

Chapter 1 : Great achievements in science and technology in ancient Africa

Africa, its place in modern history, ca. Contents include: the geography of Africa, the People, the Languages, the Products, Political Divisions of Africa, Independent Africa, Partially Independent Africa, British protectorates in South Africa, Mandated territories, Belgian Africa, French Africa, Portuguese Africa, Spanish Africa, and.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. People Africa is now widely recognized as the birthplace of the Hominidae , the taxonomic family to which modern humans belong. Archaeological evidence indicates that the continent has been inhabited by humans and their forebears for some 4., years or more. Anatomically modern humans are believed to have appeared as early as , years ago in the eastern region of sub-Saharan Africa. Somewhat later those early humans spread into northern Africa and the Middle East and, ultimately, to the rest of the world. As a consequence, the cultures and the physical variations of the peoples reflect adaptation to both hot, dry climates and hot, wet climates. Dark skin is the dominant characteristic of indigenous African peoples, but skin colour is not uniform. Skin colour shows a clinal variation from a light or tan colour in the northern fringe of the continent, which has a Mediterranean climate , to very dark skin in certain Sudanic regions in western and East Africa, where radiation from the Sun has been most intense. Africa has the most physically varied populations in the world, from the tallest peoples to the shortest; body form and facial and other morphological features also vary widely. It is the continent with the greatest human genetic variation, reflecting its evolutionary role as the source of all human DNA. Throughout human history there have been movements of peoples see human migration within, into, and out of Africa along its northern coasts, across the Sinai Peninsula , along the Red Sea , and especially in the Horn of Africa and coastal areas as far south as Southern Africa. North Africa from the Strait of Gibraltar to the Nile River delta has been the site of conquests and movements of peoples for thousands of years. Along the east coast, trading cities arose and fell, cities that had overseas contacts during the past two millennia with peoples of southern Arabia and as far east as India and Indonesia. Internal movements during that time contributed to the heterogeneity and complexity of native African societies. The greatest movement of peoples out of the continent was a result of the Atlantic slave trade that lasted from the 16th to the 19th century and involved the transport of an estimated 10., people to the New World. Such a loss of people, together with the devastating warfare and raiding associated with it, was the major cause of the subsequent weakness and decline of African societies. Dutch settlers first arrived in South Africa in ; their descendants now constitute the main Afrikaner, or Boer , population. Attendant, but unassociated, with the scramble, French and Italian settlers also established new communities in North Africa and, to some extent, western Africa. Much earlier, in several waves of migrations beginning in the 7th century, Arabs spread across northern Africa and, to a lesser extent, into western Africa, bringing a new religion Islam and a new language Arabic , along with some new cultural and political institutions. They also spread Islam southward along the east coast, largely through trading and kinship relationships. The colonial era began to disintegrate in the s. Culture areas Although the precise number is unknown, there are several thousand different societies or ethnic groups in Africa. They are identified by their recognition of a common culture , language, religion, and history. But in some areas the boundaries among ethnic groups and communities villages, towns, farm areas may not always be clear to the outsider. Most Africans speak more than one language, and frequent migrations and interactions, including intermarriage, with other peoples have often blurred ethnic distinctions. There are an estimated to 1, different languages, but many distinct political units share a common or similar language as among the Yoruba , Hausa , and Swahili -speaking peoples. Ethnic cultural identities in modern times have often been heightened, exacerbated , or muted for political reasons. In their attempts to comprehend such a huge heterogeneous continent, scholars have often tried to divide it into culture areas that represent important geographical and ecological circumstances. Those areas reflect differences in the cultural adaptation of traditional societies to varying natural habitats. For the purposes of this discussion, the principal regions are northern, western, west-central, eastern, and Central and Southern Africa; Madagascar is also included. Northern Africa Africa north of the Sahara is differentiated from the rest of the continent by its Mediterranean climate and by its long history of

political and cultural contacts with peoples outside of Africa. It is physically separated from the rest of the continent by the Atlas Mountains and is inhabited primarily by peoples who speak languages that belong to the Afro-Asiatic group. The Berbers are most numerous in Morocco and least in Tunisia, where, as a result of culture contact and intermarriage, they have become largely assimilated with Arabs, who speak a Semitic language. The Arabs migrated into North Africa from Arabia in a number of waves; the first of those waves occurred in the 7th century ce. The distinctive nature of Maghrebian, or western Arab, culture resulted from that admixture. In the Sahara such Arab peoples as the Shuwa live side by side with such Berber peoples as the Tuareg. See also Islamic world. It can be divided into two zones, the Sudanic savanna and the Guinea Coast. The savanna area stretches for some 3, miles 4, km east to west along the southern Saharan borderland. Its vegetation consists of extensive grasslands and few forests, and little rain falls there. The savanna supports pastoralism and horticultural economies dependent on grain. In contrast, the Guinea Coast experiences heavy rainfall and is characterized by hardwood tropical forests and dense foliage. It produces primarily root crops various yams. Malinke village Malinke village near Tambacounda, Senegal. Throughout the region live the many groups of the Fulani, a cattle-keeping Muslim people who either have conquered indigenous peoples such as the numerous Hausa or live in a symbiotic relationship with agricultural peoples. Many of the kingdoms are successor states to those of Ghana and Mali. The larger societies in the coastal zone are also mostly kingdoms. In Nigeria are the Igbo and Ibibio, organized into many autonomous polities; the Tiv; the Edo; and the several powerful kingdoms of the Yoruba. West-central Africa West-central Africa may be considered as an eastern extension of western Africa: The Congo area, in the centre of the continent, is an extension of the wet forestlands of the Guinea Coast; it extends to the lacustrine area of eastern Africa. That region is the largest area of secondary tropical forest in the world; only South America has more primary i. The vast majority of peoples speak related languages of the Bantu family. The Bambuti Pygmy peoples live in the eastern forests, and smaller groups of Pygmy peoples live in the western forests of Gabon. The Efe are one of the Bambuti Pygmy peoples of west-central Africa. Bailey Eastern Africa Eastern Africa can also be divided into several regions. In the east is the arid Somali desert. The coastal area extends from Kenya to Southern Africa, where numerous trading cities arose beginning in the 10th century. The region, particularly the areas of the East African lakes—Victoria, Albert, Tanganyika, and Nyasa Malawi—contains some of the most fertile land in Africa, and during the colonial period it attracted settlers from Europe and Asia. Vast areas of savanna support pastoralists and peoples with mixed economies. Maasai men Maasai men in traditional attire, Kenya, East Africa. In Ethiopia also are the Amhara, Tigre, and others who speak Semitic languages. Most of the remaining peoples of the region are Bantu speakers who, although they vary widely in other ways, are all subsistence farmers. In the highlands of Kenya are the Kikuyu, Luhya, and others. On the coast are the various Swahili-speaking tribes, while in Tanzania are the Bantu-speaking Chaga Chagga, Nyamwezi, Sukuma, and many more. There are also remnants of other groups: And on the coast are the remnants of the once politically powerful Arabs, formerly based on the island of Zanzibar. Central and Southern Africa Central and Southern Africa may be considered as a single large culture area. Most of it consists of open and dry savanna grasslands: San Two San men in Botswana demonstrating the traditional method of starting a fire. Ian Sewell The region was once populated by Khoisan-speaking peoples. The San are today restricted to the arid areas of southwestern Africa and Botswana, and most of the Khoekhoe are found in the Cape region of South Africa. The other indigenous groups are all Bantu-speaking peoples, originally from the area of Cameroon, who dispersed across the region some 2, years ago. The vanguard, known linguistically as the Southern Bantu, drove the Khoekhoe and San before them and adopted some of the typically Khoisan click sounds into their own languages. Over the past several hundred years, Bantu-speaking people who had mixed economies with large numbers of cattle began massive movements, mostly northward. A major cause of that displacement of peoples which together with a series of related wars is known as the Mfecane was the search for new grazing lands. A number of conquests resulted in the establishment of the states of the Zulu, Swazi, Tswana, Ndebele, Sotho, and others. Madagascar The island of Madagascar forms a distinct culture area. The various Malagasy ethnic groups, of which the politically most important is the Merina, are mainly of Indonesian origin, following migrations across the Indian Ocean probably during the

