

POLS 227

Africa in World Politics

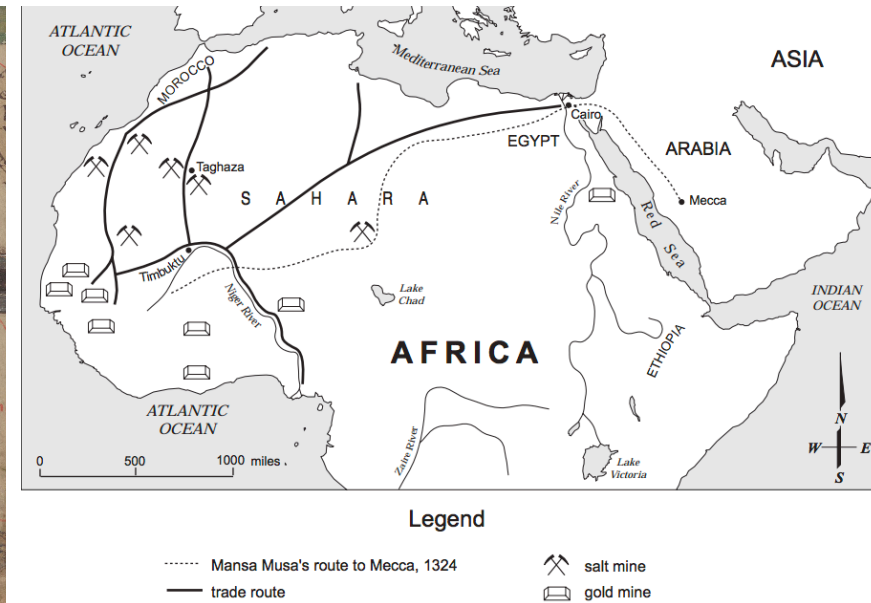
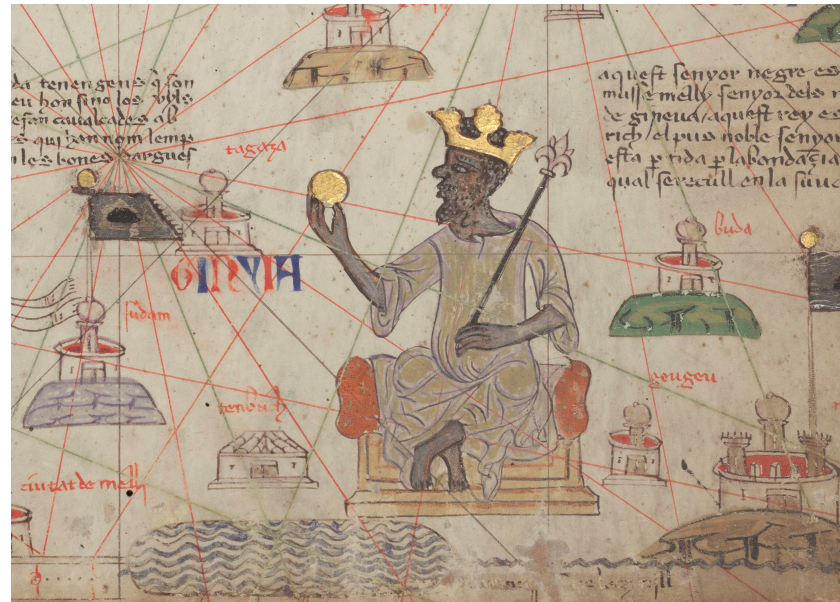
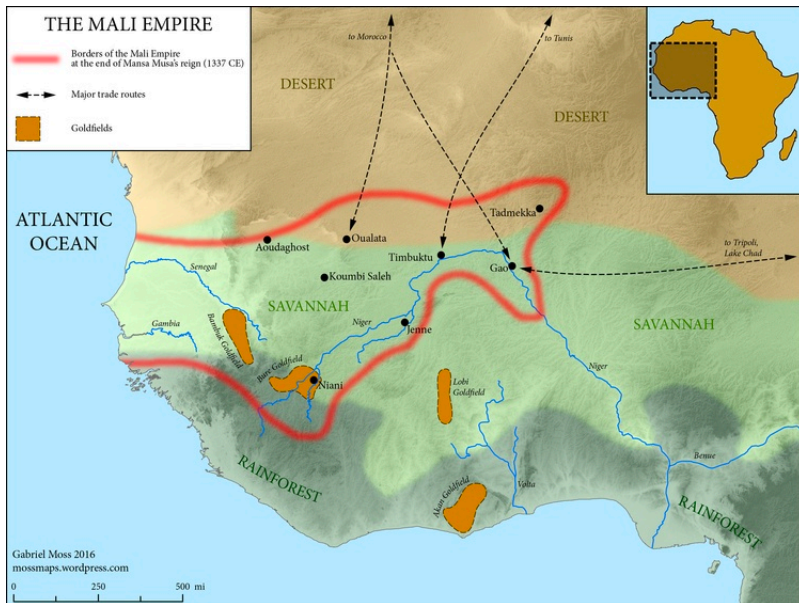
Classes 2 & 3:
Africa's global history

Welcome back!

