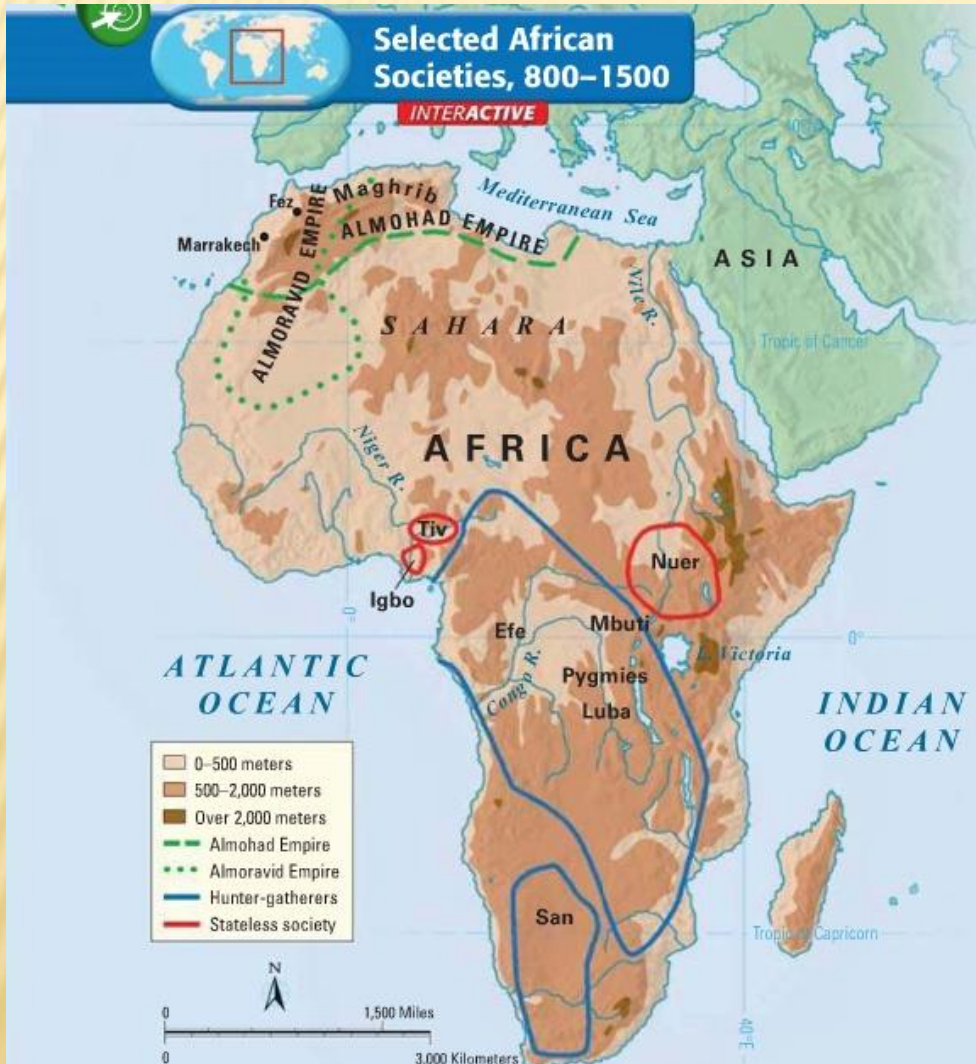


Chapter 15

# **SOCIETIES AND EMPIRES OF AFRICA**

**800 - 1500**

# THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOCIETIES



Hunter  
Gatherers

Stateless  
Societies

Muslim  
Societies

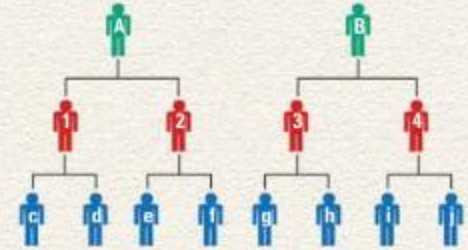
# HUNTER-GATHERERS

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- ✘ Gathered wild foods and hunted animals
- ✘ Efe were hunter-gatherers who traded with farming villages
- ✘ Small clans
- ✘ Nomadic—few possessions, move as resources are used up
- ✘ Male group leader – not a chief
- ✘ Resolve disputes through discussion

# STATELESS SOCIETIES

- ✗ Lack centralized power
- ✗ Power balanced between lineage groups
  - + Groups of families
  - + Patrilineal – trace ancestors through fathers
  - + Matrilineal – trace ancestors through mothers
  - + Wealth and land inherited through lineage



## Negotiating Conflict in Stateless Societies

In a stateless society, the power to negotiate conflicts shifts from generation to generation as circumstances demand.