5th and 6th centuries ce. Cultural patterns Languages The knowledge of most of the individual languages of Africa is still very incomplete, but there are known to be in excess of 1, distinct languages. One of the more recent attempts to classify all the African languages, prepared by the American linguist Joseph Greenberg , is based on the principles of linguistic analysis used for Indo-European languages rather than on geographic, ethnic, or other nonlinguistic criteria. The four main language families, or phyla, of the continent are now considered to be Niger-Congo , Nilo-Saharan , Afro-Asiatic , and Khoisan. Niger-Congo is the most widespread family and consists of nine branches: Those languages cover most of Central and Southern Africa; they are found from Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope, with a geographically widespread extension due to relatively recent migrations. Kordofanian includes subgroups all spoken within a small area of southern Sudan. The most original point in that classification is the group called Benue-Congo , which linguistically subsumes all the Bantu languages found dispersed over most of eastern, Central, and Southern Africa. That dispersal is attributable to the rapid expansion of people from the area of the Bight of Benin from the beginning of the 2nd millennium ce onward: The close linguistic similarity among the Bantu languages points to the speed of that vast migration. Swahili , grammatically Bantu but with much Arabic in its vocabulary, is widely used as a lingua franca in eastern Africa; as the language of the people of Zanzibar and the east coast, it was spread by 19th-century Arab slavers in the hinterland as far as what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fula, an Atlantic language of the Niger-Congo family, also is used as a lingua franca in West Africa. The Nilo-Saharan family classification is perhaps the most controversialâ€”because of inadequate researchâ€”and the family is the most scattered. It comprises languages spoken along the savanna zone south of the Sahara from the middle Niger River to the Nile, with outlying groups among the pastoralists of eastern Africa. It is found over much of northern Africa and eastward to the Horn of Africa. Arabic is both an official and an unofficial language in states north of the Sahara, as well as in Sudan. In many other countries it is the language of Islam. Amharic is one of the two principal languages of Ethiopia. Hausa also is spoken widely as a lingua franca along the northern fringe of sub-Saharan western Africa, a wide area that encompasses many ethnic and political boundaries. The Khoisan family comprises the languages of the aboriginal peoples of Southern Africa, who now are limited largely to the arid parts of southwestern Africa, and perhaps of the outlying Hadza and Sandawe peoples of northern Tanzania. The Austronesian language family is represented by the various languages of Malagasy in Madagascar. There are many widespread trade languages and lingua francas in addition to those mentioned above.

