

COMPARING AFRICAN KINGDOMS, EMPIRES, AND STATES, 1450-1750

OYO & BENIN

Located in present-day Nigeria

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: Independent city-states of the **Yoruba** people; grew up around 1000 CE

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: slave trade with Europeans, exchanging slaves for guns

RESULT: Disintegrated in the 1700s as a result of civil wars and rulers' greed over the slave trade

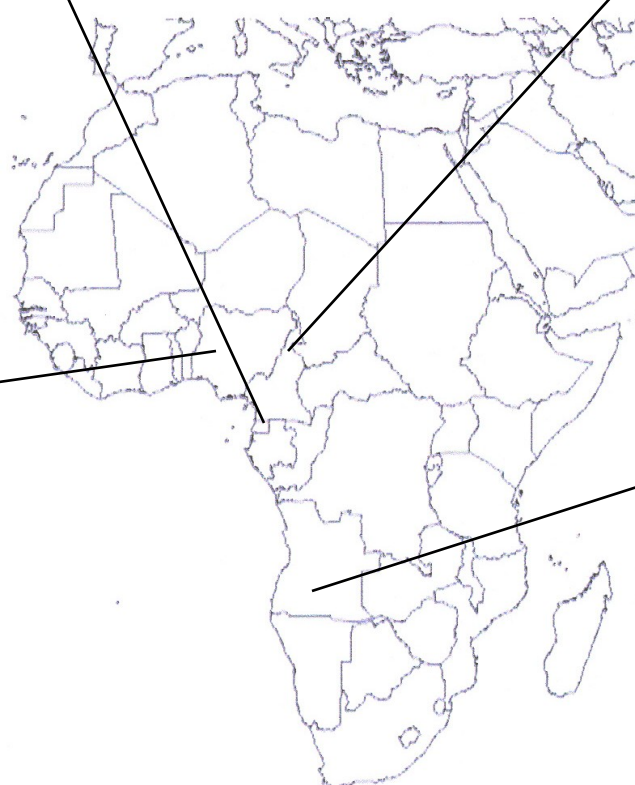
SONGHAY

Located in what is today Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and Guinea

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: An empire of conquered territories with governors appointed by the emperor and **civil service**; local rulers kept power, expansion began in 1464.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: controlled gold and salt trade, taxing revenues

RESULT: Supported Islam over local religions (**ancestral worship, animism**); invaded by Moroccans armed with guns, 1590s; revolts followed; empire gone by



ASHANTI UNION

Located in what is today Ivory Coast & Ghana

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: Union of **Akan**-speaking states with an elected chief who took his authority from the **Golden Stool of Kumasi** in 1695.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Gold trade (Gold Coast states), expanding south and became a major slave trader, exchanging slaves for guns; power declined as slave trade declined in 1800s

RESULT: Use of slave trade led to conflict with Europeans, heavy reliance on imports at expense of own economy; fell to the British in 1901 after a long war.

KONGO

Located in what is today the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION: **Manikongo** (king) married into important families of conquered people to legitimize rule; king as absolute and divine; expansion began before 1400.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Trade in pottery, cloth, iron goods; agriculture; **maize** introduced in 1600s from the Americas; Growth of trade in slaves with coming of the Portuguese in 1500s.

RESULTS: Civil war over conversion of part of royal family to Christianity; Europeanization by **King Afonso** in early 1500s; Portuguese influence and interference; corrupting influence of the slave trade; division into small states by 1600s; merchants become more powerful than ruling fa-

milies; kingdom gone by 1800