Look at the diagram of two lineages above. If **d** is in conflict with **f**, then **c** will side with his brother **d**, and **e** will side with his brother **f**. Therefore, the parents—**1** and **2**—will meet to negotiate.

If **f** is in conflict with **g**, both entire lineages will take sides in the dispute. Therefore, the members of the oldest surviving generation—**A** and **B**—must meet to negotiate.

# MUSLIM STATES

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- ✘ ISLAM ESTABLISHED IN NORTH AFRICA BY 2 WAYS:
- ✘ CONQUEST
- ✘ PEACEFUL MEANS: **TRADE & COMMERCE**
- ✘ **ARAB GOVERNMENTS BASED ON ISLAMIC LAW: RULE ALL PARTS OF SOCIETY**
- ✘ CONVERTED ETHNIC GROUPS OFTEN GET TO KEEP MUCH OF THEIR TRADITIONS & IDENTITY

# WEST AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

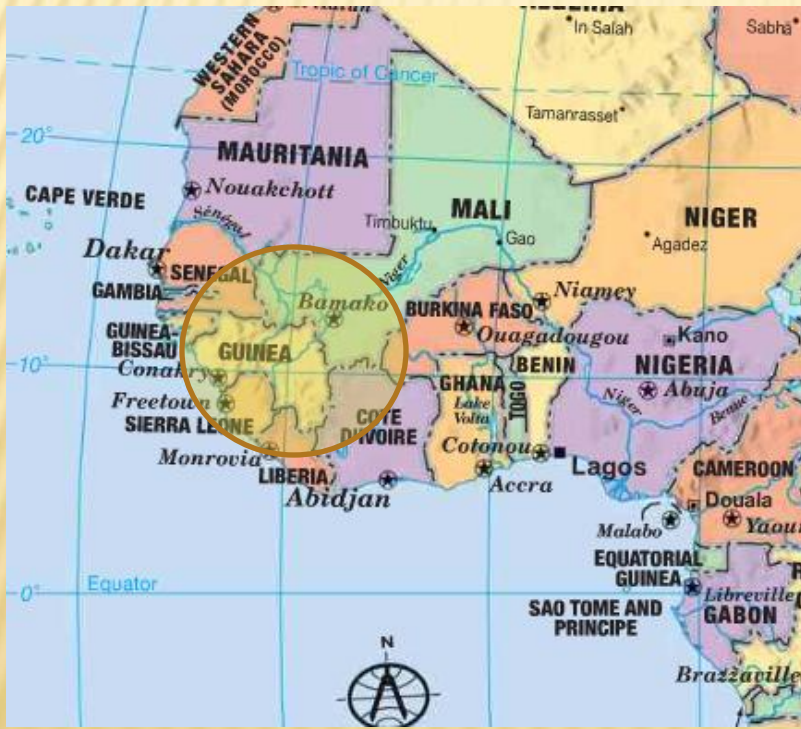
## ✘ GHANA

+ Camels increase ability to trade

- ✘ Travel 60 miles a day
- ✘ Only need water every 10 days
- ✘ New trade routes developed