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This gave them a crucial advantage, enabling them to live in both forested areas and on the open savanna at a time when Africa was drying up and the savanna was encroaching on forested areas. This would have occurred 10 to 5 million years ago, but these claims are controversial because biologists and genetics have humans appearing around the last 70 thousand to thousand years. They were tool users, and makers of tools. They scavenged for meat and were omnivores. In hunting, *Homo habilis* was probably not capable of competing with large predators and was still more prey than hunter. The tools were classed as Oldowan. From *Homo ergaster*, *Homo erectus* evolved. Some of the earlier representatives of this species were still fairly small-brained and used primitive stone tools, much like *H. habilis*. The brain later grew in size, and *H. habilis* possibly the first hunters, *H. habilis*. Although some recent writers have suggested that *Homo georgicus* was the first and primary hominid ever to live outside Africa, many scientists consider *H. habilis*. Their dispersals are traced by linguistic, cultural and genetic evidence. By 13, to 11, BC, people began collecting wild grains. This spread to Western Asia, which domesticated its wild grains, wheat and barley. Between 10, and BC, Northeast Africa was cultivating wheat and barley and raising sheep and cattle from Southwest Asia. A wet climatic phase in Africa turned the Ethiopian Highlands into a mountain forest. Omotic speakers domesticated enset around 8000 BC. Around BC, the settlers of the Ethiopian highlands domesticated donkeys, and by BC domesticated donkeys had spread to Southwest Asia. Cushitic speakers, partially turning away from cattle herding, domesticated teff and finger millet between 8000 and BC. Later, gourds, watermelons, castor beans, and cotton were also collected and domesticated. The people started capturing wild cattle and holding them in circular thorn hedges, resulting in domestication. Fishing, using bone-tipped harpoons, became a major activity in the numerous streams and lakes formed from the increased rains. Between 8000 and BC, Niger-Congo speakers domesticated the oil palm and raffia palm. Two seed plants, black-eyed peas and voandzeia African groundnuts, were domesticated, followed by okra and kola nuts. Since most of the plants grew in the forest, the Niger-Congo speakers invented polished stone axes for clearing forest. Some of the oldest rock art was produced by them. For a relatively weak North African monsoon, the opposite is true, with decreased annual precipitation and less vegetation resulting in a phase of the Sahara climate cycle known as the "desert Sahara". The Sahara has been a desert for several thousand years, and is expected to become green again in about 15,000 years time 17, AD. The population trekked out of the Sahara region in all directions, including towards the Nile Valley below the Second Cataract, where they made permanent or semipermanent settlements. A major climatic recession occurred, lessening the heavy and persistent rains in Central and Eastern Africa. Since then, dry conditions have prevailed in Eastern Africa. Central Africa Archaeological finds in Central Africa have been discovered dating back to over 100,000 years. Halfway through the first millennium BC, the Bantu had also settled as far south as what is now Angola. Copper metallurgy in Africa and Iron metallurgy in Africa 9th-century bronze staff head in form of a coiled snake, Igbo-Ukwu, Nigeria The first metals to be smelted in Africa were lead, copper, and bronze in the fourth millennium BC. Nubia was a major source of copper as well as gold. The process used was unique to the region, indicating that it was not brought from outside the region; it became more mature by about 1,000 BC. This is particularly true of Ancient Egypt and Nubia. In the Horn of Africa the Kingdom of Aksum ruled modern-day Eritrea, northern Ethiopia and the coastal area of the western part of the Arabian Peninsula. Punt was a trade partner of Ancient Egypt and it is believed that it was located in modern-day Somalia, Djibouti or Eritrea. Sub-Saharan Africa developed more or less independently in those times. Ancient Egypt Map of Ancient Egypt and nomes After the desertification of the Sahara, settlement became concentrated in the Nile Valley, where numerous sacral chiefdoms appeared. The regions with the largest population pressure were in the Nile Delta region of Lower Egypt, in Upper Egypt, and also along the second and third cataracts of the Dongola reach of the Nile in Nubia. This population pressure and growth was

brought about by the cultivation of southwest Asian crops, including wheat and barley, and the raising of sheep, goats, and cattle. Population growth led to competition for farm land and the need to regulate farming. Regulation was established by the formation of bureaucracies among sacral chiefdoms. The first and most powerful of the chiefdoms was Ta-Seti, founded around 3,000 BC. The idea of sacral chiefdom spread throughout Upper and Lower Egypt. Instead of being viewed as a sacral chief, he became a divine king. The henotheism, or worship of a single god within a polytheistic system, practiced in the sacral chiefdoms along Upper and Lower Egypt, became the polytheistic Ancient Egyptian religion. Bureaucracies became more centralized under the pharaohs, run by viziers, governors, tax collectors, generals, artists, and technicians. They engaged in tax collecting, organizing of labor for major public works, and building irrigation systems, pyramids, temples, and canals. During the Fourth Dynasty 2,600-2,500 BC, long distance trade was developed, with the Levant for timber, with Nubia for gold and skins, with Punt for frankincense, and also with the western Libyan territories. For most of the Old Kingdom, Egypt developed her fundamental systems, institutions and culture, always through the central bureaucracy and by the divinity of the Pharaoh. The First Intermediate Period had begun, a time of political division and uncertainty. Connections with the southern regions of Kush, Wawat and Irthet at the second cataract were made stronger. Then came the Second Intermediate Period, with the invasion of the Hyksos on horse-drawn chariots and utilizing bronze weapons, a technology heretofore unseen in Egypt. Horse-drawn chariots soon spread to the west in the inhabitable Sahara and North Africa. The Hyksos failed to hold on to their Egyptian territories and were absorbed by Egyptian society. Egypt became a superpower controlling Nubia and Judea while exerting political influence on the Libyans to the West and on the Mediterranean. Beginning with Shoshenq I, the Twenty-second Dynasty was established. It ruled for two centuries. This was the birth of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egypt. The Nubians tried to re-establish Egyptian traditions and customs. They ruled Egypt for a hundred years. This was ended by an Assyrian invasion, with Taharqa experiencing the full might of Assyrian iron weapons. The Nubian pharaoh Tantamani was the last of the Twenty-fifth dynasty. It lasted until 664 BC, when Egypt was invaded by the Persians. Unlike the Assyrians, the Persians stayed. In 332 BC, Egypt was conquered by Alexander the Great. This was the beginning of the Ptolemaic dynasty, which ended with Roman conquest in 30 BC. Pharaonic Egypt had come to an end.

The history of Africa begins with the emergence of hominids, archaic humans and - at least , years ago - anatomically modern humans (Homo sapiens), in East Africa, and continues unbroken into the present as a patchwork of diverse and politically developing nation states.

