Regional Outline for: Sub-Saharan Africa

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|   | 8000 – 600 CE | 600 – 1450 CE | 1450-1750 CE | 1750 – 1914 CE | 1914 - Present |
| Politics     | Pharaoh/queen (living incarnation of sun god), internal disorder, invasions (900 BCE), irrigation | Kingship legitimized by Islam, ‘People of The Book’, Bantu (stateless societies) | leaders cooperated with slave traders; monarchy | Re-colonization of Africa; Sierra Leone, Liberia ; coastal kingdoms ruled by warlords/merchants; intertribal war; Revolutions;*White Man’s Burden* | Decolonization of Africa; attempt at representative government; involved in WWII; renewed independence efforts→ civil war, government corruption; socialism |
| Economy     | Trade with Kush and Mesopotamia, agricultural villages engaged in trade. | Trade, with Islam as unifying factor, trans-Saharan trade routes; Ghana (gold), Mali; gold, salt, honey, slaves, ivory, imports, trade with Byzantine Empire, agriculture | Triangular Trade/ Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; guns traded for slaves; slave trade with Mediterranean world | End of Atlantic Slave Trade→ Islamic states of West Africa still trade slaves; rely on slave trade more; economic slump | Globalized economies; mercantilism in former colonies; poverty stricken countries; international debt |
| Social Class/Gender    | Patriarchal, but women manage household, own property, regents of rulers, priestesses, scribes, can divorce, high priest class | Merchants valued; patriarchal society, rich women more restricted; Islamic law, ‘People of the Book’, religious tolerance, class centered around age group | Demographic shifts; more males in the slave trade than females (females traded more in the East coast); depopulated | Rapid population growth | Spanish Flu (global epidemic); clear black majority making decolonization easier (apartheid in South Africa) |
| Science/Inventions     | Hieroglyphics, bronze tools, papyrus, 365 day calendar, medicine, math, astronomy, iron | Hellenistic thought, science/math | manioc, maize, sweet potatoes (from America); technology suffered due to slave trade | Industrialization; guns, textiles, alcohol (importance of foreign imports); Enlightenment | Slow technological development due to colonization, mercantilism, internal instability; miners; no money for industrial goods after WWI; oil (Nigeria) |
| Art/Architecture     | Pyramids, temples, hieroglyphics | Linguistic, architectural, artistic version of Christianity; calligraphy, Mosques, minarets | Islamic art/architecture, paper making; arts suffered due to slave trade | Christian/ Islamic arts ; literary/ artistic forms of the west | Western artistic forms, religious art, native art (export) |
| Empire     | Geography—protected, unique civilization, not as urban as Mesopotamia, Nile river | Islamic urban center, Bantu Migrations, trade centers, Trans-Saharan trade route | Part of Triangular Trade (with Europe and America); beginnings of European exploration ; Kongo, Benin, Mali, Songhay | Open to foreign takeover due to economic slump; colonized by Europe | Decolonization→ new sovereign nations |
| Religion     | Polytheism , afterlife (mummification), Book of the Dead | Islam , Christianity in Ethiopia and Egypt, animistic, syncretism, | Islam, Christianity, animism, ancestor worship→syncretism | Islam, Christianity, animism, ancestor worship→syncretism | Islam, Christianity, animism, atheists |