

Empires of Africa

Islamic Empires of Sub-Saharan Africa

Alhomads

- 1130-1269 C.E.
- Led by religious zealots
 - o Led by Ibn Timart
 - o thought Almoravids had strayed from Islamic beliefs
 - o Conquered Almoravid lands and replaced rulers
 - o Expanded into Spain
- Culutral Revolution
 - o Mosques became centers of learning
 - o Spread the Arabic Language
 - o Spread proper following of Islamic faith
 - o Advancements in numbering system as well as creation of algebra
 - o First to start secular study of chemistry
 - Allowed for medical advances

Mali

- 1235-1610 C.E.
- Region divided among warlords
 - o Formerly Ghana Empire
- Sundjata of the Keita clan
 - o organized and defeated other factions
 - o established Mali empire
 - o Established title of Mansa""
- Empire converted to Islam after Sundjata
- Mansa Musa
 - o Went on pilgrimage to Mecca
 - 1324 – 1325 C.E.
 - Became an even more traditional follower of Islam
 - Brought presents with him
 - wealth and greatness
 - lowered the value of gold in Egypt
 - o Brought an Islamic revival back to Western Africa
 - o Also brought back scholars
 - Helped instill Islamic faith in Urban Population

Songhay

- 1340-1591 C.E.
- Established independent Kingdom
 - o Broke from Mali
- Expanded trans-Saharan trade
- Came heavily in contact with Muslims
- Grew from original cities of Gao and Kukiya
- Expanded along Niger River and captured Timbuktu
 - o Sonni Ali the Great
 - 1464-92 C.E.
 - Began golden age
 - o Timbuktu was a traditional Islamic city
 - o Vital to the trans-Saharan trade network
 - o Cultural center

Impacts

- Heavy Islamic influence in area
- Empires taken over by Europeans
 - o Brought Christianity to coasts