Although relatively small in area and population, Ghana is one of the leading countries of Africa, partly because of its considerable natural wealth and partly because it was the first black African country south of the Sahara to achieve independence from colonial rule. The country takes its name from the great medieval trading empire that was located northwest of the modern-day state until its demise in the 13th century. Forts and castles, many of which still dot the Ghanaian coast today, were constructed by Europeans to protect their trade interests. Although trading was originally centred on the gold that was readily available in the area and from which the future British colony the Gold Coast would take its name, the focus shifted to the lucrative slave trade in the 17th century. The area later became known for growing cacao, the source of cocoa beans. Introduced there in the late 19th century, cacao continues to provide an important export for Ghana. Modern-day Ghana, which gained its independence on March 6, 1946, consists primarily of the former Gold Coast. Nkrumah quickly laid the groundwork for fiscal independence within the new country as well, embarking on many economic development projects. Unfortunately, decades of corruption, mismanagement, and military rule stymied growth and achievement. Originally founded on the site of several Ga settlements, Accra developed into a prosperous trading hub; today it serves as the commercial and educational centre of the country. Kumasi, another prominent commercial centre, is located in the south-central part of the country. Relief and drainage Relief throughout Ghana is generally low, with elevations not exceeding 3,000 feet metres. The southwestern, northwestern, and extreme northern parts of the country consist of a dissected peneplain a land surface worn down by erosion to a nearly flat plain, later uplifted and again cut by erosion into hills and valleys or into flat uplands separated by valleys; it is made of Precambrian rocks about 1 million to 4 billion years old. Most of the remainder of the country consists of Paleozoic deposits about 250 million years old, which are thought to rest on older rocks. The Paleozoic sediments are composed mostly of beds of shales laminated sediments consisting mostly of particles of clay and sandstones in which strata of limestone occur in places. They occupy a large area called the Voltaian Basin in the north-central part of the country where the elevation rarely exceeds 1,000 feet metres. The basin is dominated by Lake Volta, an artificial lake that extends far into the central part of the country behind the Akosombo Dam and covers about 3,200 square miles 8,300 square km. Along the north and south, and to some extent along the west, the uplifted edges of the basin give rise to narrow plateaus between 1,000 and 2,000 feet and metres high, bordered by impressive scarps. Surrounding the basin on all of its sides, except in the east, is the dissected Precambrian peneplain, which rises to elevations of to 1,000 feet above sea level and contains several distinct ranges as high as 2,000 feet. Along the eastern edge of the Voltaian Basin, and extending from the Togo border to the sea immediately west of Accra, is a narrow zone of folded Precambrian rocks running northeast to southwest, forming the Akwapim-Togo Ranges, which vary in elevation from 1,000 to 3,000 feet to metres. The highest points in Ghana are found there, including Mount Afadjato 2,838 feet [864 metres], Mount Djebobo 2,838 feet [864 metres], and Mount Torogbani 2,838 feet [864 metres], all situated east of the Volta River near the Togo border. The southeastern corner of the country, between the Akwapim-Togo Ranges and the sea, consists of the gently rolling Accra Plains, which are underlain by some of the oldest Precambrian rocks known—mostly gneisses coarse-grained rocks in which bands containing granular minerals alternate with bands containing micaceous minerals; in places they rise above the surface to form inselbergs prominent steep-sided hills left after erosion. The only extensive areas of young rocks less than about 10 million years old are in the wide, lagoon-fringed delta of the Volta, about 50 miles 80 km east of Accra, and in the extreme southwest of the country, along the Axim coast. In the east the predominant rocks are less than 65 million years old, though there is a patch of Cretaceous sediments about 65 to 100 million years old near the Ghana-Togo border. The intervening coastal zone between eastern and western extremes contains patches of Devonian sediments about 350 million years old. With the older and more resistant rocks of the

Precambrian peneplain, these form a low, picturesque coastline of sandy bays and rocky promontories. The drainage system is dominated by the Volta River basin, which includes Lake Volta. Most of the other rivers, such as the Pra, the Ankobra, the Tano, and a number of smaller ones, flow directly south into the ocean from the watershed formed by the Kwahu Plateau, which separates them from the Volta drainage system. Along the coast are numerous lagoons, most of them formed at the mouths of small streams. Over much of the surface of Ghana, the rocks are weathered, and great spreads of laterite red, leached, iron-bearing soil and lesser spreads of bauxite and manganese are found on the flat tops of hills and mountains. Soils Throughout the country, weathering, leaching, and the formation of laterite hardpans hard, impervious layers composed chiefly of iron and aluminum oxides cemented by relatively insoluble materials by capillary movement the movement of water containing mineral salts to the surface and evaporation are common processes that vary in importance according to the characteristics of each locality. Leaching is more pronounced in the wet south, while the formation of laterite is more widespread in the drier north. In general, most soils are formed in place from parent rock material that has been subjected to prolonged erosion and consequently has limited fertility. In the forest zone the soils are mostly lateritic. They are subdivided into relatively fertile and less-acidic ochrosols red, brown, and yellow-brown, relatively well-drained soils in areas of moderate precipitation and into more-acidic and less-fertile oxisols in the extreme southwest, where annual precipitation exceeds 65 inches 1, mm. Ochrosols occur over considerable areas in the coastal and northern savanna zones. As in the forest zone, they are the best soils for agriculture. The coastal savanna zone has an abundance of soil types, including tropical black earths, tropical gray earths, acid vleisols, and sodium vleisols. Except for the tropical black earths, known locally as Akuse clays, most of these soils are of little importance agriculturally. The Akuse clays fill a broad zone across the coastal savanna plains; although heavy and intractable, they respond well to cropping under irrigation and mechanical cultivation. Because of their intrinsic poverty in nutrients, most of the soils are heavily dependent upon the humus supplied by the vegetation cover. There is thus a delicate balance between vegetation and soil fertility, which may be upset by uncontrolled burning or overuse. Both air masses move toward the Equator with their hemispheric winds and meet at the Guinea Coast for several months each year. Continental air moves southward with the northeast trade winds, known in western Africa as the harmattan, and maritime tropical air moves northward with the southwest trades. The zone where these air masses converge is characterized by seasonal line squall precipitation. Rains occur when the dominant air mass is maritime tropical, and drought prevails when continental air and the harmattan dominate. In the savanna country north of the Kwahu Plateau, there are two seasons—a dry season from November to March, with hot days and cool nights under clear skies, and a wet season that reaches its peak in August and September. The mean annual precipitation is between 40 and 55 inches 1, and 1, mm, but there is a marked moisture deficit because of the long, intensely dry season that follows. In the southern forest country, where the annual mean precipitation from north to south has a range of about 50 to 86 inches 1, to 2, mm, there are two rainy seasons—one from April to July and a lesser one from September to November—and two relatively dry periods that occur during the harmattan season, from December to February, and in August, which is a cool, misty month along the coast. In the Accra Plains, anomalously low annual mean precipitation figures vary from 40 inches 1, mm to less than 30 inches mm, and the precipitation variability and the vegetation bear close resemblance to conditions in the northern savanna zone. Temperatures show much more regional uniformity. Average relative humidities range from nearly percent in the south to 65 percent in the north, although, during the harmattan season, figures as low as 12 percent have been recorded in the north and around Accra. Enervating conditions produced locally by the combination of high temperatures and high humidities are moderated by altitude in the higher parts and by land and sea breezes along the coast. In general, the hottest months are February and March, just before the rains, and the lowest temperatures occur in January or—in August. Page 1 of 6.

