

World Regions

Africa South of the Sahara





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Quick Facts

- One of the richest regions in terms of mineral resources
 - **neo-colonialism** & fragment states prevent any nation from having complimentary collection of resources
- 66% of economic activity is agricultural--least industrialized region of the world
- 605 million people in 1997
- **Core:** South Africa



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Sub-Regions

- **Central Africa:** Gabon, Rep. Of Congo, CAR, Dem. Rep. Of Congo, Chad, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Burundi
- **Western Africa:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Benin
- **Eastern Africa:** Eritria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda
- **Southern Africa:** Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland

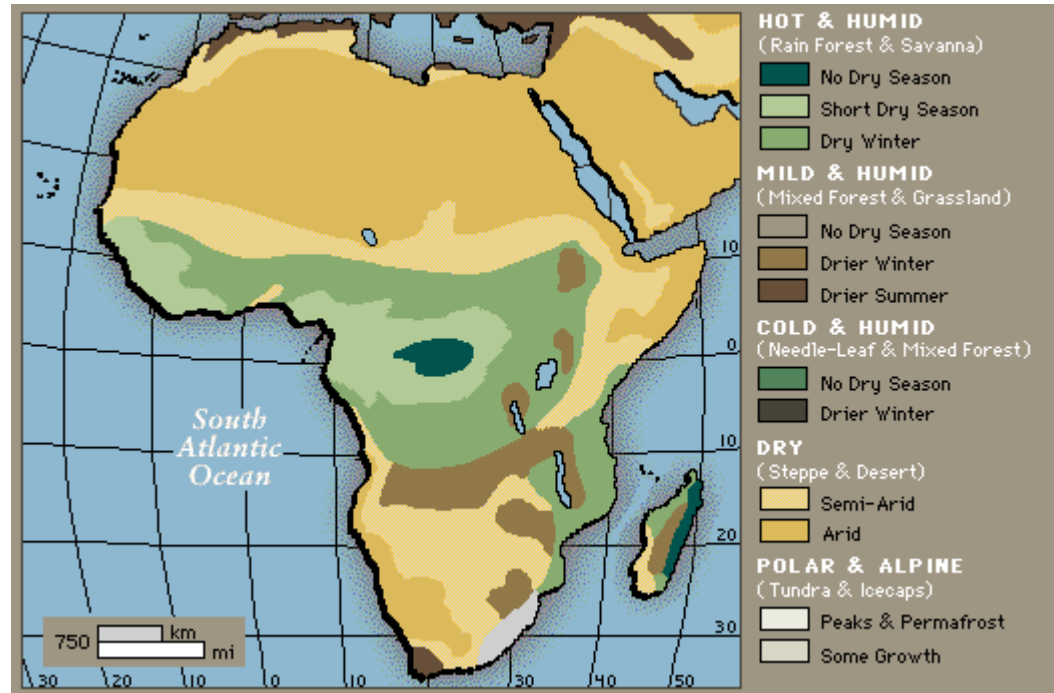


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Physical Geography: Climates

- Equatorial
 - Monsoon (W. Africa) & Tropical Rain forest (C. Africa)
- Tropical Rain forest & Highland (E. Africa)
- Mid-Latitude/Tropical Rain Forest/Arid (S. Africa)





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Physical Geography: Hydrography

- Mozambique Channel
- Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, Tana, Nyasa, & Chad
- Major Rivers: Congo, Niger, Zaire, Zambezi, Orange
- Red Sea



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Physical Geography: Physiography

- Rift Valley
- High Veld
- Kalahari & Namib Desert
- Congo, Niger, & Sudan Basins
- Bie Plateau



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Physical Geography: Resources

- Limited Fuel Resources
 - Timber dominates leading to massive deforestation
- Access to potable water important
 - compounded by environmental degradation
- Precious Metals
 - Southern Africa
- Subsistence Farming
- Commercial Agriculture/Plantations
 - Rubber, Coffee, Tea, Fruits, Veggies., & Groundnuts



