AMSCO Chapter 9

Expansion of African Trade

1. Migration of Bantu-Speakers
2. Originated in present Nigeria and Cameroon, and eventually covered 1/3 of Africa through gradual migration of small groups
3. Around 3000 BCE, Bantu migrated with an agricultural system based on yams, palm oil, millet and sorghum; food surplus increased population so they spread to new areas, spreading farming knowledge to forest people
4. Bananas arrive in Africa from Indonesia in 300-500 BCE; bananas allowed Bantu to move to areas where yams would not grow
5. Technology – canoes, metallurgy for tools and weapons,
6. Infectious and parasitic diseases were also spread by the Bantu, such as malaria
7. By 2000 BCE Bantu speakers had incorporated domesticated animals into their society
8. Societies – great variety of Bantu-speaking groups based on small villages; matrilineal
9. Religion – one god but many spirits, ancestor veneration, afterlife
10. Arts – masks based on dead ancestors; music with flutes, drums, horns; story telling tradition
11. Political Structures in Inland Africa
12. By 1000 CE agriculture throughout sub-Saharan Africa led to settled societies
13. Kinship groups with a chief who mediated internal problems and rival groups
14. Groups became districts with a group of chiefs at the head
15. Larger kingdoms grew as smaller kinship groups struggled to survive
16. Islam’s Impact on Trade
17. Sub-Saharan African trade was established when Muslims began to travel across the Sahara and in the Indian Ocean
18. Trans-Saharan Trade – camel caravan trade exploded after Islamic merchants arrived
19. Camels and Trade – camels began to replace horses and donkeys in the Sahara due to their ability to drink up to 50 gallons of water and then survive for long periods of time
20. Saddles – 15 different types of camel saddles, such as
21. South Arabians – ride in back of hump, built in handle with hair
22. Northern Arabians – on top of hump, best visibility
23. Northern Africans – in front of hump, best control of camel
24. Somalis of Eastern Africa – saddle to carry cargo, not humans
25. Gold was biggest commodity plus ivory and slaves traded for salt, textiles, and horses (Ghana and Mali)
26. Indian Ocean Trade
27. Indian, Southeast Asian, Persian, Greek and Roman merchants traded with coastal groups far before Muslims arrived
28. City-states (Swahili) developed along the coast, exchanging ivory, gold, slaves, tortoise shells, peacock feathers, rhinoceros horns for porcelain, cotton, metal goods (Kilwa, Mombasa, Zanzibar)
29. Political Structures of West and East Africa
30. Ghana – 8th-11th century peak, traded gold, ivory for salt, copper, cloth and tools; capital at Kumbai Saleh, centralized government
31. Mali – gold trade, taxed foreign trade, surpassed Ghana; Timbuktu and Gao developed into Islamic centers of trade and learning
32. Sundiata, founding ruler and legend, may have been Muslim – crippled, but became a great warrior and leader, the Lion Prince
33. Mansa Musa – Sundiata’s grand-nephew, devout Muslim
34. Made famous pilgrimage to Mecca, distributing gold to people along the way
35. Returned to establish schools in Timbuktu, spent too much money
36. Songhay Kingdom overtakes Mali, but Islam remains
37. Zimbabwe – 12-15th centuries, agriculture, trade, gold
38. Traded gold with Swahili city states, India, Persia and China
39. Great Zimbabwe was capital city with huge stone wall surrounding, first of size built without mortar
40. Overgrazing caused the city to be abandoned
41. Social Structures of Sub-Saharan Africa
42. No strong centralized governments, rather small groups organized around kinship, age and gender.
43. Communities divided work according to age sets; men dominated activities requiring specialized skills, while women worked in agriculture and child raising
44. Women’s Roles in Sub-Saharan Africa
45. Matrilineal – kinship passes from the mother to the children, but power was still held by the men (patriarchal)
46. Many converted to Islam, but kept African gender norms, so no veils
47. Slavery in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southwest Asia
48. Slavery existed before Europeans, slaves were debtors, prisoners of war and criminals
49. European arrival increased slave trade along Sub-Saharan and Indian Ocean routes
50. Female slaves often became concubines, and males soldiers or eunuchs in courts
51. Zanj rebellion was a slave rebellion of African slaves working on sugar plantations in Mesopotamia, led by Ali bin Muhammad that lasted for 10 years before being crushed
52. Cultural Life In Sub-Saharan Africa
53. Music, visual arts and storytelling for entertainment and rituals like weddings, funerals, and ancestor veneration (music used to communicate with the spirit world)
54. The Griot – storytellers that kept the history of the community
55. Kept record of births, deaths, lineage groups, used 12 string harp
56. Held power of history and often gave advice to kings
57. Some areas of Africa had female griottes
58. Swahili- Syncretic Language – Bantu language melded with Arabic vocabulary from the Islamic merchants
59. Religion – Christianity in Egypt and Ethiopia; survived in Ethiopia as a combination of Christina beliefs and traditional faith like ancestor veneration and belief in spirits.