Chapter 4 : Africa, its place in modern history, ca.

The first volume (Africa: Its Geography, People, and Products) is a pretty tedious and boring read - lots of statistics about natural resources and population sizes. In the second, he gives a great overview of the modern history of the continent, the slave trade, imperial/colonial meddling, and so forth.

Tsardom of Russia[edit] Main article: Tsardom of Russia Russia experienced territorial growth through the 17th century, which was the age of Cossacks. Cossacks were warriors organized into military communities, resembling pirates and pioneers of the New World. This area was settled by a population of free people practicing various trades and crafts. Cossacks became the backbone of the early Russian Army. In , the peasants of Ukraine joined the Zaporozhian Cossacks in rebellion against Poland-Lithuania during the Khmelnytsky Uprising , because of the social and religious oppression they suffered under Polish rule. Finally, Ukraine was split along the river Dnieper , leaving the western part or Right-bank Ukraine under Polish rule and eastern part Left-bank Ukraine and Kiev under Russian. In the east, the rapid Russian exploration and colonisation of the huge territories of Siberia was led mostly by Cossacks hunting for valuable furs and ivory. Russian explorers pushed eastward primarily along the Siberian river routes , and by the mid century there were Russian settlements in the Eastern Siberia, on the Chukchi Peninsula , along the Amur River , and on the Pacific coast.

Reason and Enlightenment[edit] Further information: The Age of Reason in the Western world is generally regarded as being the start of modern philosophy , [56] and a departure from the medieval approach, especially Scholasticism. Early 17th-century philosophy is often called the Age of Rationalism and is considered to succeed Renaissance philosophy and precede the Age of Enlightenment, but some consider it as the earliest part of the Enlightenment era in philosophy, extending that era to two centuries. The 18th century saw the beginning of secularization in Europe, rising to notability in the wake of the French Revolution. The Age of Enlightenment is a time in Western philosophy and cultural life centered upon the 18th century in which reason was advocated as the primary source and legitimacy for authority. Enlightenment gained momentum more or less simultaneously in many parts of Europe and America. Developing during the Enlightenment era, Renaissance humanism as an intellectual movement spread across Europe. The basic training of the humanist was to speak well and write typically, in the form of a letter. The term umanista comes from the latter part of the 15th century. The people were associated with the studia humanitatis , a novel curriculum that was competing with the quadrivium and scholastic logic. They self-consciously imitated classical Latin and deprecated the use of medieval Latin. By analogy with the perceived decline of Latin, they applied the principle of ad fontes , or back to the sources, across broad areas of learning. The opposing two sides were, the Ancients Anciens who constrain choice of subjects to those drawn from the literature of Antiquity and the Moderns Modernes , who supported the merits of the authors of the century of Louis XIV. Fontenelle quickly followed with his Digression sur les anciens et les modernes , in which he took the Modern side, pressing the argument that modern scholarship allowed modern man to surpass the ancients in knowledge.

Scientific Revolution The Scientific Revolution was a period when European ideas in classical physics , astronomy , biology , human anatomy , chemistry , and other classical sciences were rejected and led to doctrines supplanting those that had prevailed from Ancient Greece to the Middle Ages which would lead to a transition to modern science. This period saw a fundamental transformation in scientific ideas across physics , astronomy , and biology , in institutions supporting scientific investigation , and in the more widely held picture of the universe. Individuals started to question all manners of things and it was this questioning that led to the Scientific Revolution, which in turn formed the foundations of contemporary sciences and the establishment of several modern scientific fields. The French Revolution inspired a wave of revolutions across Europe. Liberalism and Nationalism were popular ideas that challenged Absolute Monarchies in the 19th century. French Revolution Toward the middle and latter stages of the Age of Revolution, the French political and social revolutions and radical change saw the French governmental structure, previously an absolute monarchy with feudal privileges for the aristocracy and Catholic clergy transform, changing to forms based on Enlightenment principles of citizenship and inalienable rights. The first revolution led to government by the

National Assembly , the second by the Legislative Assembly , and the third by the Directory. The changes were accompanied by violent turmoil which included the trial and execution of the king, vast bloodshed and repression during the Reign of Terror, and warfare involving every other major European power. Subsequent events that can be traced to the Revolution include the Napoleonic Wars, two separate restorations of the monarchy, and two additional revolutions as modern France took shape. In the following century, France would be governed at one point or another as a republic, constitutional monarchy, and two different empires. National and Legislative Assembly[edit] Main articles: It provided the focus of political debate and revolutionary law-making between the periods of the National Constituent Assembly and of the National Convention. The Directory and Napoleonic Era[edit] Main articles: The period of this regime 2 November until 10 November , commonly known as the Directory or Directoire era, constitutes the second to last stage of the French Revolution. Napoleon, before seizing the title of Emperor, was elected as First Consul of the Consulate of France. Helena, this brilliant commander, controlled a French Empire that, at its height, ruled a large portion of Europe directly from Paris, while many of his friends and family ruled countries such as Spain, Poland, several parts of Italy and many other Kingdoms Republics and dependencies. The Napoleonic Era changed the face of Europe forever, and old Empires and Kingdoms fell apart as a result of the mighty and "Glorious" surge of Republicanism.

Portions of the draft manuscript of Du Bois's history of Africa. Extent 18 p. Language English Subject(s) Africa Africa--Geography Africa--Social conditions.

