

January 10th, 2023

Course Outline

Introduction

Land and Peoples of Africa

Sources of Africa History

Ancient Civilizations in Africa

The Indigenous peoples of Southern Africa

The pre-colonial economy of Africa

Slavery and slave trade in Africa

The influence of Islam and Christianity in Africa.

Introduction

The history of Africa can be studied under three (3) distinct periods namely;

Pre-colonial

Colonial

Post-colonial

Each period of African history is marked by its own distinctive.

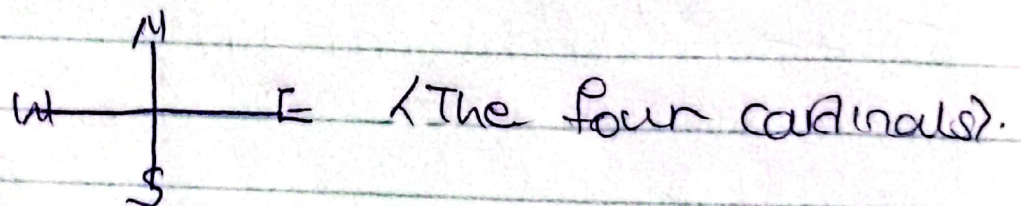
In this course, our main focus is the pre-colonial history of Africa. The period of this course can be sub-divided into two namely;

1. Pre-1500
2. 1500-1800

In the pre-1500, there was no contact between Africans and Europeans. However, During that Period Africans had contacts with the foreigners, most especially the Arabs. In the period between 1500 and 1800, Africans had contact with the Europeans. The contact affected the socio-political and Economic life of the people of Africa in no small measure. It is against this background that this course interrogates the history of Africa up to 1800.

Land and Peoples) of Africa

Africa is the second largest continent of the world. It covers about $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total surface of the earth.



The continent of Africa is bounded on the west by the Atlantic ocean; on the north by mediterranean Sea; on the east by Red sea and Indian ocean; and on the south by the mingling of atlantic and Indian ocean.

The total marked area of Africa is approximately 11,724,000² miles. Africa is blessed with several Geographical features such as Islands, Mountains,

Rivers, forests, lakes, Rocks, among others, while Madagascar is the largest island in the world, other smaller islands in Africa include Cape Verde, Seychelles, Sautome Principe, Mauritius and Comoros.

Major mountains in Africa; Kilimanjaro, Cameroon, Adamaoua. Important Rivers in Africa are Nile, Niger, Senegal, Congo, Limpopo, Orange, Zambezi (Zaire). Geographically, Africa is divided into five parts namely; North Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa. While Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Libya are countries in North Africa, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, among others are countries in this Africa; Countries in Central Africa; Cameroon, Central Africa Republic; in West Africa which is made up of 16 countries - Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Niger, Burkina Faso, etc.

In the Southern Africa; South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland. In all, there are 54 independent countries in Africa up till today.

Prior to attainment of political independence and Africa countries. The continent of Africa was brought under European colonial rule. All the countries in Africa were colonized with the exception of two; Ethiopia and Liberia.

Major European powers that colonized Africa were Britain, France, Spain, Germany and Belgium.

Generally, Africa is pluralistic or multi-ethnic society based on archaeological evidences from different parts of Africa, man had settled in the continent since the Old Stone age. The pluralistic nature of African society reveals that more than one ethnic group constitutes the indigenous or ~~original~~ people of an African country. In other words, no country in Africa is homogenous by ~~ethno-linguistics~~ classification into five language families namely;

Afro-Asiatic, Niger-Congo, Khoisan, Nilo-Saharan, Central Sudan. Major ethnic groups in Africa are;

Zulu, Xhosa, Bantu, Khol Khol, San Call in Southern Africa, Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, Kanuri Call in Nigeria, Hutu, Ashanti, Tutsi, Call in Rwanda, Akan Call in Ghana, Mende Call in Sierra Leone, Wolof, Berber, Somali, Kongo, Swahili.

Assignment

How true is the assertion that Africa had no history until the coming of the Europeans.

17th January, 2024

Sources OF Africa UP TO 1800

materials or tools

Sources of history are the working materials that a historian uses in reconstructing the past of human society. Since a historian does not have direct access to the past because the event that happened has disappeared and what was left of the past were traces of statements about the past. He or she has to rely on his/her sources.