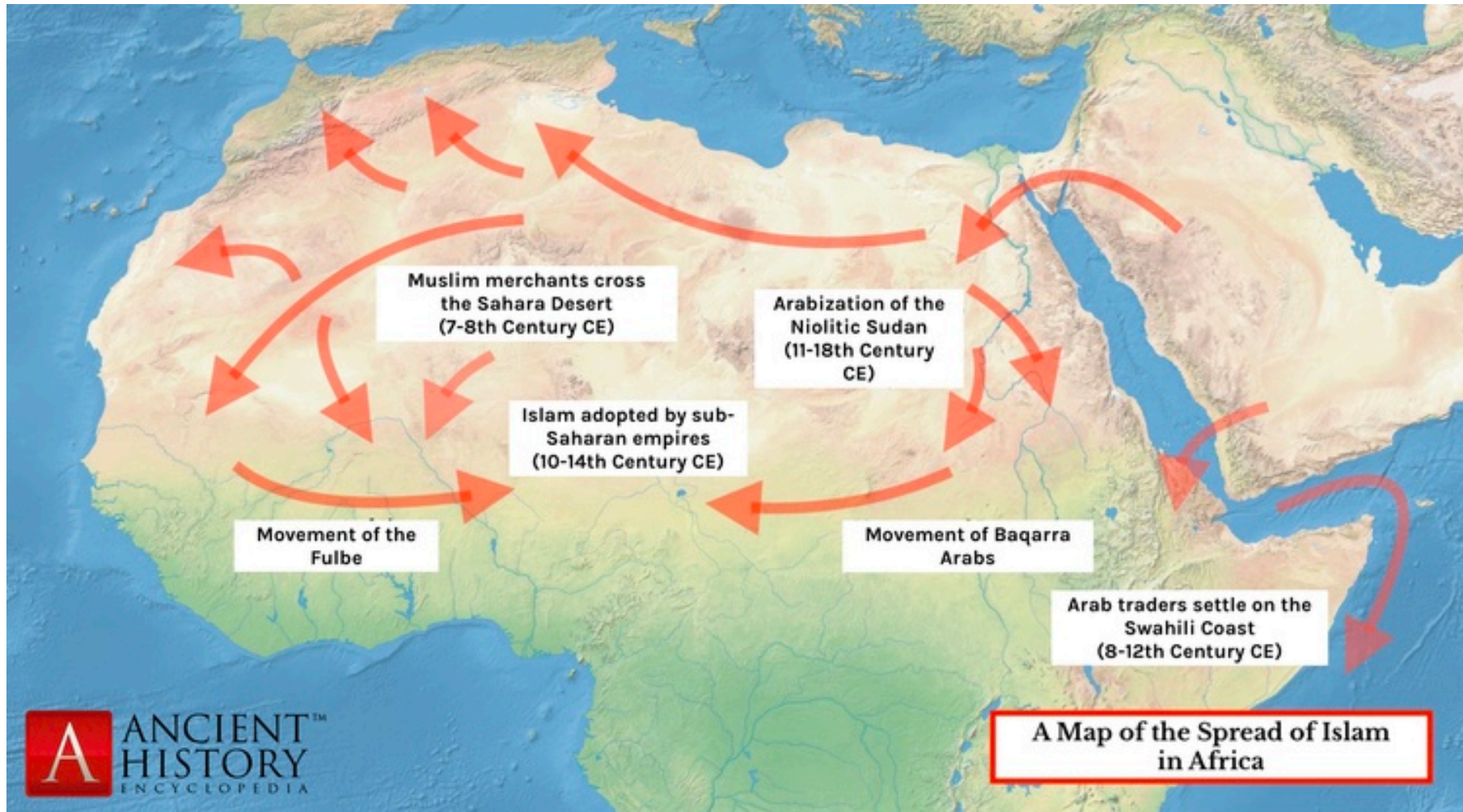
Africa's global history



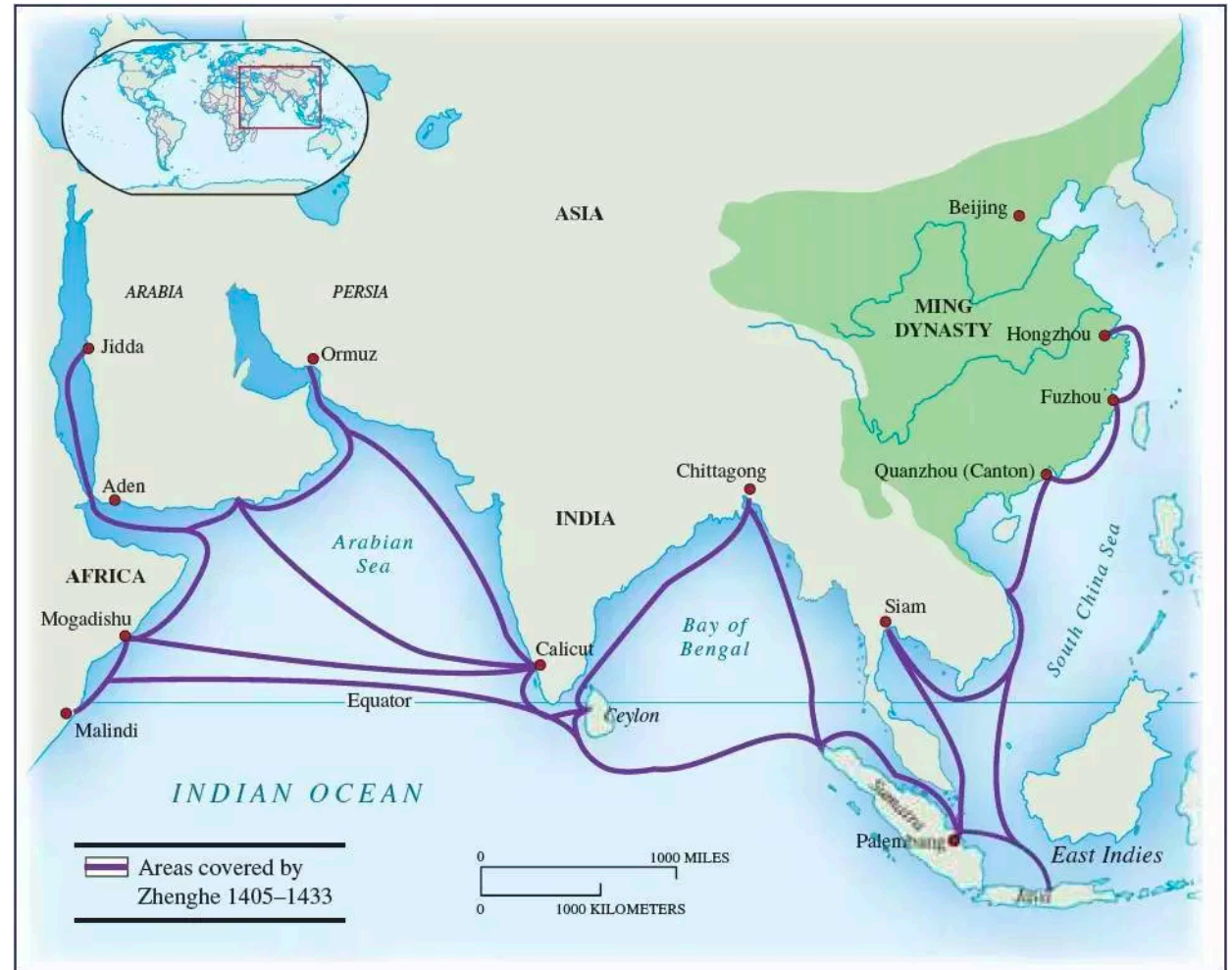