Print this Why Africana History? This condition started in the 15th and the 16th centuries with the beginning of the slave trade system. The Europeans not only colonialized most of the world, they began to colonialize information about the world and its people. In order to do this, they had to forget, or pretend to forget, all they had previously known about the Africans. They were not meeting them for the first time; there had been another meeting during Greek and Roman times. At that time they complemented each other. The people and the cultures of what is known as Africa are older than the word "Africa. The people now called Africans not only influenced the Greeks and the Romans, they influenced the early world before there was a place called Europe. When the early Europeans first met Africans, at the crossroads of history, it was a respectful meeting and the Africans were not slaves. Their nations were old before Europe was born. In this period of history, what was to be later known as "Africa" was an unknown place to the people who would someday be called, "Europeans. After the rise and decline of Greek civilization and the Roman destruction of the city of Carthage, they made the conquered territories into a province which they called Africa, a word derived from "afri" and the name of a group of people about whom little is known. At first the word applied only to the Roman colonies in North Africa. There has long been an attempt on the part of some European "scholars" to deny that Egypt was a part of Africa. To do this they had to ignore the great masterpieces on Egyptian history written by European writers such as, Ancient Egypt. Light of the World, Vols. The distorters of African history also had to ignore the fact that the people of the ancient land which would later be called Egypt, never called their country by that name. The ancient Hebrews called it Mizraim. Later the Moslem Arabs used the same term but later discarded it. Thus the word we know as Egypt is of Greek Origin. Until recent times most Western scholars have been reluctant to call attention to the fact that the Nile River is 4,000 miles long. It starts in the south, in the heart of Africa, and flows to the north. Thus Egypt was a composite of many African cultures. This information is not new. When rebel European scholars were saying this years ago, and proving it, they were not taken seriously. It is unfortunate that so much of the history of Africa has been written by conquerors, foreigners, missionaries and adventurers. The Egyptians left the best record of their history written by local writers. It was not until near the end of the 18th century when a few European scholars learned to decipher their writing that this was understood. The Greek traveler, Herodotus, was in Africa about B.C. His eyewitness account is still a revelation. He witnessed African civilization in decline and partly in ruins, after many invasions. However, he could still see the indications of the greatness that it had been. In this period in history, the Nile Valley civilization of Africa had already brought forth two "Golden Ages" of achievement and had left its mark for all the world to see. Slavery and colonialism strained, but did not completely break, the cultural umbilical cord between the Africans in Africa and those who, by forced migration, now live in what is called the Western World. A small group of African-American and Caribbean writers, teachers and preachers, collectively developed the basis of what would be an African Consciousness movement over years ago. Their concern was with African, in general, Egypt and Ethiopia, and what we now call the Nile Valley. In approaching this subject, I have given preference to writers of African descent who are generally neglected. I maintain that the African is the final authority on Africa. In this regard I have reconsidered the writings of W. Huggins, and his most outstanding living student, John G. I have also re-read the manuscripts of some of the unpublished books of Charles C. Seifert, especially manuscripts of his last completed book, Who Are The Ethiopians? Among Caribbean scholars, like Charles C. Rogers from Jamaica is the best known and the most prolific. Over 50 years of his life was devoted to documenting the role of African personalities in world history. Among the present-day scholars writing about African history, culture and politics, Dr. I have drawn heavily on his research in the preparation of this article. He belongs to the main cultural branch of the African world, having been born in Ethiopia, growing to early manhood in the Caribbean Islands and having lived in the African-American community of the United States for over 20 years. His major books on African history are: Black Man of the

Nile, Africa: Our own great historian, W. DuBois tells us, "Always Africa is giving us something new. On its black bosom arose one of the earliest, if not the earliest, of self-protecting civilizations, and grew so mightily that it still furnishes superlatives to thinking and speaking men. Out of its darker and more remote forest vastness came, if we may credit many recent scientists, the first welding of iron, and we know that agriculture and trade flourished there when Europe was a wilderness. DuBois tells us further that, "Nearly every human empire that has arisen in the world, material and spiritual, has found some of its greatest crises on this continent of Africa. It was through Africa that Christianity became the religion of the world. It was through Africa that Islam came to play its great role of conqueror and civilizer. Egypt gave birth to what later would become known as "Western Civilization," long before the greatness of Greece and Rome. This is a part of the African story, and in the distance it is a part of the African-American story. It is difficult for depressed African-Americans to know that they are a part of the larger story of the history of the world. The history of the modern world was made, in the main, by what was taken from African people. Europeans emerged from what they call their "Middle-Ages," people-poor, land-poor and resources-poor. And to a great extent, culture-poor. They raided and raped the cultures of the world, mostly Africa, and filled their homes and museums with treasures, then they called the people primitive. The Europeans did not understand the cultures of non-Western people then; they do not understand them now. History, I have often said, is a clock that people use to tell their political time of day. It is also a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography. History tells a people where they have been and what they have been. It also tells a people where they are and what they are. Most importantly, history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be. There is no way to go directly to the history of African-Americans without taking a broader view of African world history. In his book, Tom-Tom, the writer John W. Vandercook makes this meaningful statement: A race is like a man. Until it uses its own talents, takes pride in its own history, and loves its own memories, it can never fulfill itself completely. The phrase African-American or African-American History Month, taken at face value and without serious thought, appears to be incongruous. Why is there a need for an African-American History Month when there is no similar month for the other minority groups in the United States. The history of the United States, in total, consists of the collective histories of minority groups. The African-Americans are the least integrated and the most neglected of these groups in the historical interpretation of the American experience. This neglect has made African-American History Month a necessity. Most of the large ethnic groups in the United States have had, and still have, their historical associations. Wesley tells us that, "Historical societies were organized in the United States with the special purpose in view of preserving and maintaining the heritage of the American nation. For African-Americans, Carter G. The acceptance of the facts of African-American history and the African-American historian as a legitimate part of the academic community did not come easily. Slavery ended and left its false images of Black people intact. Theoretically, these men found it hard to imagine a society where Negroes were of equal status to whites. Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, who was far more liberal than the run of his contemporaries, was never the less certain that "the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government. This preface is essential to every meaningful discussion of the role of the African-American in every aspect of American life, past and present. I want to make it clear that the Black race did not come to the United States culturally empty-handed. The role and importance of ethnic history is in how well it teaches a people to use their own talents, take pride in their own history and love their own memories. In order to fulfill themselves completely, in all of their honorable endeavors it is important that the teacher of history of the Black race find a definition of the subject, and a frame of reference that can be understood by students who have no prior knowledge of the subject. Heritage, in essence, is how a people have used their talent to created a history that gives them memories that they can respect, and use to command the respect of other people. History is a clock that people use to tell their time of day. It is a compass that they use to find themselves on the map of human geography. It also tells them where they are, and what they are. Most importantly, an understanding of history tells a people where they still must go, and what they still must be. Early white American historians did not accord African people anywhere a respectful place in their commentaries on the history of man. Benjamin Quarks observed that "as early as this desire to