There are different sources of African history notable among them are;

1. Traditional sources/oral sources

These are the primary or original sources of African history. They are also known as oral sources.

These sources of African history are of two categories:

Oral tradition

Oral evidence.

2. Written sources are documented materials. The written sources of African history are of three categories: namely;

a African Account

b Arabic Account

c European Account.

3 Archaeological evidence

4 Geographical evidence

5 Linguistic evidence

6 Ethno-graphical Data

The Evolution of Man in Africa.

There's no doubt the fact that man had existed in Africa in the ancient period. The first scientist to publish an important scientific comment on the study of evolution of man was Charles Darwin. According to Charles Darwin, Africa was a home of man. The evidence about the development of man in Africa had been soon revealed in the increase in the number of ~~element~~ fossil specimen which were carried out by the archaeologists. This suggests that Africa was a continent on which man makes his first appearance.

Available studies revealed the existence of early man in some parts of Africa such as West, East, ~~North~~ Central, North and Southern Africa.

There were several important discoveries that illustrates the presence of primitive Homo sapiens on a continent of Africa far more than ~~ten~~ (one hundred) thousand years) 100,000 years.

In 1921, A skull and some skeletal remains were found at broken hill in Zambia. Also in 1932, Dr. Me Leakey recover Part of 2 skulls from a site called Kanjera in western Kenya. Also in 1967, Parts of 2 (Homo) Individuals were recovered in a ~~site~~ ^{valley} site of Homo ~~terre~~ of south-west Africa.

The Evolution of man in Africa could be examined under three different ages of civilization. They were,

1. Old stone age
2. Bronze age
3. Iron age.

Old stone age

This was the first age of man in Africa. During this age, stone tools such as ~~scissors~~ / knives knife were produced used for cutting, digging, chopping, sharpening, scraping among others. A good example of people that lived during this period were the SAN

Bronze age.

It was the second age of human development in Africa. In ancient Egypt for example, Bronze age began during the proto-dynastic period. In Mubia, Bronze age started as early as 2300 BC. In West Africa, some copper smelting was found near Agadez, dated around 2200 BC.

Iron Age

This was the last age of human development in Africa. This age extended over the last 2000 years. It was the age when man in Africa began to use iron technologies for agricultural production. The earliest manifestation of the early iron age in Africa was in East Africa, it later spread to Southern Africa and West Africa. For example the ^{iron} ~~pan~~ ^{technology} spread ~~to eastern & southern~~ ^{to eastern & southern} Africa during Circa 500 BC to 400 AD. The archaeologist obtained iron smelting sites in places like Burundi, Rwanda, Nigeria among others.

Ancient Civilizations in Africa.

Africa is a major continent of the world with many civilizations evolved.

The word civilization is often been confused with

The word Modernization

Simply put, Civilization is the ability of a human society to solve its own social, political, economy and technological problems. Therefore, several forms of civilizations evolved in different parts of the world, such as Mesopotamian Civilization, Greek Civilization, Roman Civilization, Chinese civilization, Indian Civilization, African Civilization, among others.

In Africa a number of civilizations evolved or emerged such as Egyptians Civilizations, Meroitic Civilizations, Zimbabwean Civilization

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Egyptian Civilization

This was one of the ancient world civilizations that emerged in Africa. The success of the civilization was traced to the presence of River Nile. This civilization emerged from Egypt - a major country located in the Presentday North Africa. The development of human civilization in Egypt was attributed to the blessing of the River Nile.

Egypt bequeathed a number of legacies to the modern world. In other words, major legacies of the Egyptian Civilization includes the following.

art of writing. The form of writing system that emerged in Egypt was known as hieroglyphs. A form of writing system developed in Egypt. The ancient Egyptians first express themselves in pictorial ideographs. The Egyptians introduced different system of writing hieroglyphics. Such as Cursive form, short-hand form, among others.

2) ^{mummification} act of embalming corpse! This was the second legacy of Egyptian civilization. The embalment of corpse in ancient Egypt is known as mummification. This was a major scientific contribution for the Egyptians. This shows that the Egyptians have knowledge of chemistry, medicine and surgery. In the process of embalming corpse, the body was soaked for 70 days in a ~~fettered jar~~ sealed jar. The brain was removed and other organs were preserved separately such as the liver, lungs and the intestine. Each were placed in a different jar.

