AFRICA AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD

THE ERA OF THE SLAVE TRADE
STATES OF THE SAHEL AND SUDAN

- **The Songhai empire**
  - Dominant power of west Africa
  - Expansion under Sunni Ali after 1464
  - Elaborate administrative apparatus
  - Powerful army, and imperial navy
  - Muslim, syncretic culture
  - Prosperous land
  - Engaged in trans-Saharan trade

- **Fall of Songhai**
  - Moroccan army invaded in 1591
  - Subject peoples revolted
  - Regional kingdoms

- **New Dynasties, Successor states arose**
  - Ruled mixed Muslim, animist populations
  - Late 18th Century
    - Radicalization of Islam followed
    - Reform movements effect area
    - Religious brotherhoods advocating Sufism arose

- **Sokolor Caliphate**
  - Fulani scholar, Usuman Dan Fodio preached jihad
  - Conquered Hausa peoples, states
  - Reformist Islam tries to eliminate animism
  - Many prisoners taken; exported to coast into slave trade
  - Rise of slave villages, plantations farming peanuts, cottons for sale
  - Literacy becomes wide spread, new cities arose, trade flourished
WEST AFRICAN FOREST KINGDOMS

- **Between CE 1000 and 1500**
  - Villages consolidated into larger units, formed powerful and centralized states
  - An influx of grassland-dwelling people from the Sudan
    - Driven south by the increasingly harsh climactic conditions
    - Brought new forms of government, including hereditary monarchy
  - Villages of Ibo, Asante, Yoruba fused into small city-states

- **Forest Kingdoms**
  - **The Yoruba**
    - First to expand as Ile Ife, began series of military incursions
    - Set up tribute monarchies throughout Niger area.
    - Among these tribute monarchies were Oyo and Benin
  - **Benin in southern Nigeria**
    - An area occupied by a people speaking Edo
    - Loose village system changed by Eware the Great (1440-1473)
    - Hereditary and centralized monarchy that ruled through a royal court
    - Benin expanded into an all-out empire in the Nigerian region
    - People in cities formed rudimentary class system with craft and art guilds
    - Slave trade never the most significant economic activity

- **Between CE 1500 and 1800**
  - Kingdoms incorporated into European mercantile, capitalist activities
  - Began wars to capture slaves for export to Portuguese
  - High degree of political instability
  - Fragmented the African civilizations that participated in this commerce

- **Oyo, Asante, Dahomey**
  - Derived immense wealth from the slave trade; Europeans dealt with these states
  - Developed new forms of government: divine right monarchies; councils; bureaucracies
  - Developed extensive traditions in arts and crafts; arts and craft guilds arose
KINGDOMS OF SOUTH AFRICA

- **Kongo**
  - Powerful kingdom of central Africa after fourteenth century
  - Established diplomatic and commercial relations with Portugal, 1482
  - Kings of Kongo converted to Christianity sixteenth century
  - King Afonso communicated with the pope

- **Slave raiding in Kongo**
  - Portuguese traded textiles, weapons, and advisors
  - Kongolese exported gold, silver, ivory, and slaves
  - Slave trade undermined authority of kings of Kongo
  - Deteriorated relations led to war 1665

- **Kingdom of Ndongo (modern Angola)**
  - Attracted Portuguese slave traders, missionaries
  - Queen Nzinga
    - led spirited resistance to Portuguese, 1623-1663
    - Nzinga able to block Portuguese advances
    - Could not expel them entirely

- **End of 17\textsuperscript{TH} century, Ndondo was Portuguese colony of Angola**
  - Portugal ruled Angola until 1972
  - Later coffee production, plantations arose
  - Constant slave trade out of region to Brazil until mid 1850s
EAST AFRICA

- Swahili city-states in East Africa
  - Vasco da Gama forced the ruler of Kilwa to pay tribute, 1502
    - Portuguese naval fleet subdued all the Swahili cities, 1505
    - Portuguese built forts and controlled trade out of Africa
    - Europeans establish some sugar colonies on Seychelles, Mauritius
  - Swahili adjusted to Portuguese, Turks
    - Trade disrupted by both Turks, Portuguese
    - Gold, slaves, ivory trade continued to Middle East
      - Most slaves went to Middle East but some for Brazil
      - Mixed race soldiers took control of area
    - Influx of Arab colonists, merchants to area
    - Plantations arose on Zanzibar, Pemba islands
      - Copied European slave plantations, cash crop exports
      - Arabs plantations on Zanzibar grew cloves, bananas