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Physical Geography: Environmental Problems

- **Desertification**
 - myth?
- Tropical Diseases
- Soil Conservation & Fertilizer Inputs
- Rapid Industrialization
- Drought
- **Increased vulnerability to all environmental problems due to lack of safety nets (family, economic security, surplus) throughout the region**



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Human Geography: Cultural Geography

● Pre-Colonial

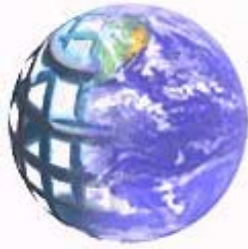
- thousands of culture groups with shared language, symbols, & customs
 - sometimes referred to as ‘tribes’
- animistic in nature

● Colonial (as early as 1500s)

- **extractive/exploitative economic relationship**
 - earliest exploitation associated with slavery
- highly racialized & gendered
 - local cultures used to stabilize colonial structures
- powers include **Belgium, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Portugal, Spain**
- some independent countries did exist, such as Ethiopia & Liberia

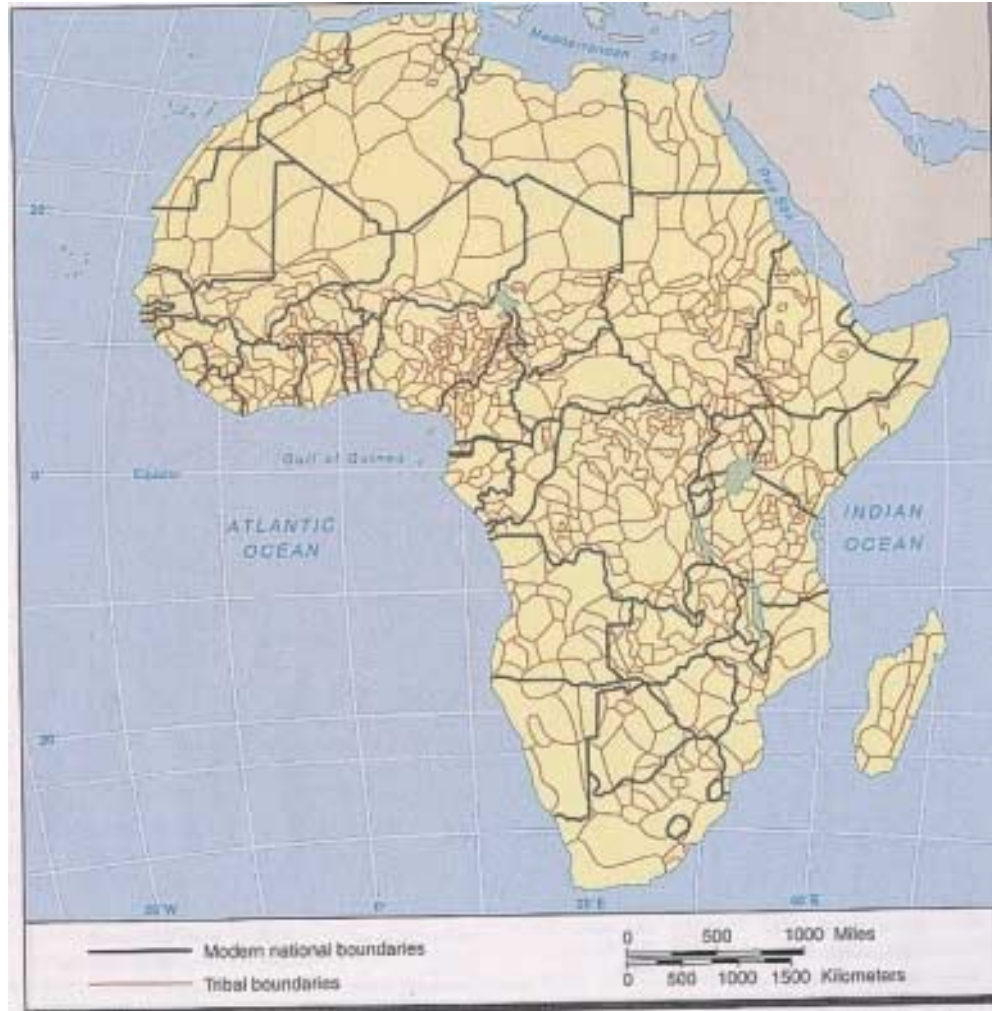
● Post-Colonial

- superimpose boundaries over former colonial states & numerous historically distinct culture groups
- Attempts to create an “African” identity throughout the 1950-70 not successful
- **Neo-Colonialism MNCs**



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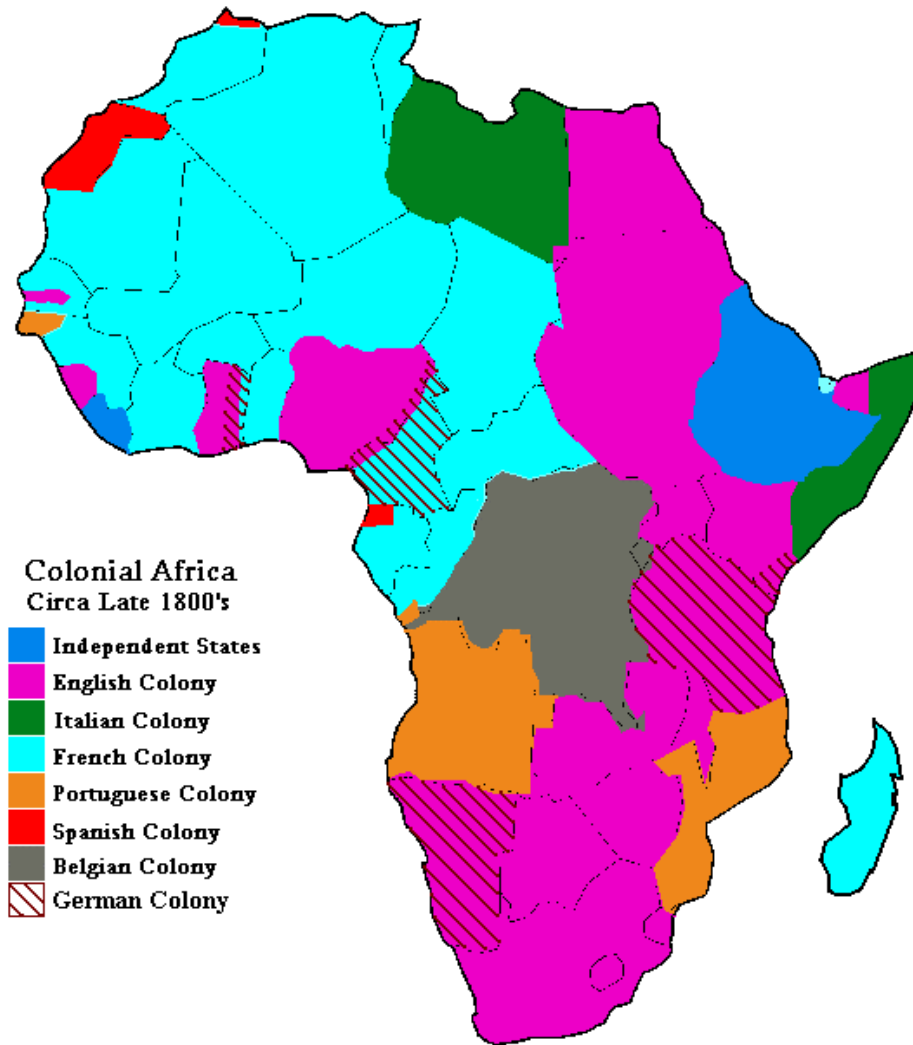
Pre-Colonial Africa





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Colonial Africa



From J. Johannes (2000)



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Paths to Independence



From J. Johannes (2000)