3) Calendar! It was a major legacy of Egyptian civilization, it was a solar calendar and the calendar was made possible through the influence of a staff known as Sotis.

The Egyptian calendar was divided into four seasons of four (4) months, each having 30 days plus five (5) added days at the end of the year.

4) Mathematics: In field of mathematics, the Egyptian made original contribution to world civilization. Egyptian Mathematics covers arithmetic, algebra and Geometry. The Egyptians were very accurate in their measurement. The Egyptians method of numeration was based on the decimal system.

5) Astronomy: This was a major area, where Egyptians made significant contribution to world civilization. Simply put astronomy is the study with the study of stars. The Egypt was blessed with astronomers. The knowledge of astronomy helped the Egyptians to produce a solar calendar. The astronomers were able to predict the movement of stars with adequate accuracy.

6) Medicine: In the field of medicine, ancient Egypt was a blessing to the world. Medical knowledge

was considered as one of the most important scientific contributions ~~of~~ ancient Egypt to the history of man. Egypt was blessed with many physicians ^{with} ~~of~~ different specializations. Ancient Egyptians were reputable in medicine and pharmacology. One of the most significant personalities in the history of Egypt in this field of human endeavour was Imhotep. The Egyptian physicians treated several forms of diseases such as skin cancer, Diabetes, Increase of urine and so on.

Other areas/legacies of Egyptian civilization included, Literature, Government, agriculture, Art and Architecture and crafts.

MEROE CIVILIZATION

This was another ancient major civilization that emerged in Africa. Meroe was an ancient city on the east bank of the Nile in Sudan. This was the capital of the Kingdom of Kush for several centuries. The people of Meroe were known as Kushites. According to Herodotus ~~Herodotus~~ Herodotus (Father of history and Greek historian) Meroe was a great city. The ^{Kushite} ~~great~~ capital

Kingdom of Meroe lasted for several centuries until it was destroyed by the King of Axum in about 320 AD.

Formerly the Kushite king had their capital at Napata where they ruled until the early 6th Century B.C. They later transferred their capital to Meroe which was about 300 miles from the south. Probably because Meroe was situated in an area rich in iron ore. The ancient city of Meroe produced several great civilization which were major contributions to world civilization.

Major legacies of Meroe civilizations included:

- ① Writing system: The writing system of Meroe City was known as Meroitic writing or Meroitic script. The Meroitic script had 15 consonant sounds. It was also an alphabetic script.
- ② Language: This was another major legacy of Meroe civilization. The form of language developed by the people of Meroe was known as Meroitic language. The language was written in two forms of the Meroitic alphabets namely,

merotic cursive and merotic hieroglyphs.

- ⑤ Iron Industry: This was a major contribution of merotic civilization. The city of merot was a great center of iron industry. This city became famous and wealthy because of its iron industry. The city was blessed with iron ~~metals~~ ^{minerals} ~~minerals~~ who were among the best in the world. The merotic iron workers produced iron tools such as weapons, Jewellery, cutlery and other iron implements.

30th January, 2024

4. In the area of Agriculture, the merot made significant contribution. Major components of ~~farmer~~ ^{farming} agriculture prevalent in merotic city were ~~farmer~~ ^{farming} and Animal husbandry / pastoralism. Some Agricultural products produced by the merotic farmers were vegetables, cereals and so on. The Botanical location of the merotic city, which was on the east bank of river Nile made the practice of ~~farmer~~ ^{farming} successful and possible. Importantly, merot was a great center of international trade. The strategic of merot gave her the opportunity to control the overland

trade route that connected all the Red Sea and Regions further, ^{west} across the African Savannah where participated actively in a network of material exchanges ^{connecting} it with Mediterranean sea as well as with the horn of Africa. The Kushite were great trade traders who traded Febriles, Jewellery, agricultural products and iron tools.

STATE FORMATION PROCESS IN AFRICA

Simply put, state formation is the process of developing a centralized governmental structure in a society where one did not exist prior to its evolution. In the pre-colonial Africa, two major forms of states emerged. They were:

- ① Centralised state
- ② Non-centralised state (Decentralised state)

① Centralised State: A centralised State is a state that has centralised political authority where the capital is at the center of administration. Examples of centralised states in the pre-colonial Africa were Old Oyo Empire, Benin Kingdom, Ashanti Kingdom, Buganda Kingdom, among others.

