

Sub-Saharan Africa

Survey of World Regions



Introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa

- Africa is a region of great issues, debates, and contrasts
 - **Issues:** Great poverty, great needs, large populations, growing cities, political and social instability
 - **Debates:** How can Africa's problems be solved? How can we understand the region and its challenges?
 - **Contrasts:** vast differences in politics, society, and economy among the peoples of the region

Introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Q:** Have you visited the African continent?
 - Do you have any personal history, family links, or other ties to Africa?
 - How does Africa enter into the American consciousness today?
 - What impressions and perceptions does a typical American have of Africa?



Introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa

- Your reading acknowledges Sub-Saharan Africa as a commonly-accepted region
 - **Unity of the region:** similar livelihood systems, shared colonial experience
 - **But also great diversity:** religion, language, philosophy, politics



Introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Because of this diversity, a basic question comes up:** should Africa be treated as one? (i.e. no North Africa or sub-Saharan Africa)
 - **Q:** what would be arguments for and against a unified approach to the study of Africa?

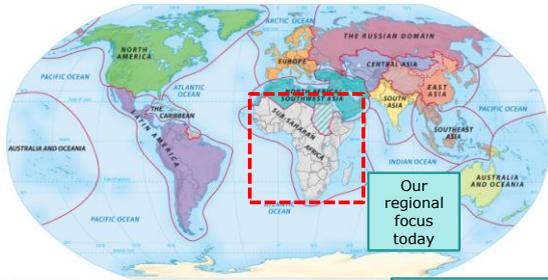


Introduction: Sub-Saharan Africa

- We're following the divided approach here because of the cultural, historical and physical factors that make Sub-Saharan Africa a distinct social region



Sub-Saharan Africa in a Global Context



Q: What observations can we make about the region as we see it on this map?

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats?

Sub-Saharan Africa (as Defined in Your Textbook)



Q: Can we make further observations about the region based on this view?

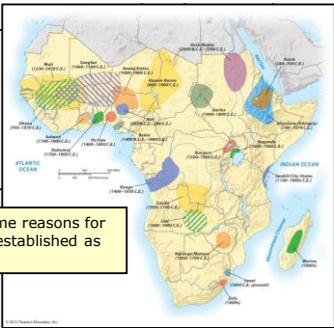
The Involvement of Outsiders

- o A key element of our North American perception of the continent is the role that outsiders have historically played in the region
 - It is true that outsiders have had extensive involvement, European countries having colonized the continent in the 1800s
 - However, it is important to recognize the African cultures that existed long before European rule

The Involvement of Outsiders

o Figure 6.36

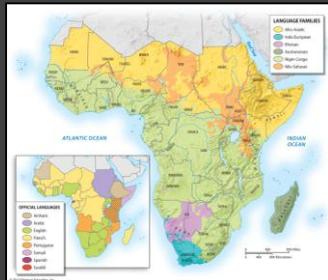
Q: how well do modern national borders line up with the ancient states and empires we see here?



Q: What could be some reasons for these borders being established as they are?

Figure 6.27: Sub-Saharan Languages Map

This map from your reading also provides some indication that modern boundaries don't line up well with underlying cultural patterns and people groups



The Involvement of Outsiders

- o It is also important to acknowledge the external links that African nations have with regions other than Europe
 - For example, China and people of Chinese origin have a long-standing interest in Africa (see reading, p. 289)
 - China has developed many political and economic ties with Africa in recent years

The Involvement of Outsiders

- Key point missed by your text on China-Africa relations: they don't just date back to the 1970s
 - As early as the Ming Dynasty (1300s and 1400s), China was engaging in long-distance diplomacy with nations in East Africa, across Asia, and the Pacific rim
 - In that period, high officials from Africa would routinely travel to meet with the Chinese Emperor and develop trade

Chinese Admiral's Zheng He's Seventh Trade Mission to Africa and South Asia (circa 1433)



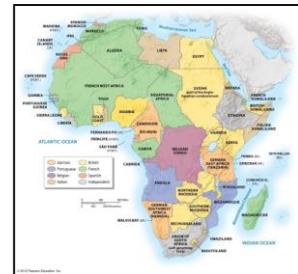
The Involvement of Outsiders

- However, it is certainly true that European involvement in the 1800s and early 1900s is a key driver of much of Africa's current situation

The Involvement of Outsiders

- By 1913, almost the entire continent was divided up by European nations

Figure 6.37 from your reading: note the color-coding that represents the major European powers that colonized Africa (the British and the French being especially involved)



The Involvement of Outsiders

- South Africa was the first African state to be granted its independence, in 1910
 - However, because of its long-standing association with racial discrimination after independence, it has never been held up as a model of colonial liberation
 - The year 1957 was the key year in the beginning of a wave of former colonies gaining independence

The Involvement of Outsiders

- Your textbook has an extensive discussion of issues related to colonization and decolonization (pages 274-283)
 - **Q:** what challenges do nations face when they become newly independent?