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Culture

- Overall, colonialism led to the replacement of local culture with colonial culture
 - France's ideal was referred to as a *'Black-faced Frenchman'*
- Today, the legacy of colonialism includes civil strife, a continent-wide debt, institutionalized hatred, and a lack of identity
 - ***Tutsi & Hutu in Rwanda***
(formerly part of German East Africa)





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Human Geography: Religions

- Pre-Colonial Religion
 - **Animism**
 - Islam (Sudan & Mauritania) & Judaism (Ethiopia & Eritrea)
- Missionaries
 - Roman Catholicism
 - Protestant



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Economic Development

Human Geography: Economic Development

- Integration into the world economy has come with high costs
 - IMF reform
- Path to independence paved with corruption & debt crisis
- Transition from Colonialism incomplete and linkage to world markets still related to colonial powers
 - MNCs
- Vulnerability to Natural Hazards
- Health Care Crises
 - schistosomiasis, sleeping sickness, AIDS
 - “AIDS” Orphans

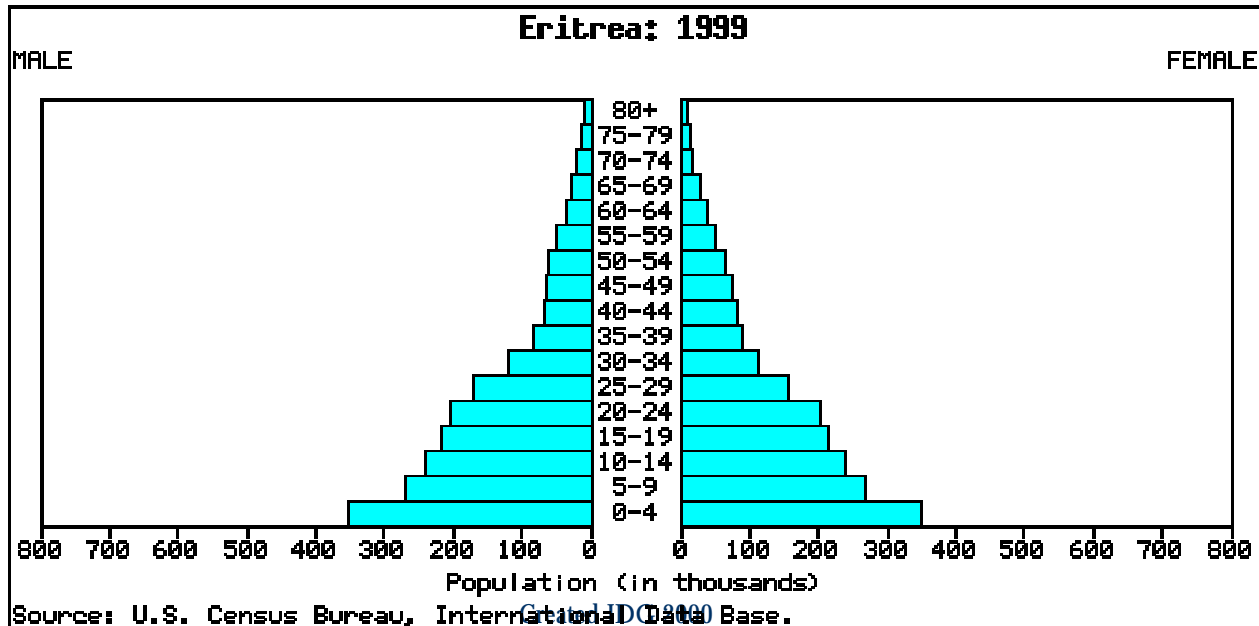


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Human Geography: Population

- High Birth Rates
- High Infant Mortality Rates-Throughout
- Irregular Population Pyramids--Wars, Disease, AIDS Crisis





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Landscapes

- Rural, Urban, & Squatter Landscapes
 - rural to urban migration for limited industrial opportunities
- **Primate Cities v. Hinterland**
 - **Head Links** to former European powers
 - Equalizing development an issue

Lagos