2) Non-Centralised / Decentralized state

This is a state that has a dispersed ^{major} authority of authority. It is also known as Segmented Society or Acephalous state. In this state, power and authority are not concentrated in the hands of a single individual but shared amongst different groups. Notable examples of Non-Centralised states in the pre-colonial Africa were the Igbo, the Urhobo, (^{both} from Nigeria); Masai of Kenya; the Nuer of Sudan and the Dagomba of North-western Ghana.

Factors that promoted state formation

Process in pre-colonial Africa

A number of factors contributed to the process of state formation in pre-colonial Africa. They were;

- ① Strong and able leadership
- ② Environment or Ecology or Geography.
- ③ Religion.
- ④ Migration
- ⑤ Trade
- ⑥ ~~are~~ well standing Army.

The Indigenous People of Southern Africa.

Southern Africa is one of the major parts in Africa. ^{In the} Contemporary Africa, Southern Africa is made up of different countries such as South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho among others. Prior to the advent of the Europeans into this part of Africa (The Europeans were generally referred to as the Boers) the indigenous inhabitants of this region were

- ① The SAN / Bush men
- ② The Khoi Khoi / Hottentots
- ③ The Bantu

24)
20) The SAN were the earliest inhabitants of Southern Africa. They were slightly built and short in stature. The housing pattern of the SAN was very simple. They have temporary shelter usually made up of grasses and bushes. They also lived on branches of leaves and in caves. The diet of the SAN consisted of staples such as honey and insects such as locusts, grasshoppers, termites and caterpillars.

They also supplemented their food items with small animals like tortoise and Rats. Economically, the SAN engaged in hunting and gathering as well as fishing.

rabbit

while the men engaged in hunting, the women engaged in gathering. They hunted wild animals with their instruments known as Bows and Poison arrows. The women collected growing herbs, vegetables, roots, fruits and tubers. The main fishing techniques and instruments used by the SAN were reed baskets and traps. There was evidence that the SAN engaged in animal husbandry, most especially domestication of animals. They kept dogs and rabbits. Trained dogs were used for hunting.

Storage of food was a major aspect for the SAN. The food was usually collected and consumed the same day. It was the custom of women to gather only some the quantity of food that will serve the family for the day. This led to minimize food storage. However, some food such as grasshopper, roots, tubers among other were stored for the case.

In the area of religion, the SAN were natural worshippers i.e. they worship the gods of nature of sun. The SAN worshipped the moon and perceived natural forces such as rain and water. One of the gods of the SAN was Great Fire Spirit.

The Khoikhoi

They were the second inhabitants of southern Africa. They were larger than the SAN physically, they belong ~~to~~ ^{to} the same race with the SAN. They were equally short in stature. They speak the language containing Click Sound. Economically, the Khoikhoi engage in hunting, gathering and Pastoralism. While the men engaged in hunting, the women engaged in gathering. The women gathered edible roots, vegetables, herbs and tubers. The men engaged in Pastoralism, they kept animals such as goats, sheep, cattle, among others.

As a result of keeping sheep and cattle, the Khoikhoi were opportuned to live in larger communities. This enabled them to develop more sophisticated social and political organisations.

The Khoikhoi were organised in tribes; each tribe consisted of related ~~class~~ ^{clans}. Each community was ruled by a tribal chief with little ~~or~~ ^{limited} power. It was the duty of the tribal chief to lead the tribe in war and peace as well as preside over the tribal war.

There was existence of class distinction among the Khoikhoi. This development was as a result of the possession of cattle. Cattle consisted a kind of private

property which made some people richer than the other.

In times of diet, the Khoikhoi food was more regular, they eat the fruit, root, herbs they gathered. They also eat the animals such as cattle and sheep. The Khoikhoi were nomadic, this was because they spent their time following their cattle from one place to another.

The BANTU

People

They were the third indigenous people of southern Africa. They were the largest indigenous people of southern Africa. The home-land of the Bantu was in west Africa. They migrated and settled in southern Africa. Generally, the Bantu were essentially divided into two; namely Southern Bantu and Central Bantu. Both groups had cultural and language backgrounds.

