STATES AND SOCIETIES OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA & THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF EUROPE
NOTE

Not all the readings are in the lectures

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C.E.
(Common era or Christian era)

Common Era (1708)
Guillaume Boucher

“The Goldsmith of the Mongolian Steppe”
WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT IN THE LAST LECTURE

1) Eurasian integration

2) From ruling on the saddle to ruling on the throne:

Nomadic expansion as empire-building
(Mongols, Ottomans, also Timur)
TODAY’S LECTURE

I. African Empires and Afro-Eurasian contacts

II. Europe and its emerging presence
August 5 and 6
AFRO-EURASIA
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
STATES AND SOCIETIES
NOMADS IN AFRICA
BANTU PEOPLES

- 600 ethnic groups (language)

- 2500 C.E.-3000 C.E.: millennia-long migration from west to east, central and south Africa

- 1000 C.E.

While originally based on local rule,
Later established major states (from the 14th century)

Traded with Arabs, Chinese and Persians.
BANTU MIGRATION
IMPACT OF THE MIGRATION

1. Trade with Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean basin

2. Development of new commodities desired by consumers throughout the eastern hemisphere.

3. Urbanization and organization of large states
1) Iron agricultural culture:
e.g. Iron blade
2) Introduction of new crops (banana)
3) Population growth
SOCIETIES AND KINSHIP POLITICS

-- Kin-based Societies:

Societies that governed through members, who are related based on marriage or kinship ties.

-- Form of social organization prevalent during and after the Bantu migrations.
UNLIKE EURASIA AND NORTH AFRICA

--No institution of privately owned property (sub-Saharan Africa).

--Communities claimed ownership based on rights to land and used it in common.

--Status group: iron working, highly prestigious.
“STATELESS SOCIETY” OR “SEGMENTARY SOCIETY”

a) Less hierarchical and bureaucratic.

b) Most prominent member of the family, usually male, presided as a chief.

c) Villages consisted of several extended families.
EGALITARIANISM

TIV (Eastern Nigeria)

Gkuyu (Kenya)
CHIEFDOMS (BEFORE 1000 C.E.)

Political structure:
1) Village chiefs ruled but through concessions and negotiations. Bantu kingdoms: appoint officials on the local level.
2) Ruling elites, military nobles, business entrepreneurs (male heads of the families).
3) Villages consisted of several extended families.
4) Common people, peasants and slaves.
SLAVES

Wolof (Senegal): house slave

Akhi of Ghana: slave labor
ANCIENT ATHENS
BEACH BALL TIME
What happened after 1000 C.E. in sub-Saharan Africa?
GROWTH, CONFLICT AND STATE FORMATION

After 1000 C.E. regional states and large kingdoms became prominent

a) Population pressures and military threats encouraged kin-based societies in Congo to form small states (After 1000 C.E.)

b) By 1200 regional conflict had led small kingdoms
**KINGDOM OF KONGO**

--A major sub-Saharan empire: 1200 smaller states form an independent political order 1390 (to 1891)

--The most tightly centralized Bantu political system: Centralized government: king, officials and six provinces administrated by governors.

--trade network: copper, cloth, and commodities from the Atlantic Ocean.

did trade from the Atlantic Ocean.
EMERGING KINGDOMS

11th to 15th centuries Swahili cities.

12th to 16th centuries Christian Kingdom of Axum

13th to 15th centuries Mali Empire
Trans-Saharan Trade and Islamic States in West Africa
Kingdom of Ghana: regional state and a commercial site for trade in gold (Senegal river and Nigeria) in exchange of horses, cloth, small manufactured wares and salt (a major commodity in the tropics).

Introduction of Islam: Caravan (from north Africa and Mediterranean basis) and Indian basin.

10th century, Ghana converts to Islam.
TAXES & TRADE

Trade played a major role in the emergence of cities and states in sub-Saharan Africa.

1) Taxes levied on trade provided finances for large armies.
2) Armies protected the sources and trade of gold.
3) Security
4) Maintained tributary states and defended Ghana against nomadic incursions from the Sahara.
GAO
KOUMBISALEH
THE LION PRINCE SUNDIATA (1230-1255)

Founder of the Mali empire.

1235 consolidated his power on the Mali empire, which included Ghana, Senegal and Niger rivers.

- very hospitable to Muslim merchants.
- Mali taxed all trade passing through west Africa.
BEACH BALL TIME
GOLD
NIANI: CAPITAL CITY
(SACKED IN 1670)
Question: To what extent was Sundiata’s support for Islam an issue in the shaping of his reputation?
Mansa Musa (1312-1337)

- Grand-nephew of Sundiata. Muslim ruler.

-- Pilgrimage to Mecca (1324-1325)

Expanded Islam throughout west Africa.

• Trade and Islam: More Muslim merchants.

