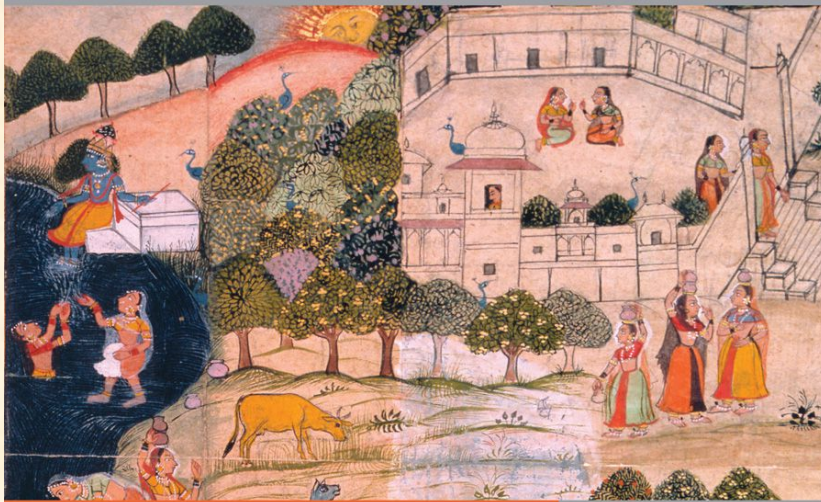


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

# WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

## Chapter 17 Africa from Axum to 1400

<b>100s–700s C.E.</b>	Kingdom of Axum
<b>300–1100 C.E.</b>	Kingdom of Ghana
<b>c. 400 C.E.</b>	Origins of sub-Saharan kingdoms; trans-Saharan trade increases
<b>700s–800s</b>	Muslim conquest of North Africa
<b>800s–1200s C.E.</b>	Many Swahili city-states founded
<b>c. 800s</b>	Conversion of West Sudanians and Swahili to Islam begins
<b>c. 900s–c. 1400s</b>	Great Zimbabwe flourishes
<b>1250–1450 C.E.</b>	Kingdom of Mali flourishes