- Interior of East Africa
  - Bantu intermixed, intermarried with Cushites
    - Farmers of bananas
    - Herders of cattle
    - Transporters of ivory, materials to coast
  - Migration of Nilotic peoples into area
  - Rise of kingdoms, dynasties
    - Arose around lakes of the Rift Valley
    - Bunyoro, Buganda were the most powerful
    - Generally not effected by wider world, Europeans
**SOUTH AFRICA**

- **Southern Africa**
  - Area least affected by Atlantic slave trade
  - Dominated by regional kingdoms, for example, Great Zimbabwe
    - Zimbabwe traded gold, copper directly to Swahili
    - Controlled most of area until disrupted by Portuguese on coast
  - Europeans in south Africa after the fifteenth century
    - Portuguese visited area, used it as temporary stopover to Indian Ocean
    - The Dutch landed at Cape of Good Hope
      - Dutch mariners built a trading post at Cape Town, 1652
      - Increasing Dutch colonists by 1700, drove away native Khoikhoi
      - South Africa became a prosperous European colony
    - Boers (Dutch farmer) developed language, Afrikaans
      - Boer competed with Zulu, Ngoni
  - British took possession of the colony in 1795
  - To escape British, Dutch moved (The Great Trek)

- **Bantu tribes push into Cape area**
  - Displace Khoisan peoples
  - Ngoni tribes arrive in 17th century
  - Fragmentation
    - Rival tribes, competing chiefdoms
      - Zulu, Xhosa, Tswana, Sotho
      - Villages of 200 people, hamlets of a few families
  - In 18th, 19th century Mfecane
    - Rise and expansion of the Zulu kingdom
      - Shaka Zulu was a military, organizational genius
      - Further scattered Ngoni but led to rise of strong Bantu kingdoms to oppose Zulu
Islam
- Popular in west Africa states, Swahili city-states of east Africa
- Islamic university, 180 religious schools in Timbuktu in Mali
- Blended with indigenous beliefs, customs (syncretic Islam)
- The Fulani, west African tribe
  - Observed strict form of Islam, 18th and 19th centuries
  - Helped initiate a period of Muslim fundamentalism, jihads

Monophysite Christianity
- In Egypt (Copts), Sudan (Nubians), Ethiopia
- Under increasing pressure from Islam especially the Nubians
- Only Ethiopia thriving, expanding sometimes allied with Portugal

Roman Catholic Christianity
- Reached sub-Saharan Africa through Portuguese merchants
  - Angola, Kongo converted
  - Regular letters and contacts between Africa, Papacy
- Also blended with traditional beliefs
  - Antonian movement of Kongo addressed to St. Anthony
  - Charismatic Antonian leader, Dona Beatriz, executed for heresy

Dutch Reformed Church established with settlers in South Africa
SOCIAL CHANGES IN AFRICA

- Social Groups and Changes
  - Kinship and clans remained unchanged
  - Traditions tended to remain unchanged
  - Art, crafts groups in West African begin to form proto-classes
  - Rise of hereditary monarchies in West Africa
  - New outside contacts entering
    - European (Portuguese) influence along coast
    - Moroccan, North African influence pushing south

- Radicalization of Islam
  - Rise of radical African Muslim Sahel states
  - Rulers, religious leaders called for purified Islam
  - Began to launch Jihad wars to purify belief

- American food crops
  - Manioc, maize, peanuts, yams, melons
  - Introduced after the sixteenth century
  - Cultivation expanded, thrived

- Population growth in sub-Saharan
  - From 35 million in 1500
  - To 60 million in 1800
FOUNDATIONS OF THE SLAVE TRADE

- Slavery common in Iberian society
  - Iberians never had serfdom because slaves were plentiful
  - Iberians tended to enslave Muslims during their wars
  - Iberians knew of Africans, African slaves: they had invaded Iberia