• Established a tradition of centralized government and expansion of Islam in the region.
WEST AFRICAN MOSQUE
HAGIA SOPHIA
WHAT ROLE DID ISLAM PLAY IN AFRICA?

1) Source of Legitimacy for rulers.

2) Cooperation between states Alliances.

3) Expansion of commerce:
   Appealed to merchants and ruling elites and a cultural foundation for business relations with north African traders.
NON-ISLAMIC RELIGIONS

1) Monotheism: A single divine force as the generator of life and order.

2) Moralistic: promoted proper moral behavior and set ethical standards for members of the community.

3) Ancestor cults: rituals to regain their goodwill.

4) Diviners: mediators between the spiritual and mundane worlds, consulting oracles, identified the causes of the trouble, gave medicine or assigned sacrificial performances to heal.
CHRISTIANITY

4th century:
- Kingdom of Axum
- Merchants and missionaries.

Ethiopia: highlands

Magical Christianity: amulets or charms for protection.
- Rocks shrines & Church:
  - 11 massive churches.
13TH CENTURY:
ETHIOPIA’S DYNASTY CLAIMED DESCENT FROM THE ISRAELITE KINGS DAVID AND SOLOMON.
SUMMARY OF AFRO-EURASIA

1. Integration:
   a) trade
   b) migration
   c) war
   d) communication networks

2) The Indian Ocean Trade and Islamic States in East Africa

3) What is exceptional?
II. EUROPE IN EURASIA

A typical question

What gave rise to the “West”? 
950-1400

Medieval Europe, c. 950-1300
1400-1789
“HIGH MIDDLE AGES”

(Western Europe) Relatively safe from Mongol-Turkish invasions.

1000-1300 C.E. (Western) European societies began to expand: trade, cultural and religious interaction and CITIES.
MEDIEVAL REVOLUTION:
THE RENAISSANCE OF
THE 12TH CENTURY

1) Social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual transformations.
2) Rise of first bureaucratic or regional states. (political).
3) Rise of cities (social).
4) Vernacular languages and rise of classical Latin (not church) (cultural).
5) Intellectual: recovery of Greek sciences (intellectual).
RISE OF REGIONAL STATE:

a) 10\textsuperscript{th} century German princes (Holy Roman Empire).

b) France and England: independent kingdoms.

- Fusion of Roman and Germanic traditions, but the Greco-Roman tradition more important (state level).
THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

Built on Carolingian empire (9th century)

Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Lombards; then in 8th century Frankish aristocracy (Carolingian).

Counts, Dukes, local authorities.

Charlemagne (742-814)
962: FIRST HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

Otto of Saxony (912-973)

936: declared king

northern Germany

But a new German empire by crushing rebellious princes in Germany and invading northern Italy.

“Holy Roman Empire”: had little to do with the ancient Roman empire; and people in the Empire’s territory had little sense of common identity (Czechs, Germans, Italians, Slavs and Hungarians)
INVESTITURE CONTEST
LATE 11th CENTURY

Appointment of church officials by Holy Roman state authorities.

Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085) ordered the end of lay rulers appointing church officials in their kingdoms.

Emperor Henry IV (1056-1106) challenged the pope.

Henry ex-communicated, enhanced prince influence.
The Investiture shattered the early-medieval equilibrium between spiritual and temporal authority

Paved the path toward the increasing authority of regional states.
FREDERICK BARBAROSSA
“THE RED BEARD”

1152-1190: southern German.

Takes over Lombardy
(northern Italy)

Pope and Italian prince coalition
defeat Fred.
Regional monarchies.

Normans & Anglo-Saxons (5th and 6th centuries migrated to the British Islands).


Capetian and Normans.

Language: Frank-Germanic.
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- William of Rubruck, Giovanni da Pian del Carpini, Andrew of Longjumeau and Giovanni di Monte Corvino.
1) Caused by trade and commerce

2) Reincorporated within an expanding European society.
AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Development of new crops (Spain): sugar cane, rice, citrus fruit, apricots, cotton, artichokes, and saffron.

Rise of Sugar mills.

Move away from manual to mechanical technologies.

Laid the foundation for the industrial revolution in the 18th century.
URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

New cities

New technologies

Trade.

New Republics
WINDMILL IN YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND
EYEGLASSES
1280S, ITALY
SPINNING WHEEL
GUNPOWDER
1202
LEONARDO OF PISA
HINDU-ARABIC NUMERAL
0
A New Method of knowledge: Aristotle

1) Logic: Use of philosophy for the understanding of reality.

2) Philological Analysis: To study the words analytically.

Medicine: Ibn-Sina or Avicenna

Islamic philosophers.

Translation of Greek texts (from Arabic): Aristotle’s texts.
UNIVERSITY

Rise of Universities in Europe.

1158

1167
AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY
CAIRO
Chair of a department