 to 14 are required to attend school
- Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of the Congo are adding higher education
- Health care education increasing: AIDS, Ebola virus, cholera, others

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Section 5: Southern Africa

- Great Zimbabwe and the Mutapa Empire thrived on the gold trade.
- The wealth of Southern Africa is tied to the land, and conflicts over land and resources often result.

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Gold Trade Builds Empires

Southern African Countries

- Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius
- Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Gold Trade Spawns Great Zimbabwe

- **Great Zimbabwe**— Shona form major gold-trading city 1000
- abandoned around 1450

Mutapa Empire

- Legend says Mutota founded new state in 1440
- **Mutapa Empire** soon covered almost all of Zimbabwe
- Thriving gold empire declines in 1500s amid Portuguese interference

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Continued Gold Trade Builds Empires

Ethnic Clash for Southern Africa

- In 1700s, 1800s, ethnic groups fight each other, Europeans for land
- In late 1800s, British defeat Zulu, then Boers (Dutch farmers)
- form Union of South Africa in 1902

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Continued Gold Trade Builds Empires

The Policy of Apartheid in South Africa

- In 1948, white minority government institutes **apartheid**
- complete separation of races in schools, hospitals, neighborhoods
- blacks make up 75% of population, but own little land
- Blacks form African National Congress (ANC) in 1912 to seek rights
- **Nelson Mandela** becomes an ANC leader in 1949, is later imprisoned

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Continued **Gold Trade Builds Empires**

The Policy of Apartheid in South Africa

- In late 1980s, under pressure from world, South Africa begins reform
 - F.W. de Klerk becomes president in 1989
 - peaceful revolution leads to end of apartheid in early 1990s
 - Mandela is freed, elected president in 1994
 - new, democratic constitution passes in 1996

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Southern Africa Grows Economically

South Africa

- Apartheid hurts economy, other nations impose economic sanctions
 - majority of young blacks uneducated
- Two economies in South Africa:
 - upper-middle income in industrial cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town
 - poor rural areas, black townships, shantytowns

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Continued **Southern Africa Grows Economically**

Success at a Cost

- Botswana became independent in 1966, had long-term economic growth
 - world's third-largest diamond producer
 - diamonds account for 63% of government revenue
- Diamonds make 20% rich, but 80% are farmers who don't benefit
- Rich buy land for cattle, force off farmers, increase meat production
 - but overall food production is only 50% of what's needed

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Continued **Southern Africa Grows Economically**

AIDS Affects Southern Africa

- Southern Africa has the countries most severely affected by AIDS
 - 25% of adults infected in Zimbabwe, Botswana
 - Botswana's life expectancy is 39 years
 - economy is affected as many diamond sorters die from AIDS

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Celebrations of Southern Africa

A Variety of Dances

- Chewa perform *gule wa mkulu* religious dance with skins, masks
- Tumbuka of northern Malawi perform *vimbuzo* healing dance
- *Benji* dance of southern Malawi's Yao warriors mocks European marches
- Madagascar's *hira gasy* festival features groups of 25 or more
 - play music, dance, act out stories on honesty, respect for elders

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Living in Southern Africa

Johannesburg

- Grew from small gold mining town 100 years ago to 6 million people
- Because of apartheid, Johannesburg grew into two cities
 - once all-white suburbs in north, poor black townships in south

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Continued **Living in Southern Africa**

Modern and Traditional Lifestyles

- Some live modern lives as doctors, lawyers, professionals in suburbs
- Many blacks work menial jobs and live in homelands, shantytowns
- Some ethnic groups keep traditional lifestyles
 - work as farmers, traders, herders, metalworkers (like Zulu)