



Africa South of the Sahara

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In the book on page 128, religion in Sub-Saharan Africa is discussed. The book notes that religious differences fuel conflict in Africa. Most of the conflict is between the Muslims and Christians. The book states that Nigeria is one of the prime areas in which the conflicts are frequent. On CNN.com an article entitled, "Witnesses say dozens dead, churches burned in religious violence" illustrates an example of this religious conflict. The article states that there was gun fire between the Muslims of the northern part and Christians of the southern part of Nigeria. Homes and churches were set on fire. As a result of the religious conflicts, curfews have been established. Some think the introduction of Islamic law last year may be the result of these conflicts.

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/africa/09/08/bc.nigeria.violence.ap/index.html>

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As discussed in the text (page 103), the region of Africa south of the Sahara is partially composed of mineral resources. Gold and diamonds contained very important value as well as a measuring stick for economic wealth.

For the most part, this region revolved around the discovery and trade

of these minerals. Even today gold and diamonds rank as one of the most important resources in this region.

According to an article faithfully submitted by Africanews.com, the mining industry is as important as ever. By listing top mining resources individually, the site describes the personal as well as economic value of each resource. The article also describes how the resources have been exploited and the steps the government is taking to recover and produce laws mostly pertaining to permits and mining legality.

<http://www.newafrica.com/mining/output.asp?ID=13458&titleid=2235&type=2&title=Mines:%20A%20Sub-Exploited%20>

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While reading Chapter six on Africa I thought that many of the topics were interesting but the one that stood out the most was the section about Apartheid. Apartheid really stood out because it is the equivalent of the racism that was present in the United States. While surfing the internet I found a site, (www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/aam/abdul-4.html) which contained documents about apartheid and the aggression that was present because of the racial system that was placed upon the people of South Africa and surrounding countries. In these documents apartheid was stated as a system that was one of the most brutal and violent form of human exploitation in the contemporary world. It was also stated that it is abundantly clear that the apartheid system constitutes a clear threat to the peace and a act of aggression. To surprises [sic] the acts of racial segregation the United Nations passed a policy of an international programme of sanctions against South Africa. During the time period of this document the writers felt that the western powers were in support of the white power system, preventing the advancement of African freedom and democracy. It was also stated that the African people themselves are the only people who could bring about liberation. The actual outcome of apartheid was dismantled in the early 90s when then President F.W. de Klerk agreed to sharing power with the African people. By 1996 a constitution was signed by new President Nelson Mandela, that outlawed the discrimination or separation of people. This was very interesting to me because I never really compared the severity of apartheid and racism in America. Now I have a new, educated outlook at apartheid and the African people it affected.

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