Barriers and corridors: Mansa Musa



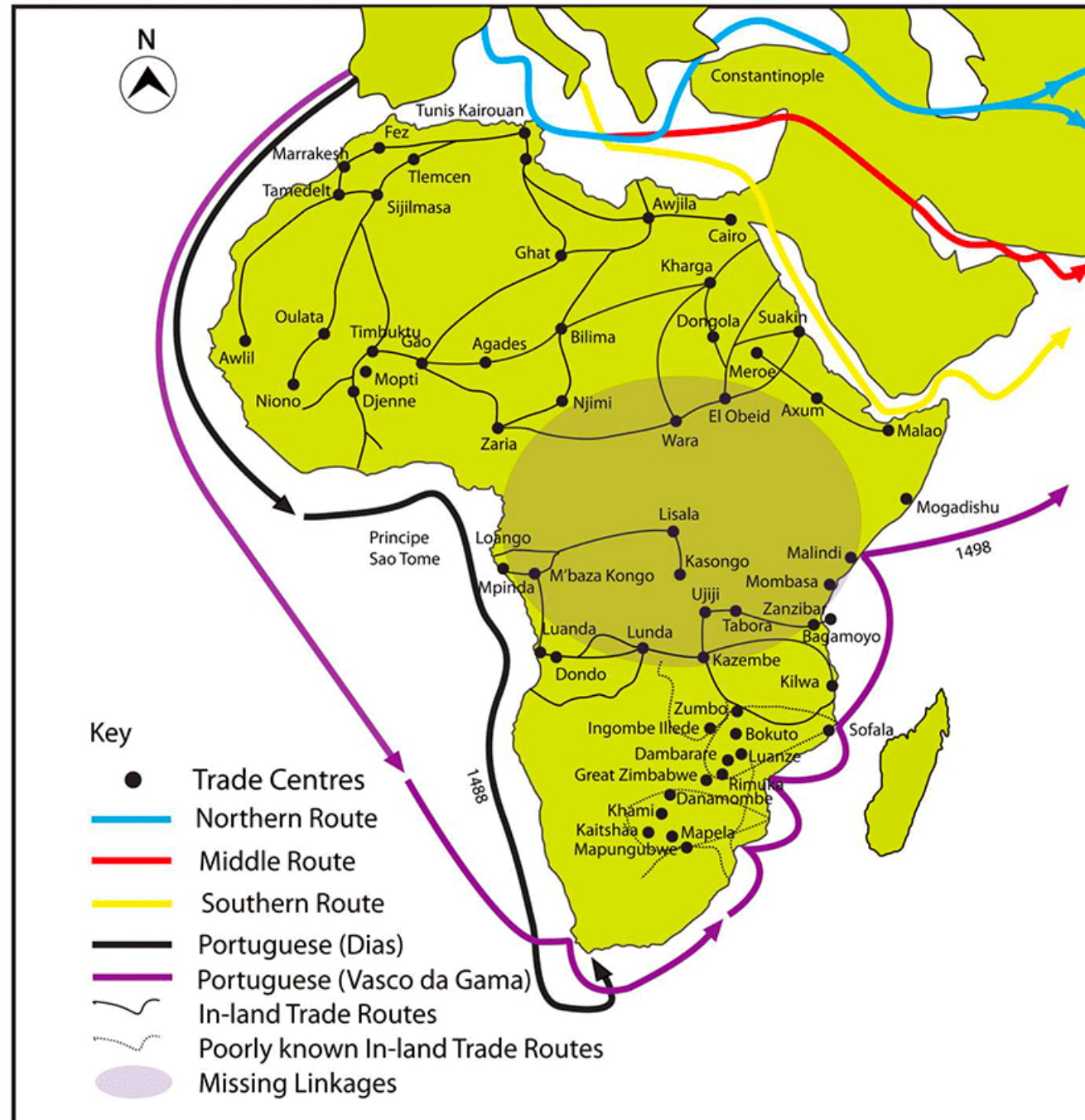
Barriers and corridors: Islam