The Involvement of Outsiders

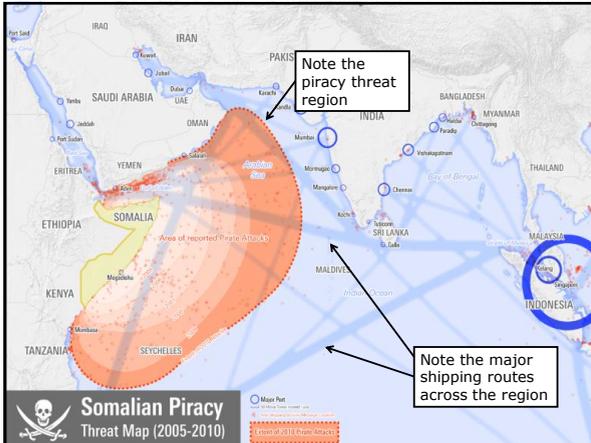
- Outside of your textbook reading, I also provided an article for your review that talks about the relationship between former colonies and colonial powers

Q: What do you take out of this summary?
What are some motivations for European countries to maintain links with their former colonies?



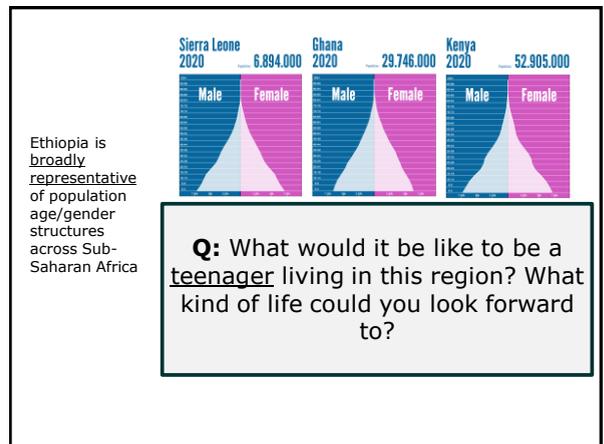
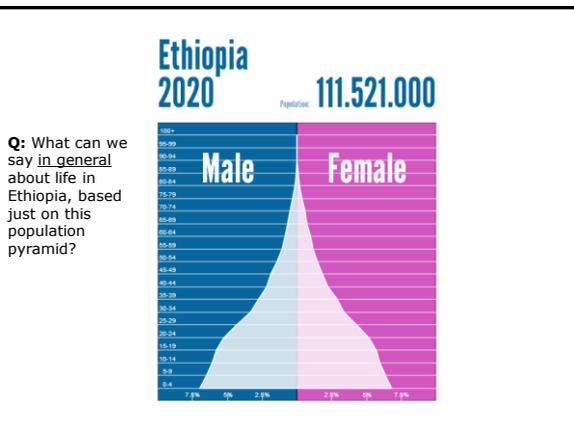
The Involvement of Outsiders

- Countries across Africa have struggled with the challenges of nationhood
 - Somalia** is perhaps the most extreme example of national conflict and disorder
 - Q:** What has happened in Somalia in recent years? What are Somalia's unfortunate "claims to fame" on the international scene?



Demographic Issues

- In our survey of sub-Saharan Africa, we need to link back to a set of concepts and issues we've flagged a couple of times already in the course
 - Impacts of age group structure** on populations and quality of life
 - Recall our discussions on population issues and population pyramids**
 - Defined the population pyramid
 - Examined pop. pyramids in the developed world
 - Let's look at some population pyramids for Sub-Saharan Africa



Ethiopia is broadly representative of population age/gender structures across Sub-Saharan Africa

Q: What might it be like to be a middle-aged adult living in this region? What would you be concerned about?

Ethiopia is broadly representative of population age/gender structures across Sub-Saharan Africa

Q: What are the big challenges for government in this region in the years ahead? Are there any solutions you can see?

Q: Compared to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, why might South Africa have a different form of population pyramid?

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Part of the answer is that South Africa has a more robust economy than most countries in the region

Q: Compared to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, why might South Africa have a different form of population pyramid?

However, for more insight we need to look into the structure and divisions that exist within the South African population

Age Analysis of Two Key Subgroups in South Africa, 2011

Q: What insight does this graph give?

Demographic Issues

- Africa is a region with ancient societies, but also several emerging problems that are unlike the challenges the region has faced in the past
 - A combination of **human factors** (population growth) and **human-environmental interactions** (resource use) make the situation challenging

Ancient Societies, Modern Economy

- The relationship between ancient African societies and the modern world of consumerism is an interesting one
 - We've already seen through our ecological footprint discussion that our western economy has high ecological impacts
 - The relation between this mode of consumption, traditional societies, and fragile ecosystems forms the setting for some very important decisions

Ancient Societies, Modern Economy

- The relationship between ancient African societies and the modern world of consumerism is an interesting one
 - We will view a brief video case study now that focuses on issues and perceptions of Africans as people in the region confront modern economic possibilities



Case Study: Ecotourism

- This video examines ecotourism development near Durban, South Africa



Case Study: Ecotourism

- **Q:** What view of ecotourism does this video present?
 - What motivation(s) are presented for ecotourism development?
 - What does ecotourism aim to achieve?
 - What issues can you see with ecotourism development? Could ecotourism be the basis for a regional economy?

Durban Ecotourism