- Slavery common in traditional Africa
  - Typically war captives, criminals, outcasts
  - Most slaves worked as cultivators
  - Some used as administrators, soldiers
  - Were a measure of power, wealth
  - Assimilated into masters’ kinship groups
  - Could earn freedom
  - Children of slaves were free

- Islamic slave trade well established throughout Africa
  - North African to S. W. Asia Route
  - Indian Ocean Route to S. W. Asia, Persian Gulf

- Europeans used these existing networks
  - Redirected the slaves to the coast (Atlantic Route)
  - Expanded slave trade through increased demand, high prices
PORTUGAL AND AFRICA SET PATTERN

• Portuguese explore Africa
  • Established factories, trading stations
    • Portuguese not powerful enough to control trade
    • Diseases kept Europeans from penetrating interior
    • Had to work cooperatively with local rulers
    • Mulattos penetrated interior for Portugal
  • Exchanges
    • Portuguese obtained ivory, pepper, skins, gold
    • Africans obtained manufactured goods
    • Portuguese successful because their goods sold
    • Many cultural ideas exchange, images in art
  • Portuguese dominated shipment, demand out of Africa

• How Portugal dealt with Africans
  • Missionary efforts, Catholicism spread; Ambassadors exchanged
  • Portugal begins to see Africans as savages, heathens, pagans
  • Began with Portuguese attitude towards African Muslims
  • Slavery introduced as Africans seen only as a commodity
    • As slaves became a primary trade commodity, Portugal became greedy
    • Many Africans limited, attempted to limit Portuguese influence
HUMAN CARGOES

- Early slave trade on the Atlantic
  - Started by Portuguese in 1441
  - By 1460 about five hundred slaves/year shipped to Portugal, Spain
  - By 15\textsuperscript{TH} century slaves shipped to sugar plantations on Atlantic islands
- American planters needed labor
  - Indians not suited to slavery, most had died out
  - Portuguese planters imported slaves to Brazil, 1530s
  - Slaves to Caribbean, Mexico, Peru, Central America, 1510 - 1520s
  - English colonists brought slaves to North America early 17\textsuperscript{TH} century
- Triangular trade
  - All three legs of voyage profitable
  - In Africa, finished goods traded for slaves
  - In Americas, slaves traded for sugar, molasses
  - In Europe, American produce traded
- At every stage slave trade was brutal
  - Individuals captured in violent raids
  - Forced marched to the coast for transport
  - Middle Passage and First Year
    - Between 25-50 percent died on passage
    - Another 25 percent died first year
IMAPCT OF THE SLAVE TRADE ON AFRICA

**Volume of the Atlantic slave trade**
- Increased dramatically after 1600
- c. 1800 100,000 shipped per year
  - About 12 million brought to Americas
  - Another 4 million died en route

**Volume of Muslim trade**
- Ten million slaves may have been shipped out of Africa
- By Islamic slave trade between 8th and 18th centuries

**Social Impact**
- Profound on African societies
  - Impact uneven: some societies spared, some profited
  - Some areas had no population growth, stagnation
  - For generations, many leaders, intellectuals missing
- Distorted African sex ratios
  - Two-thirds of exported slaves were males
  - Polygamy encouraged, often common
  - Forced women to take on men's duties
- Gender involved in trades
  - Atlantic Route: men and women
  - Trans-Saharan Route: men only
  - Indian Ocean Route: women and young boys (eunuchs)

**Politically and economic disruption**
- Firearms traded for slaves
  - Led to war and new state formation
  - Dahomey grew powerful as a slave-raiding state
  - Fostered conflict and violence between peoples
- Failed to develop economics, industry, trade beyond slave trade
- Beginning of a process which impoverished Africa until today
HEIGHT OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
VOLUME AND DESTINATIONS
1701–1810

- British North America
- Spanish America
- British Caribbean
- Danish Caribbean
- French Caribbean
- Dutch Caribbean
- Brazil
- Arabia

NORTH AMERICA
MIDDLE AMERICA
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA

VOLUME
12,000,000
10,000,000
8,000,000
6,000,000
4,000,000
2,000,000
1,000,000

0
80°
100°
20°
40°
0
1000
2000
3000 Kilometers
2000 Miles
SLAVE ROUTES OUT OF AFRICA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARriers</th>
<th>Destinations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>BRAZIL 4.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRITISH NORTH AMERICA INCLUDING THE USA</td>
<td>SPANISH EMPIRE 2.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>BRITISH WEST INDIES 2.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>FRENCH WEST INDIES 1.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>BRITISH NORTH AMERICA INCLUDING USA 500,000</td>
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<td>DUTCH WEST INDIES 500,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DANISH WEST INDIES 28,000</td>
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<td>EUROPE AND ATLANTIC ISLANDS 200,000</td>
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</tbody>
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*Source: “The Slave Trade” by Hugh Thomas*
AMERICAN PLANTATION SOCIETY

- Cash crops
  - Introduced to fertile lands of Caribbean: early fifteenth century
  - Important cash crops
    - Caribbean Coast: Sugar, cocoa, coffee
    - Southern States of US: Tobacco, rice, indigo, cotton
  - Plantations dependent on slave labor

- Plantations racially divided
  - 100 or more slaves with a few white supervisors
    - Whites on top of social pyramid
    - Free people of color
    - Creole blacks
      - Born in Americas of mixed parentage
      - House slaves
    - Saltwater slaves
      - Directly from Africa
      - Field slaves, mines
  - High death rates in the Caribbean and Brazil
    - Led to continued importation of slaves
    - Led to an expansion of the slave trade to Africa
    - Led to an internal slave trade in some states
  - Most slaves to Caribbean (Haiti) and Brazil
  - Only about 5 percent of slaves to North America
    - Less than 1% to the US
    - Slave families more common
AFRICAN TRADITIONS IN THE AMERICAS

- Africans brought their traditions, cultures with them
  - Often retained only their traditions
  - Most Africans in Americas came from same region in Africa
  - Hybrid traditions arose blending with Western traditions

- African and Creole languages
  - Slaves from many tribes; lacked a common language
  - Developed creole languages
    - Blending several African languages
    - With the language of the slaveholder

- Religions also combined different cultures
  - African Christianity was a distinctive syncretic practice
  - African rituals and beliefs
    - Ritual drumming, singing
    - Pentecostal like behaviors
    - Animal sacrifice, magic, and sorcery
    - Examples: Obeah, vodun, candomble

- Other cultural traditions
  - Hybrid cuisine
  - Weaving, pottery
END OF THE SLAVE TRADE & ABOLITION

- Resistance to slavery widespread, though dangerous
  - Slow work, sabotage, and escape
  - Slave revolts were rare, brutally suppressed by plantation owners
  - 17th century: Palmares Slave Republic in Brazil
  - Marones runaway slaves often hid in jungles
  - 1793 Slave Rebellion in French colony of Saint-Domingue
    - French Revolution abolished slavery
    - Black Jacobins stage revolution, end slavocracy
    - Resisted repeated French attempts to reconquer
    - Established the free state of Haiti
- New voices and ideas against slavery
  - Enlightenment began discussion
  - American, French revolutions: ideals of freedom and equality
  - Slave Journals and Narratives greatly influenced debate
    - Olaudah Equiano: freed slave, autobiography became best-seller
    - Frederick Douglass: bought his own freedom, became abolitionist
- Slavery became increasingly costly
  - Slave revolts made slavery expensive and dangerous
  - Decline of sugar price, rising costs of slaves in late 18th century
    - British abolished slavery, slave trade
    - British navy patrolled Africa and arrested, hung slave traders
  - Manufacturing industries rivaled slave industries
    - Paid labor was cheaper and often more reliable
    - Industry was more profitable; Africa became a market
- End of the Atlantic slave trade
  - Most European states abolished slave trade in early 19th century
  - The abolition of slavery followed slowly
    - Many European states abolished slavery between 1790 and 1810
    - 1833 in British colonies, 1848 in French colonies
    - 1865 in the United States, 1888 in Brazil
- Trans-Saharan and East African Slave trades existed until 1880s, 1900s