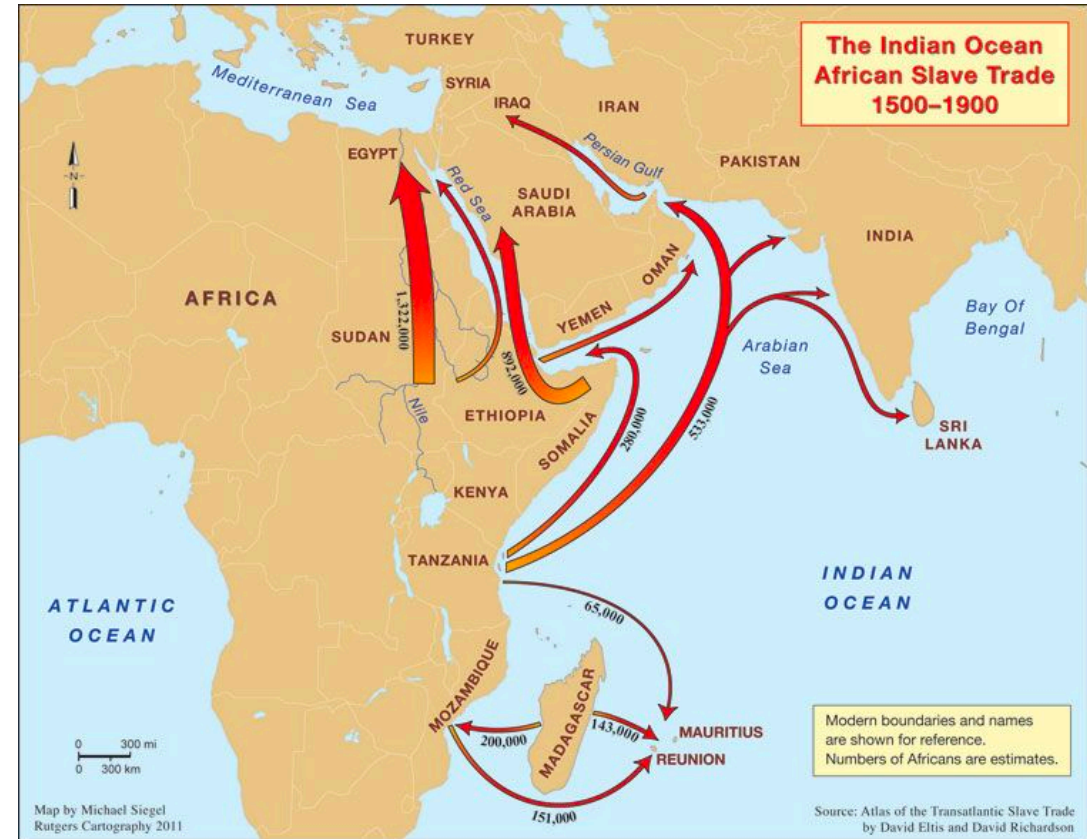
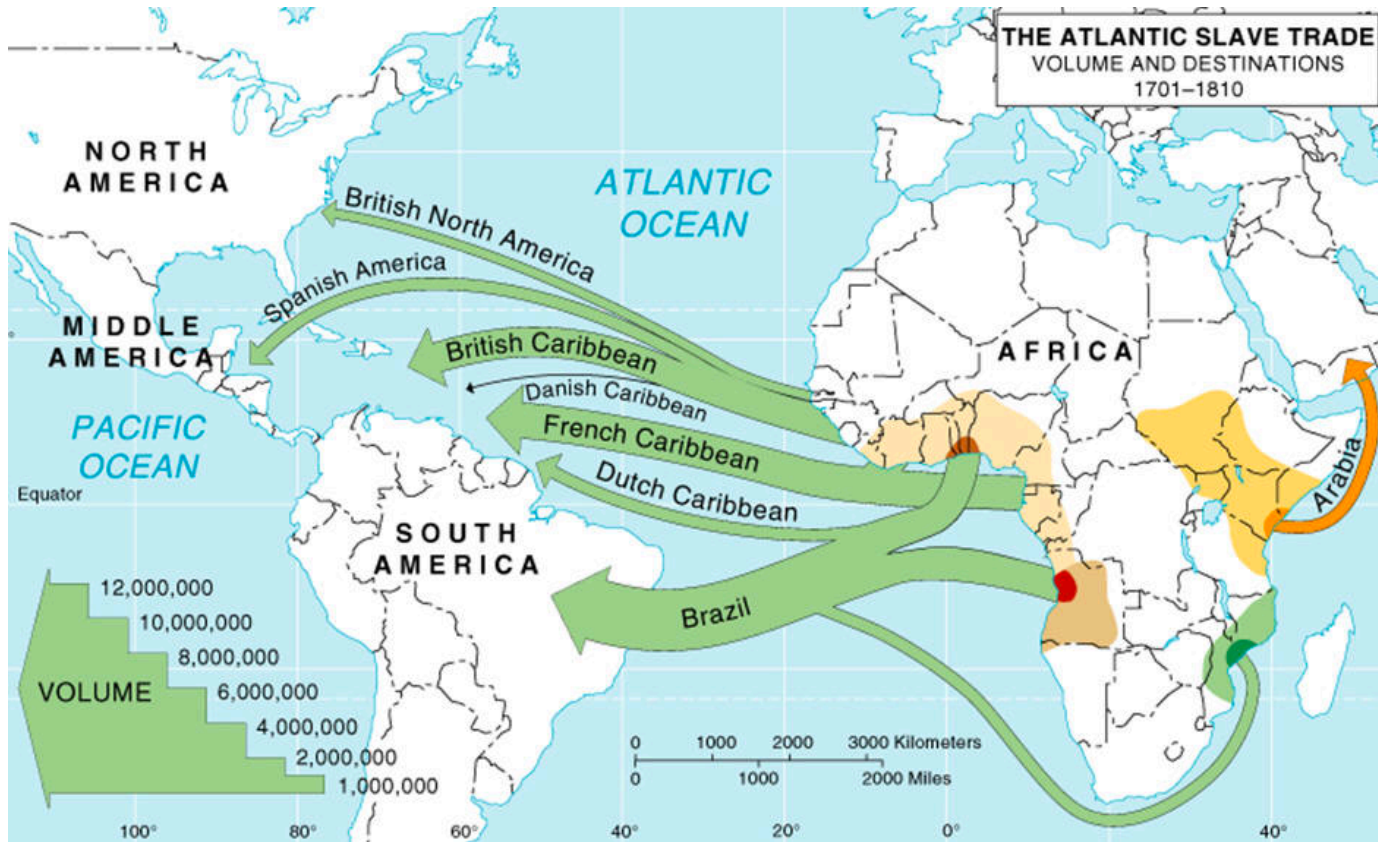
Barriers and corridors: Zheng He



