

Changes & Exchanges in Africa

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



- Between 1750 (the start of the European Moment) and the late 1800s (Age of Imperialism) the African continent had undergone political and economic changes as new states and empires formed and contact with the Europeans intensified.

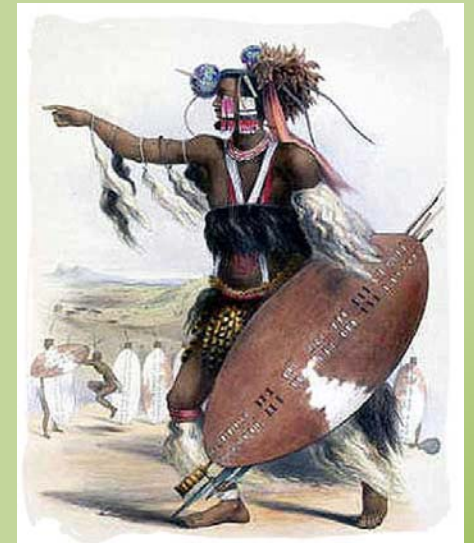


- For centuries (following the Bantu Migrations) in southern Africa small independent chiefdoms existed. However, severe droughts led to conflict over land for grazing and farming.



- This led to the rise of the Zulu Kingdom in the early 1800s, created by the military mastermind Shaka.
 - He established a fierce army of Zulu warriors armed with stabbing spears and ox-hide shields
 - They raided neighboring lands for cattle (a measure of wealth) along with women and children
 - Shaka organized society and created a national identity

In order to protect themselves from the Zulus, some refugee Africans created their own kingdoms in the mountains.



- In West Africa a cluster of powerful Islamic states were forming where old empires (Ghana, Mali, Songhai) used to be.
- Previously, West African rulers often allowed people to mix their traditional religious beliefs with Islam (this prevented widespread opposition to the “new faith” and was also done in the Americas and China). However, an Islamic reform movement began in the “Hausa” (think West Africa) region in the late 1700s to purify and consolidate the area (*similar to the Spanish Inquisition?*).

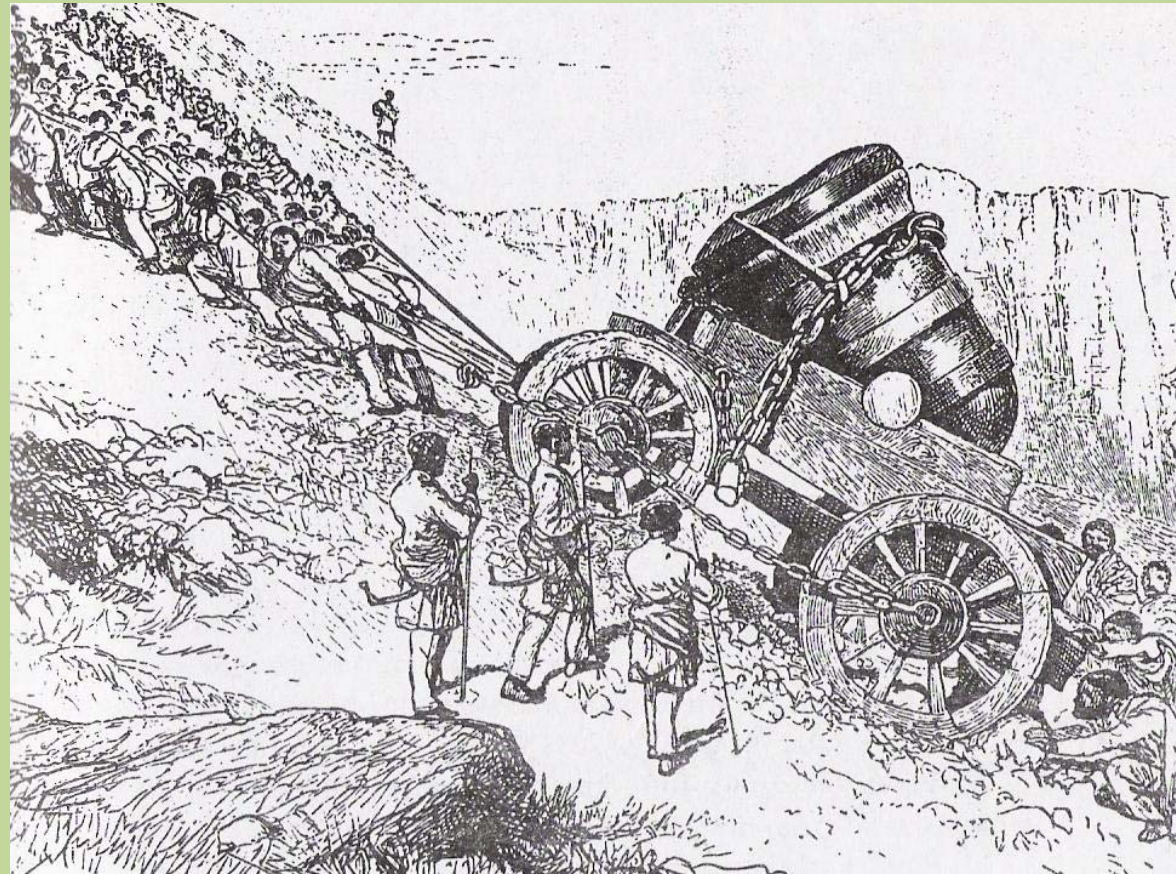
- Jihad armies (led by Usuman dan Fodio of the Fulani people) conquered small states and chiefdoms and created the Sokoto Caliphate.
 - The Caliphate became a center of Islamic learning
 - Despite its “purity” origins it permitted non-Muslims as long as they paid a tax
 - Rulers sold captives in slavery, mostly across the Sahara to North Africa, but also within the caliphate (It is estimated that by 1865 there were more slaves in the Sokoto Caliphate than in any state in the Americas, i.e. Brazil).