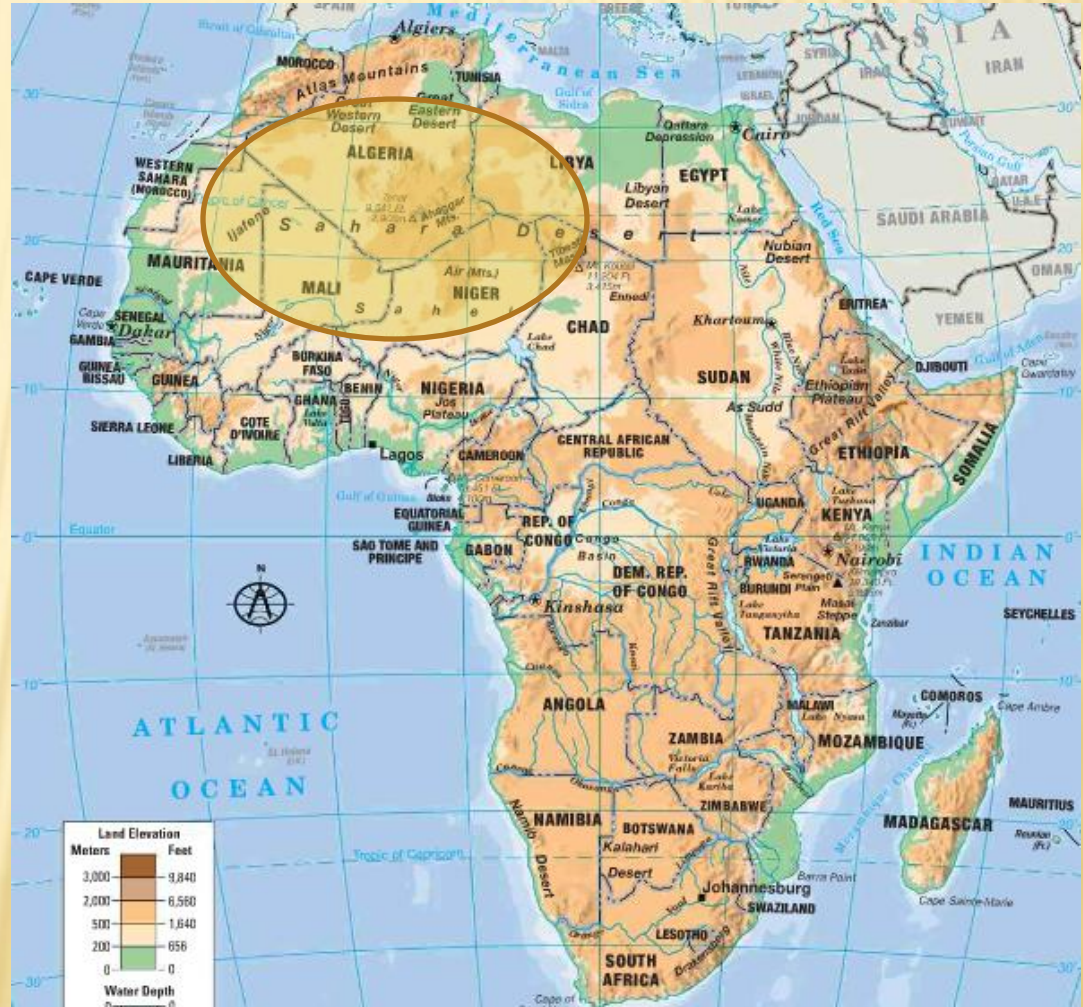


# GOLD



# SALT

- ❖ West Africa was rich in GOLD, but lacked SALT
- ❖ Salt was needed for preserving food
- ❖ Human body needs salt
- ❖ Salt and gold were traded.
- ❖ This trade was controlled and taxed by the King of Ghana
- ❖ Many of the wealthy in Ghana convert to Islam.





# GHANA: 1<sup>ST</sup> BLACK WEST AFRICAN KINGDOM

## 400-1200'S

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- ✘ GOLD-SALT TRADE CREATES GHANA
- ✘ RULERS GET WEALTHY TAXING TRADE
- ✘ OFFICIALS MAKE SURE GOODS WEIGHED CORRECTLY, BUSINESS CONDUCTED FAIRLY, PROVIDED PROTECTION FROM BANDITS
- ✘ ONLY KING COULD OWN NUGGETS AND KEPT SALT SUPPLY: THIS KEPT PRICE OF GOLD FROM FALLING

# GHANA, CONT.

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- ✘ GHANA'S RULERS & UPPER CLASSES CONVERT TO ISLAM TO WORK WITH ARABS BETTER
- ✘ THIS PUTS SUBJECTS IN CONFLICT W/ GHANA'S RULER & EXPOSES GHANA'S WEAKNESSES TO MUSLIM EMPIRES IN NORTH
- ✘ MUSLIM EMPIRES INVADE
- ✘ TAKE OVER PARTS OF GHANA, DISRUPTING TRADE

# EMPIRE OF MALI 1240-1400'S

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- ✘ Disruption of Gold-Salt trade makes Ghana weak/unstable
- ✘ Gold deposits discovered in the east
- ✘ Trade shifts and makes Mali people wealthy
- ✘ Sundiata overthrows cruel leader & makes Mali
  - + strong by expanding territory through war
  - + Providing good and fair gov/t. safety, & food
- ✘ Leaders become Muslim, build mosques