Trade



Slave trade



Slave trade

- Arab slave trade:
 - ~14 million people
 - 7th-19th c.
- Atlantic slave trade:
 - ~8-20 million (12.8 million according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database) people
 - 16th-19th c.
- Intra-African slave trade

What have been the impacts
of slave trade in Africa?

Impacts of slave trade

- Population reduction
- Insecurity
- Institutional disruption
- Reorientation (and potentially stagnation) of local economies

Contemporary impacts of slave trade

- Nathan Nunn:
 - “If the slave trades had not occurred, then 72% of the average income gap between Africa and the rest of the world would not exist today, and 99% of the income gap between Africa and other developing countries would not exist.”
 - Nunn, Nathan. 2008. “The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123: 139-176.

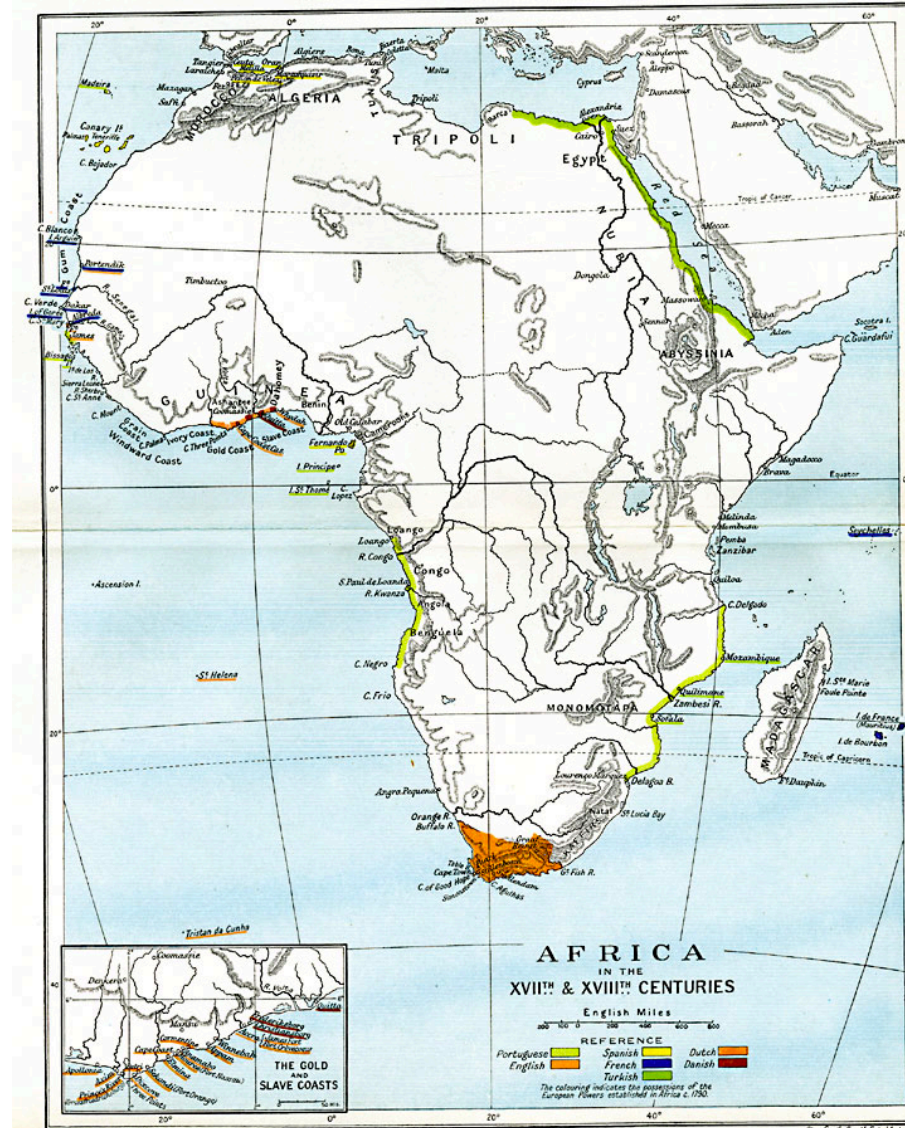
What are the potential mechanisms?

Contemporary impacts of slave trade

- Nathan Nunn and Leonard Wantchekon:
 - Strong negative relationship between the intensity of the slave trade among one's ethnic ancestors and an individual's trust in others today
 - Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review* 101 (7): 3221–52.

How can Nunn
and Wantchekon be sure
this relationship is causal?