- In the northeast of Africa (Egypt / Ethiopia) ancient states began to modernize. After confronting superior European strength (Napoleon invaded and took control of the region in 1801) Egypt's new ruler Muhammad Ali (first half of the 1800s) began economic, political, and social reforms, which were carried on by his grandson Ismail.
 - Aristocrats were replaced with educated Egyptians
 - Railroads, postal service
 - Modern administration of the army
 - Increased agricultural production
 - Created a European-style schools system
 - Cotton was cultivated for export
 - Trade with Europe expanded
 - Islamic world's first newspaper



- Christian Ethiopia also began to modernize (smaller scale) such as with the adoption of European weapons.



- In the mid 1800s Europeans began to venture into the interior parts of Africa for the first time.
- This was mostly done to find the sources of Africa's great rivers, converting people to Christianity, and curiosity about Africa's mineral wealth.

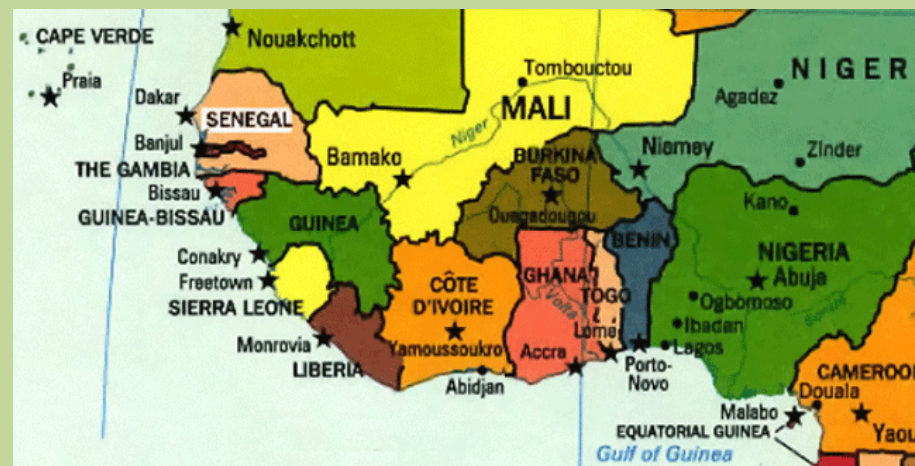


- For centuries Europeans predominately traded manufactured goods (guns, cloth) for slaves, however by the mid 1800s the slave trade was ending (Britain and U.S. ended the trade in 1808, but Cuba & Brazil continued to import slaves).
- As the cause for abolition spread the British vigorously patrolled the Atlantic for slave ships to stop the trade (Some plantation owners who depended upon slavery were in favor of ending the slave trade because they considered “new” slaves right off the ship more likely to rebel as opposed to those born into slavery).

- Replacing “slaves” as a tradable item became palm oil, used for soap, candles, and lubricants.



- A social effect on Africa caused by the end of the slave trade was the spread of Western cultural influences in West Africa.
- Also, newly freed blacks began to go back to Africa:
 - The British colony Sierra Leone became the home for Africans liberated from slave ships.
 - Liberia began with free black Americans in 1808, and after the American Civil War many more African Americans moved there.

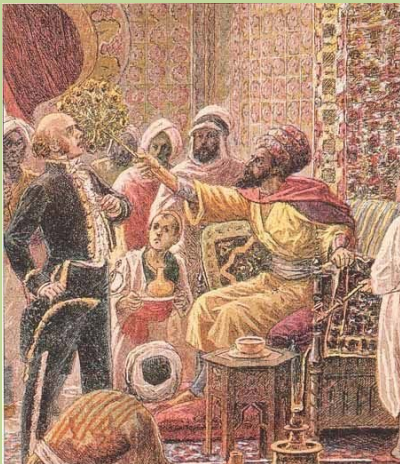


- As the slave trade ended in the Atlantic, the center of the slave trade simply moved around the southern tip of Africa to the eastern “Swahili” coast.

- 1.2 million slaves were exported from eastern Africa, mostly to markets in North Africa or the Middle East.
- New smaller empires and cities benefited (Zanzibar), who could easily take advantage over Africans who were now receiving European / Middle Eastern guns.



- However, contact with the Europeans generally left a negative impact on the continent; an era of imperialism and a “scramble” for Africa was on its way.
- In the mid 1800s, France invaded Algeria. Despite Algerian resistance the French destroyed farms and massacred villagers by the tens of thousands. For decades quarrels took place.



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- Between 1750 and 1850 (and beyond) Africa will undergo changes due to internal and external factors.
 - Internal:
 - In South Africa conflict for good land leads to the Zulu Kingdom
 - In West Africa rises the “pure” Islamic Sokoto Caliphate (slavery)
 - In NE Africa Egypt & Ethiopia attempt to industrialize & Westernize
 - External:
 - Europeans end the slave trade, begin importing palm oil
 - Europeans begin to venture into the interior regions of Africa
 - Imperialism is beginning (France in Algeria)