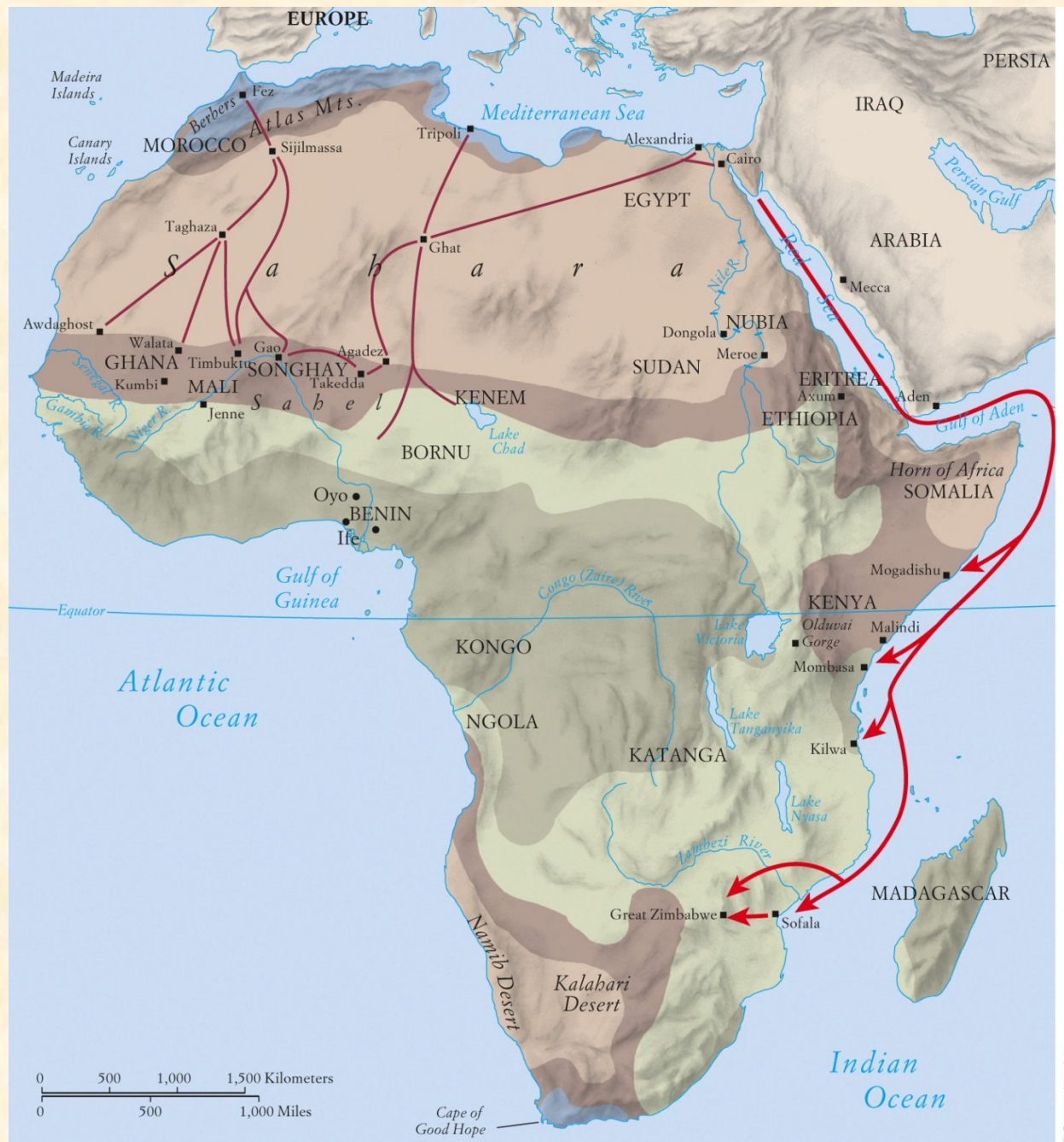
# Social Organization

## Societal Unit

- Clan or lineage, either patrilineal or matrilineal
- Lived together, some specializing in crafts, most farming/herding
- Village decisions made by clan elders

## Women:

- As a rule, women were subordinate to men in public life
- Some women had positions of power as queen mothers or rulers
- Principle farmers
- Organized local markets
- Equal rights to access and inheritance of land and livestock
- Role more restricted when Africa came under the influence of Islam
- Male polygamy a sign of wealth and social status







# Early State Formation

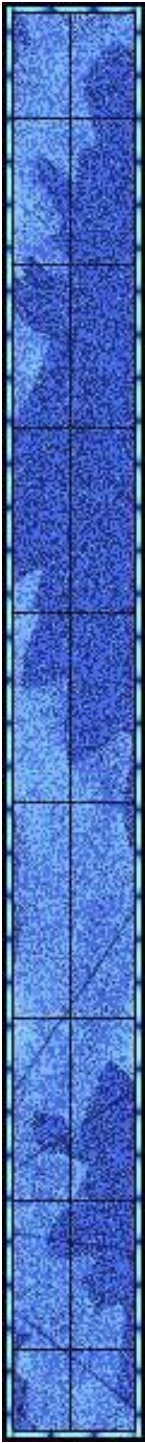
- Organized around the principles of “Sudanic kingship”
  - No bureaucracies, but many functionaries
    - Queen mother
    - Prime minister
    - Royal historian and praise singer, royal drummers
    - Commanders of army
    - Keepers of protocol
    - Religious specialists
- Kings of royal lineage
  - Sacred intermediary between the living and the dead
  - Health and strength of king was essential for welfare of the land



# Axum

- By 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE, emerged to east of Kush
  - Port at Adulis on the Red Sea
  - Located in Ethiopian highlands
    - First African state to participate in Indian Ocean trade
- Conquered Kush about 350 CE
- Christianized a century after Constantine
  - Kings claim descent from Solomon
- Expanded across the Red Sea, conquering SW Arabia in 500s CE (Yemen)
- By 700s, Islam had eliminated Christian Axum's control of coastal East Africa
- Inland held out for centuries against Muslim pressure
  - Decline of commerce and urban sedentary life





# Trans-Saharan Trade and Kingdoms of The Sudan

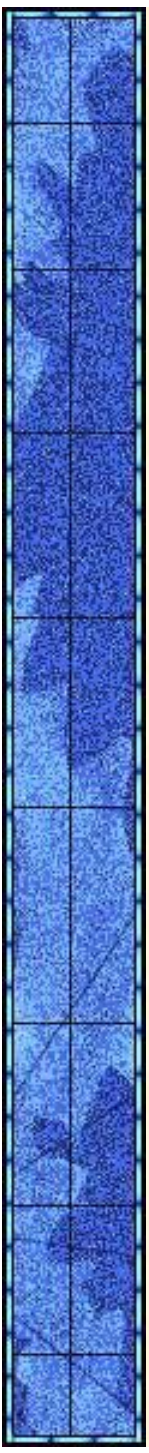
- Kingdoms based more on trade than agriculture
  - Exports: Gold, ivory, animal hides, dyes, gums, aromatics
  - Imports: Salt, dates, weapons, textiles, porcelain, beads
- Sudanese kingdoms: Sub-Saharan states formed 400 CE
  - Agriculture advanced with iron tools, good soils, and transport on Niger River
  - Population grew and first cities established
  - Gold was discovered in the Senegal River region
- Trans-Saharan trade routes: western Sudan with north Africa
- Late 7<sup>th</sup> C Islam established in North Africa, western Sudan
- Muslim Berber and Arab merchants brought western Sudan into international commercial system
- Trade supported state formation