Early European colonization



Early European colonization: trading outposts

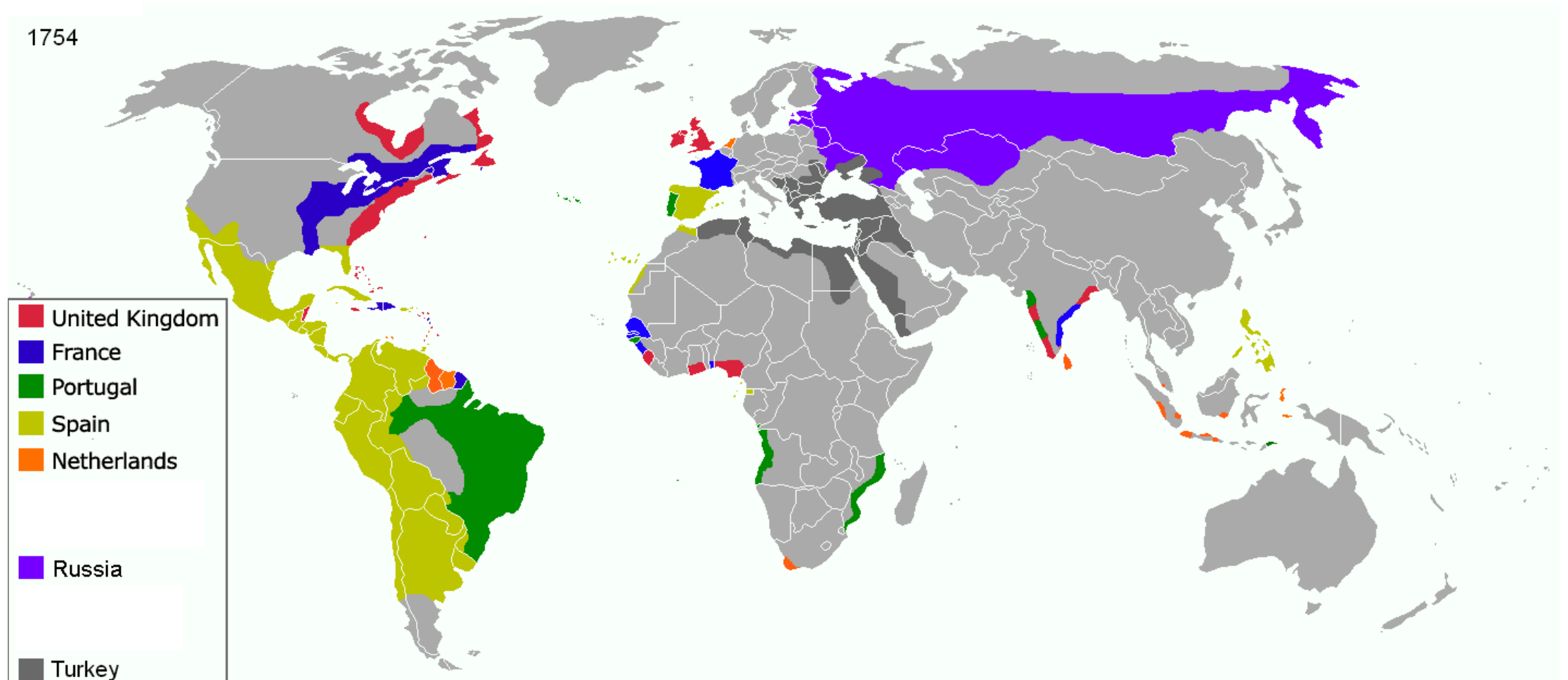


Elmina Castle



Osu Castle (Fort Christiansborg)

What explains the limited reach of European colonialism in Africa before the Scramble?



What explains the limited reach of European colonialism in Africa before the Scramble?



Disease environment
(especially malaria)



Inaccessibility /
distance



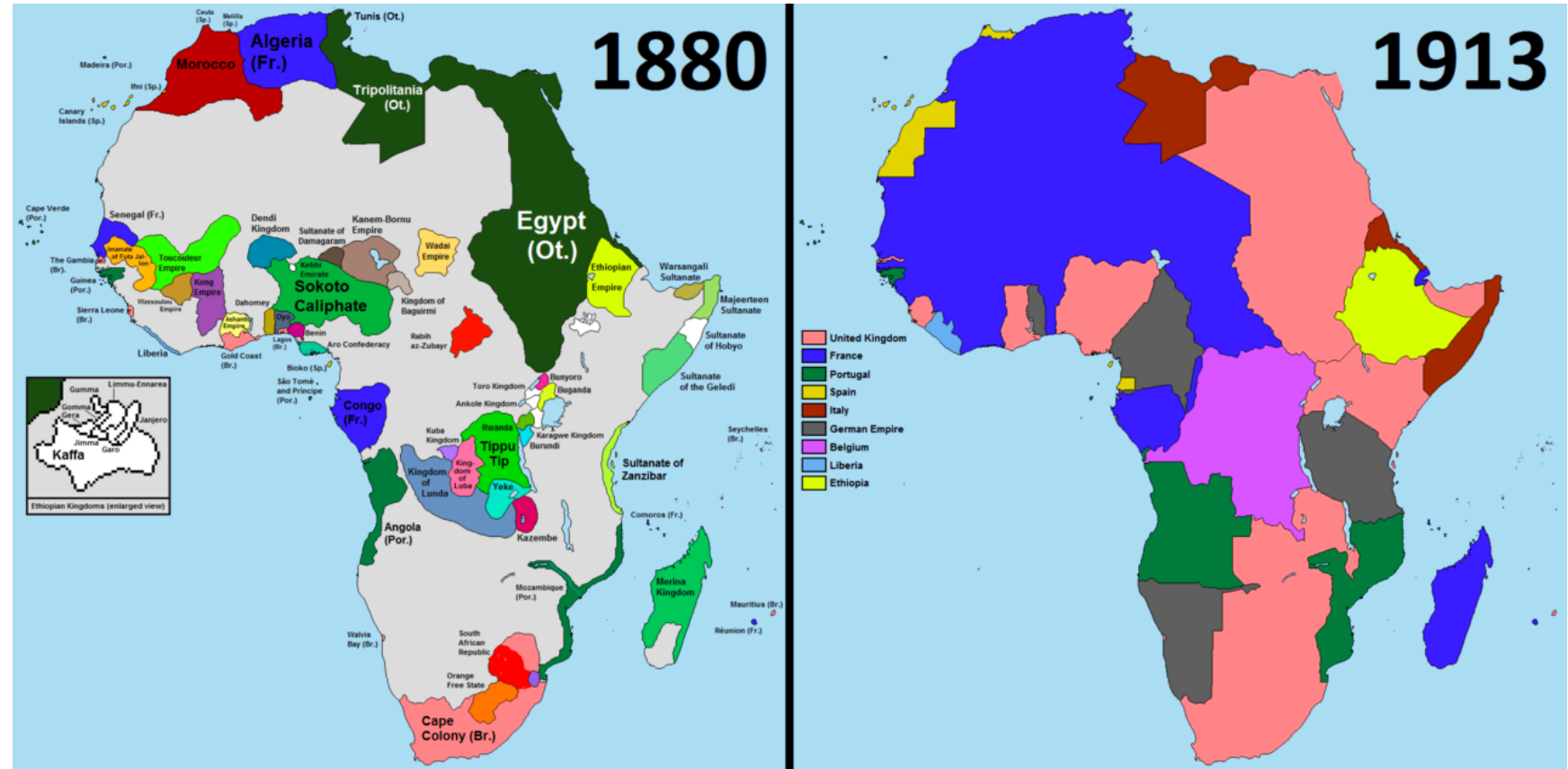
Relative lack of
established states
(complicating
conquest)