# MANSA MUSA 1280–1337 (RULED 1320–

- ✘ MANSA MUSA RULES LIKE HIS GRAND-UNCLE
- ✘ 100,000 MAN ARMY TO KEEP ORDER
- ✘ PROTECTED GOLD-SALT TRADE
- ✘ DOUBLED MALI TO 2X SIZE OF GHANA
- ✘ 1324-25 HAJJ TO MECCA IMPRESSED WORLD  
W/ GOLD HE GAVE AWAY (gold worth less!)
- ✘ MADE TIMBUKTU CENTER OF LEARNING AND  
CULTURE (GRAND MOSQUE VERY FAMOUS)

# SONGHAI 1300'S-1600

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- ✘ BEGAN WHEN GOLD FIELDS SHIFTED TO EAST
- ✘ SUNNI ALI BUILDS UP STRONG ARMY AND EXPANDS TERRITORY
- ✘ MUSLIM EMPIRES WANT TO CONTROL TRADE
- ✘ INVADE WITH ARMY OF 4,000 MEN (only 1,000 make it through the desert, but that's enough)
- ✘ CANNONS AND GUNS DEFEAT SONGHAI'S SWORDS AND SPEARS

## West African Empires, 1000–1500

INTERACTIVE

### Empire of Ghana, A.D. 1000



### Empire of Mali, A.D. 1400



### Empire of Songhai, A.D. 1500



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Region** Compare the regions occupied by the Ghana, Mali, and Songhai empires in terms of size and location.
- Human-Environment Interaction** How did the environment both contribute resources to and cause problems for traders?

# EASTERN CITY-STATES AND SOUTHERN EMPIRES



# EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA

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- ✘ At the same time Western Africa is developing, east side is active also
- ✘ East side had more contact w/ Middle East and India—brings in different ideas, trade items, culture
- ✘ WHOLE EASTERN COAST DEVELOPS SWAHILI
  - + MIX OF AFRICAN BANTU AND ARABIC
  - + LINGUA FRANCA = “TRADE LANGUAGE”



# AXUM: IMP. EAST AFRICAN CITY

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- 300-700 GOLDEN AGE (LASTS UNTIL 1500'S)
- TRADED W/ ROME: GOLD-SALT
- CHRISTIAN KINGDOM: MOVED TO MODERN DAY ETHIOPIA DUE TO ISLAM
- LEGEND SAYS THEY HAVE THE "ARK OF THE COVENANT"
- COPTIC CHRISTIANS: EARLY, EARLY CHRISTIANS

# TRADE IN EAST AFRICA

ARAB TRADERS BRING FINISHED  
GOODS FROM ASIA

- ✘ Chinese porcelain
- ✘ Indian cotton cloth
- ✘ Jewels and Gems

TO TRADE FOR RAW MATERIALS

- ✘ Leopard skins
- ✘ Gold
- ✘ Ivory
- ✘ Tortoiseshell

# GREAT ZIMBABWE

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- ✘ City founded in south-eastern Africa
- ✘ Great farming and cattle raising
- ✘ Near important trade routes
- ✘ Great Zimbabwe becomes wealthy by taxing trade, especially GOLD
- ✘ By 1450 Great Zimbabwe is abandoned, possibly due to over grazing and depletion of resources

# TRADE IN EAST AFRICA

## PORTUGUESE TRADERS TRAVEL AROUND SOUTHERN TIP OF AFRICA

- ✘ LOOKING FOR ROUTE TO INDIA
- ✘ WANT TO PROFIT FROM ASIAN SPICE, PERFUME, AND SILK TRADE
- ✘ USE SHIPS W/ CANNONS TO TAKE OVER RICH SWAHILI COASTAL NATIONS
- ✘ STAY THERE FOR 2 CENTURIES

# ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS

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- ✘ Arab Muslim traders export slaves from East Africa to Middle East, China, India (1,000 YEAR)
- ✘ Domestic tasks in Persia, Arabia and Iraq
- ✘ Soldiers for Indian rulers
- ✘ Dock workers and work on ships in China
- ✘ EUROPEANS GET IDEA OF USING AFRICAN SLAVES FROM MUSLIMS (and attitude towards)