# Ghana

- Origins: Soninke people 1<sup>st</sup> century?
- Established monopoly on gold trade
- Regional power due to trade with Muslims
  - Size of Texas
- Term “ghana” referred to divine king
- Muslims were influential
  - African merchants often converted
- Muslims introduced literacy, concepts of law and administration
- Decline
  - Gold fields drive up 1000 CE
  - Berber-led holy war in eleventh century



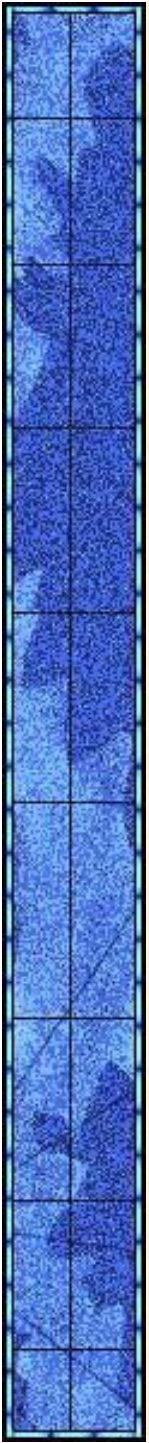


# Mali 1250-1450

- Muslim Berber invaders fractured Ghana (11<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Founder of Mali Empire, Sundiata emerged on top 1250 CE
  - Larger, better organized than Ghana
  - New gold mines found closer to Niger headwaters
  - Keita ruling clan nominally Muslim but ruled as divine kings until the 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Replaced by Mansas clan 14<sup>th</sup> century
  - Good relations with Berbers
  - Mansa Musa (1307-1332) extended rule north to Morocco, east to Timbuktu
    - Governed over 8 million people at time when England had only 4
    - Hajj in 1324 had major impact on Africa, Mediterranean, Arabia
    - Founded university in Timbuktu: famous for learning, book production







# Early Kingdoms of Forests and Woodlands

- Ifé (Yoruba people)
  - Niger-Congo ancestors
  - City of Ife settled in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century
  - Women dominated market-place
  - Long-distance trade by river to Jenne, Gao
- Oyo
  - 1300-1700, pre-empted Ifé
  - Alafins (kings) of Oyo formed first Yoruba empire with 7 city-states
  - Advisory council of leaders of Ogboni religious society
- Benin (Edo people)
  - Divine kings (ôbas)
  - Prosperity based in trade
  - One of the largest cities in the world by 1500
  - Home of Benin bronzes



Werner Forman/Art Resource, NY









Peter Horree/Alamy Limited



# Swahili City-States

- City-states on east Africa
- Swahili: local Bantu-speaking traders
  - Often intermarried with foreign Muslims
  - Conversion to Islam 1000-1500 CE
- Growing Importance as Indian Ocean became an “Islamic Lake”
- Built seaworthy ships (dhows) to sail to southern Arabia, India
- Islam was binding thread of African and non-African peoples
- Kilwa dominated coastal gold trade





Ulrich Doering/Alamy





# Great Zimbabwe

- Located in Southern Africa
  - Bantu people's attracted by good soil, climate who introduced iron 4<sup>th</sup> century
- Great Zimbabwe inland fortress city
  - Massive walls and towers
  - No record in written sources
  - Construction began in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century
  - Wealth and power based on control of gold supply
- Smaller zimbabwes built nearby
- Declined in 15<sup>th</sup> century
  - Internal dynastic disputes
  - Gold supply petered out
  - Natural environmental imbalances





Nick Greaves/Images of Africa Photobank/Alamy





# African Arts

- Visual and plastic
- Benin bronzes most famous
  - Stylized busts and full-length figures
  - Combination of metal and ivory
- Wood sculptures of central Sudan
- Ivory, gold of Swahili city-states
- Earthenware heads of Nigeria