Inaccessibility +
poor agricultural
yields

The Scramble for Africa

- Berlin Conference, 1884-1885 + bilateral agreements between colonial powers



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Scramble-for-Africa-1880-1913.png/1280px-Scramble-for-Africa-1880-1913.png>

What explains the Scramble
for Africa?

What explains the Scramble for Africa?



Quinine
prophylaxis



Steamboats



Maxim guns



European
balance of
power



Shortage of
cotton



Local
officials'
initiatives

What have been the impacts
of colonization in Africa?

Some impacts of colonization

Disruption of previous economic, political, and social order

Violent conquest and subjugation
→ death

Outside economic control and reorganization of systems of ownership and production

Extraction of labour and resources

Some investment in public goods

Increase in trade and economic integration

Creation of new polities and elites

Ethnicization

What was the nature of the
African colonial state?

Bula Matari

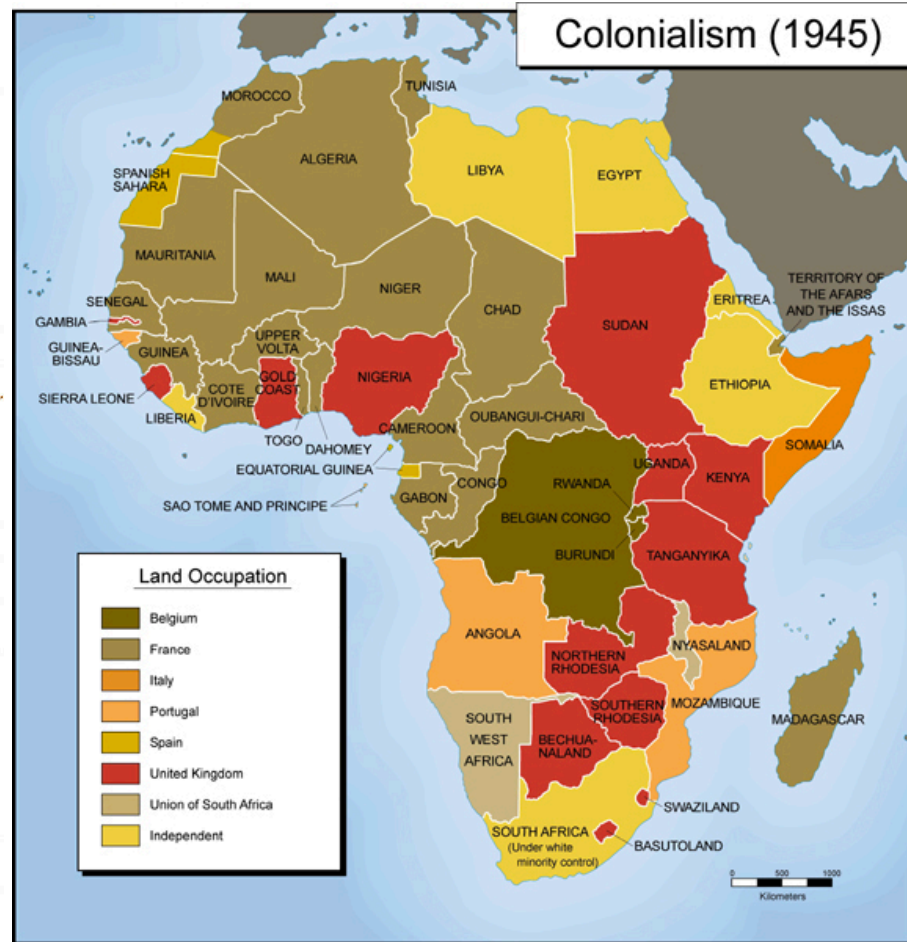
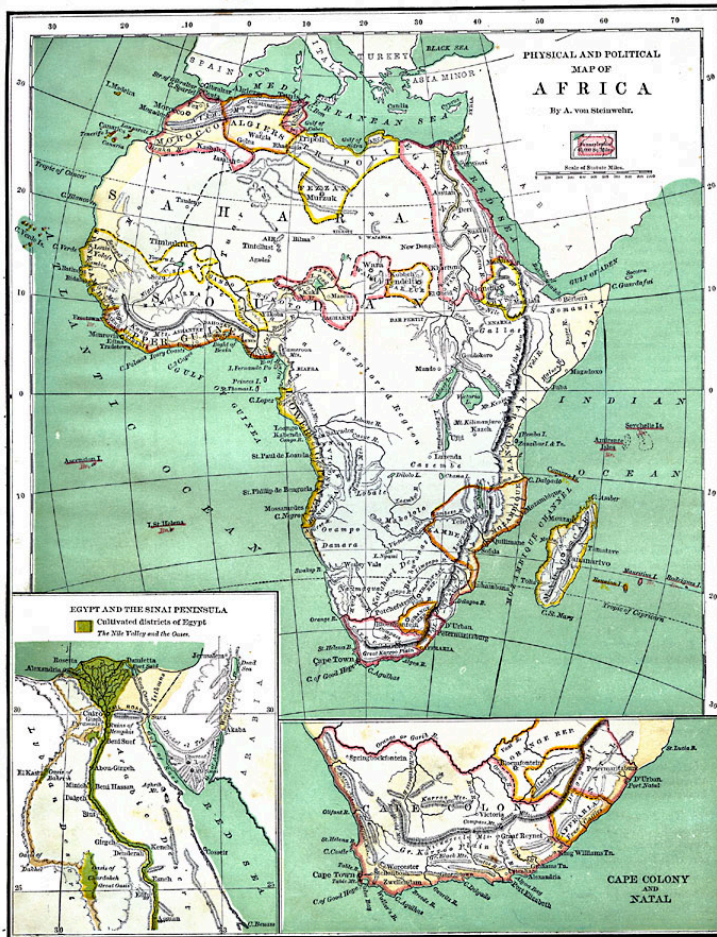


