

Regional Outline for: Sub-Saharan Africa

	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; <i>White Man's Burden</i>	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