bring to public attention the untapped material on the Negro prompted George Washington Williams to publish his two-volume *History of The Negro Race in America from to* The first formally trained African-American historian was W.

Chapter 6 : Africa Map / Map of Africa - blog.quintoapp.com

Reprint/reissue date Original date Note Reprint of the editions of Africa, its geography, people, and products, and of Africa, its place in modern history, published separately by Haldeman-Julius Publications, Girard, Kan., which were issued as no. and respectively of the Little blue book series.

African History African Origin of Modern Humans As for Africa, scientists have formerly concluded that it is the birthplace of mankind, as large numbers of human-like fossils discovered nowhere else were found on the continent, some dating back 3 million years. They became aggressive hunters, lived in caves and used fire and their ability to create stone tools just to survive. The Neanderthals arose some 40,000 years ago and inhabited regions in northern Africa and across parts of southern Europe. There is also clear evidence that they had control of fire, lived in caves, as well as open-air structures of stone and vegetation. One of the most important developments of primitive man was the creation of stone tools. By 10,000 BC farming was somewhat common in the northern areas of Africa, as people were growing crops and herding livestock. During that time the Sahara Desert was a fertile area. Ancient African History In BC the Egyptian culture emerged along the lower reaches of the Nile River; it was among the earliest civilizations and their tools and weapons were made of bronze. They also pioneered the building of massive pyramids and temples. Egyptians also developed mathematics, an innovative system of medicine, irrigation and agricultural production techniques, writing and the first ships. In short, the Egyptians left a lasting legacy upon the world. Around 1000 BC the use of metal tools spread across small population bases and farming groups in North Africa, and their use gradually spread south into what is now called South Africa. Meanwhile, the Egyptians continued to spread their culture across Northern Africa, and kingdoms were created in Ethiopia and Sudan. Before the Middle Ages began, the Roman Empire collapsed and the Arabs quickly took their place on the continent. In 644 they invaded Tunis and Carthage and soon controlled all of coastal North Africa. Soon kingdoms emerged in Africa; they traded with the Arabs using gold plus a valuable commodity - slaves. One of the first kingdoms was Ghana, located in what is now southeastern Mauritania and western Mali. The empire grew rich from the trans-Saharan trade in gold and salt, but then lost its power in the 11th century. Additional kingdoms developed across the continent, including those in Benin and Mali. Both became rich by trading in gold, horse salt, and of course, slaves. And like most kingdoms before them on any continent, they were invaded and in the end destroyed. Mogadishu, the now largest city in Somalia, was settled by Arabs who traveled and traded on the east coast of Africa. As other organized kingdoms were formed in central and southern Africa, the Portuguese began to explore the western coast of Africa. They even sailed around the Cape of Good Hope. African Colonization and the Slave Trade The continent-changing 16th Century began with Europeans transporting African slaves to the Americas for profit. A slave purchased on the African coast for the equivalent of 14 English pounds in bartered goods could sell for 45 pounds in the American market. The best-known method of commerce at the time was called the Triangular Trading System. At the same time, Barbary pirates along the North African coast captured thousands of ships. From the 16th to 19th century, an estimated 12 million slaves were taken to the Americas. As tales of African riches spread north, the Europeans founded their first real colonies in the early 16th century, when the Portuguese settled in what is now Angola. Later, the Dutch founded a colony in what is now South Africa. Strong movements to end slavery began in the late 18th century. France became one of the first countries to abolish slavery in 1791. Britain banned slave trade in 1807, but it was not officially abolished for good until 1833. In some parts of Africa, slave-like practices continue to this day and have proven difficult to eliminate. Carved up like a large pie, the Brits, Dutch, French, Germans and Portuguese grabbed all of the available pieces. By the end of the 19th century, from Algeria to Zimbabwe, and from Botswana to Niger, the continent was now all but controlled by European powers. In the early 20th century the land grab continued as the British took control of Egypt. By 1914, the forced occupation of African lands began to sour in Europe, and change was in the wind. Africans were also driven by their passionate desire for independence and the movement for same became unstoppable. By mid-century most of the continent was independent, with Angola finally free in 1975. Significant economic and social gains have taken place over the last few years, with South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco and Egypt leading

the way. Manufacturing industries have grown large enough to ship products across the planet, and the oil export revenues of Angola, Libya and Nigeria have the potential to change the lives of millions. Today the 54 countries of Africa have great potential, but this question must be asked: Africa Geography Facts For additional geography details please use the yellow navigation bar at the top of this page. The Nile is a north-flowing river considered the longest river in the world at 6, km 4, mi long. It is shared by and benefits eleven countries. The White Nile and Blue Nile are its major tributaries. The Blue Nile is the source of most of the water and both rivers join near Khartoum, Sudan The northern section of the river flows almost entirely through desert, from Sudan into Egypt. The Nile ends in a large delta that empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Covering almost one-third of the continent, the Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world at approximately 3,, sq. Topography includes areas of rock-strewn plains, rolling sand dunes and numerous sand seas. It ranges in elevation from ft. Regional deserts include the Libyan, Nubian and the Western desert of Egypt, just to the west of the Nile. Almost completely without rainfall, a few underground rivers flow from the Atlas Mountains, helping to irrigate isolated oases. In the east, the waters of the Nile help fertilize smaller parts of the landscape.