The Southern Bantu group were made up of two; namely

(a) The Nguni (b) The Sotho

The Nguni

The Nguni speaking group of southern Bantu lived along the Eastern Coastal Strip. This

group made up of four (4) sub groups namely The Zulu, Xhosa, Thembu, Mpondo.

The Sotho

The Sotho speaking group of Southern Bantu was mostly in Central Bantu Plateau. The Sotho speaking group consisted of three main sub-groups namely, ① Tswana ② Venda and ③ Lemba.

Economically, the Bantus engaged in Farming, Pastoralism and fishing while the men engaged in cattle rearing, the women were actively involved in Farming. Major crops being cultivated included maize, millets, vegetables, among others.

The housing system of the Bantu was more sophisticated and more permanent than that of the Kholson. The floors of the houses of the Bantu were beautiful. Materials used included Mats, animal skins among others.

Politically, the Bantu had advanced and sophisticated political organisation. They were equally organised in tribes and were ruled by hereditary chiefs. Each hereditary chief was the Supreme head of the community. He performed several functions such as Land Sharing, Settlement of internal dispute as well as external relations. He was also a religious and

political leader of the community. He had the final say in all legal dispute.

Cattle was very significant to the Bantu, it was regarded as a social status, it was rated higher than money among the Bantu. Cattle was used for sacrifices to appease ancestors and no marriage was considered to be legal without the payment of dowry in form of cattle.

Bride wealth or dowry called Lobola was paid in cattle. Cattle was considered a basis for Bantu self-respect, pride and wealth.

Another important social life of the Bantu was marriage. Marriage was essentially polygamous, the wives in any polygamous house of the Bantu were divided into various household. Each of the wives had a fixed order of prestige and right to the inheritance of the property of the husband. It was customary for the father to pay the dowry of the first wife of any of his sons however the subsequent wives to be married by the son were the responsibility of the son.

Religiously, the Bantu were naturalistic worshippers. They believed that the spirit of their ancestors had profound interest in their affairs and equally influenced their everyday activities. The Bantu took

ancestors worshipped very seriously. Each family worshipped its own ancestor. During the time of trouble, the Bantu usually sought for the assistance of their ancestors by offering them sacrifice through the use of cattle.

Land equally played significant role in the Bantu economic set-up. Land was the basis for the rulers' importance. It belonged to the whole community and was held in trust by the chiefs and the headmen. There was no well defined boundaries and family cattle was allowed to graze freely on another family's land.

Lastly, initiation ceremony was very important to the Bantu. Indige initiation ceremony was a practice whereby a young man was to go through the process of circumcision. This was followed by a period of isolation during which he lived apart along with other initiates.

During this period of their seclusion they were taught tribal customs and duties, obligations and responsibility of adult males. After the initiation ceremony there followed a period of separation. It was after the initiation ceremony that a young man could marry and take an active part in the community affairs.

It was not limited to adult males alone. Adult females also underwent initiation ceremony.

THE PRE-COLONIAL ECONOMY OF AFRICA
The indigenous economy of the people of Africa was diversified. People engaged in different economic activities. Basically, the pre-colonial economy of African society could be categorized into three (3) mainly;

① Agricultural Sector (ii) Industrial sector / Hand-craft industry (iii) Commercial sector.

① Agricultural Sector: This was the first major division of the traditional economy of the African society. The agricultural sector was made up of five major components namely; farming, fishing, hunting, animal husbandry and forestry.

① Industrial sector / Hand-craft industry.
This could be categorized into three (3) based on resources used;

① Industries based on plants resources such as basket making.

② Industries based on natural resources e.g. Pottery, salt making, blacksmithing.

③ Industries based on animal resource such as bag, belt, shoes.

3) Commercial Sector

Two major forms of trade existed among the ~~benzene~~ people of Africa: namely

1) Internal trade

2) External trade.

~~cowries, manilla, cloth money etc.~~

Different types or forms of market existed among the people^s of Africa such as daily market, international market etc. The initial trade of goods was made by barter, later currencies were introduced to facilitate easy transactions. Among currencies introduced were cowries, manilla, cloth money etc.

14th February

SLAVERY AND THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA

Slavery was not new in Africa. It was a social institution that was widely practiced in different parts of Africa long before the coming of the