Chapter 7 : Unique Facts about Africa: Origin of the Name 'Africa'

Get this from a library! Africa, its geography, people, and products, and Africa, its place in modern history. [W E B Du Bois].

Great achievements in science and technology in ancient Africa By Sydella Blatch Despite suffering through the horrific system of slavery, sharecropping and the Jim Crow era, early African-Americans made countless contributions to science and technology 1. This lineage and culture of achievement, though, emerged at least 40, years ago in Africa. Unfortunately, few of us are aware of these accomplishments, as the history of Africa, beyond ancient Egypt, is seldom publicized. Sadly, the vast majority of discussions on the origins of science include only the Greeks, Romans and other whites. But in fact most of their discoveries came thousands of years after African developments. While the remarkable black civilization in Egypt remains alluring, there was sophistication and impressive inventions throughout ancient sub-Saharan Africa as well. There are just a handful of scholars in this area. Here, I attempt to send an electrical impulse to this long-deadened nerve. I can only fly by this vast plane of achievements. Despite this, it still should be evident that the ancient people of Africa, like so many other ancients of the world, definitely had their genius. Math Surely only a few of us know that many modern high-school-level concepts in mathematics first were developed in Africa, as was the first method of counting. More than 35, years ago, Egyptians scripted textbooks about math that included division and multiplication of fractions and geometric formulas to calculate the area and volume of shapes 3. Distances and angles were calculated, algebraic equations were solved and mathematically based predictions were made of the size of floods of the Nile. Eight thousand years ago, people in present-day Zaire developed their own numeration system, as did Yoruba people in what is now Nigeria. The Yoruba system was based on units of 20 instead of 10 and required an impressive amount of subtraction to identify different numbers. Scholars have lauded this system, as it required much abstract reasoning 4. Astronomy Several ancient African cultures birthed discoveries in astronomy. Many of these are foundations on which we still rely, and some were so advanced that their mode of discovery still cannot be understood. Egyptians charted the movement of the sun and constellations and the cycles of the moon. Clocks were made with moving water and sundial-like clocks were used 3. A structure known as the African Stonehenge in present-day Kenya constructed around B. The Dogon people of Mali amassed a wealth of detailed astronomical observations 6. Many of their discoveries were so advanced that some modern scholars credit their discoveries instead to space aliens or unknown European travelers, even though the Dogon culture is steeped in ceremonial tradition centered on several space events. Hundreds of years ago, they plotted orbits in this system accurately through the year 6. They knew this system contained a primary star and a secondary star now called Sirius B of immense density and not visible to the naked eye. Metallurgy and tools Many advances in metallurgy and tool making were made across the entirety of ancient Africa. These include steam engines, metal chisels and saws, copper and iron tools and weapons, nails, glue, carbon steel and bronze weapons and art 2 , 7. Advances in Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda between 1, and 2, years ago surpassed those of Europeans then and were astonishing to Europeans when they learned of them. Architecture and engineering Various past African societies created sophisticated built environments. Of course, there are the engineering feats of the Egyptians: The largest of the pyramids covers 13 acres and is made of 2. Later, in the 12th century and much farther south, there were hundreds of great cities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. There, massive stone complexes were the hubs of cities. One included a meter-long, 15,ton curved granite wall 9. The cities featured huge castlelike compounds with numerous rooms for specific tasks, such as iron-smithing. In the 13th century, the empire of Mali boasted impressive cities, including Timbuktu, with grand palaces, mosques and universities 2. Medicine Many treatments we use today were employed by several ancient peoples throughout Africa. Before the European invasion of Africa, medicine in what is now Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa, to name just a few places, was more advanced than medicine in Europe. Some of these practices were the use of plants with salicylic acid for pain as in aspirin , kaolin for diarrhea as in Kaopectate , and extracts that were confirmed in the 20th century to kill Gram positive bacteria 2. Other plants used had anticancer properties, caused abortion and treated

malaria” and these have been shown to be as effective as many modern-day Western treatments. Furthermore, Africans discovered ouabain, capsaicin, physostigmine and reserpine. Medical procedures performed in ancient Africa before they were performed in Europe include vaccination, autopsy, limb traction and broken bone setting, bullet removal, brain surgery, skin grafting, filling of dental cavities, installation of false teeth, what is now known as Caesarean section, anesthesia and tissue cauterization³. In addition, African cultures performed surgeries under antiseptic conditions universally when this concept was only emerging in Europe². Navigation Most of us learn that Europeans were the first to sail to the Americas. However, several lines of evidence suggest that ancient Africans sailed to South America and Asia hundreds of years before Europeans. Thousands of miles of waterways across Africa were trade routes. Many ancient societies in Africa built a variety of boats, including small reed-based vessels, sailboats and grander structures with many cabins and even cooking facilities. The Mali and Songhai built boats feet long and 13 feet wide that could carry up to 80 tons². Genetic evidence from plants and descriptions and art from societies inhabiting South America at the time suggest small numbers of West Africans sailed to the east coast of South America and remained there². Contemporary scientists have reconstructed these ancient vessels and their fishing gear and have completed the transatlantic voyage successfully. Around the same time as they were sailing to South America, the 13th century, these ancient peoples also sailed to China and back, carrying elephants as cargo². People of African descent come from ancient, rich and elaborate cultures that created a wealth of technologies in many areas. Hopefully, over time, there will be more studies in this area and more people will know of these great achievements. Science in Ancient Egypt Science, Leaders, Civilizations and Cultures of Ancient Africa. An Ancient African City-State. Sydella Blatch sblatch stevenson.

Chapter 8 : History of Africa - Wikipedia

Modern history, the modern period or the modern era, is the linear, global, historiographical approach to the time frame after post-classical history. [1] [2] Modern history can be further broken down into periods.

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African History African Origin of Modern Humans. As for Africa, scientists have formerly concluded that it is the birthplace of mankind, as large numbers of human-like fossils (discovered nowhere else) were found on the continent, some dating back million years.