Colonial and postcolonial Bula Matari

- Crawford Young:
 - “A state, once institutionalized, has a formidable capacity for its own reproduction across time...”

What have been the long-term effects of the creation of colonial polities?

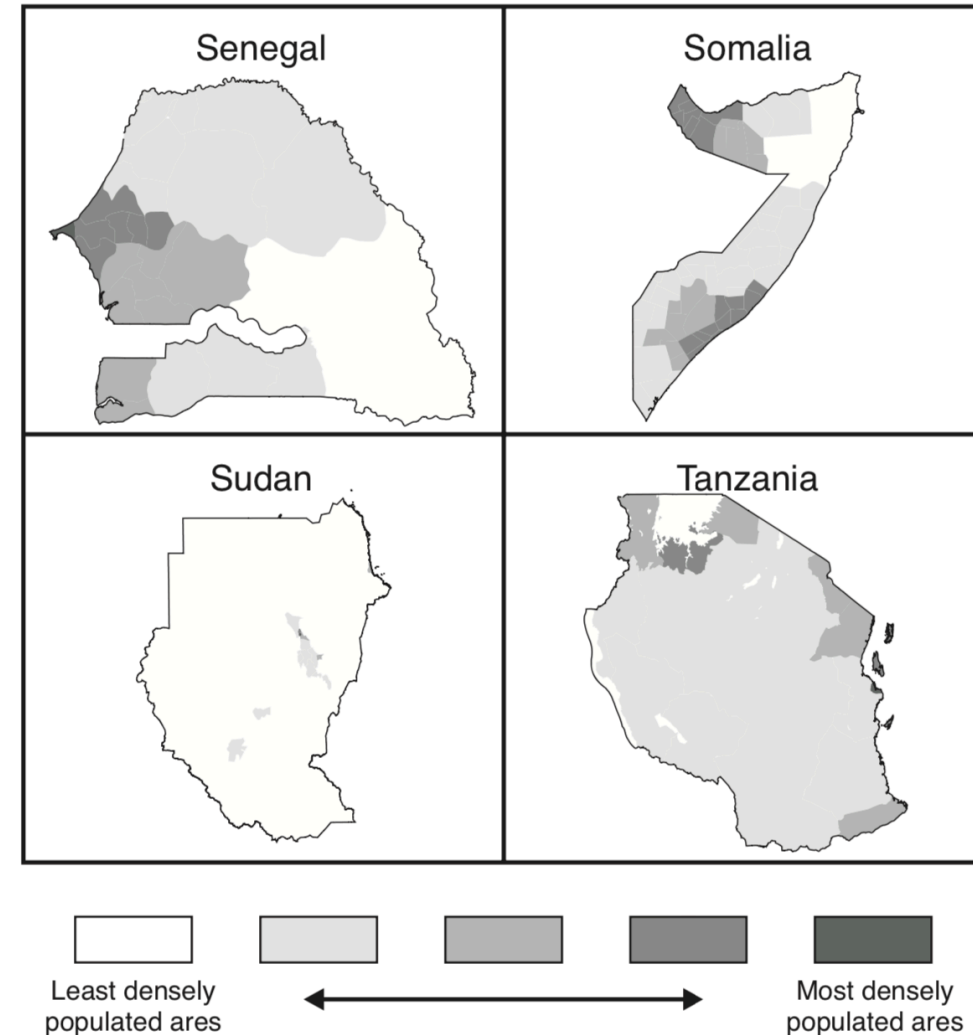
Impacts of colonialization: states-system



<https://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/7300/7338/7338.htm> / <https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/afpolitically.htm> / <http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/colonial-exploration-and-conquest-in-africa-explore/>

Impacts of colonization: borders

- Artificial states and artificial borders:
 - 80% of non-coastal African borders follow latitudinal and longitudinal lines →
- Communities divided by national borders
- Irredentist movements
- Divided societies and internal ethnic competition
- Lack of resources or market access

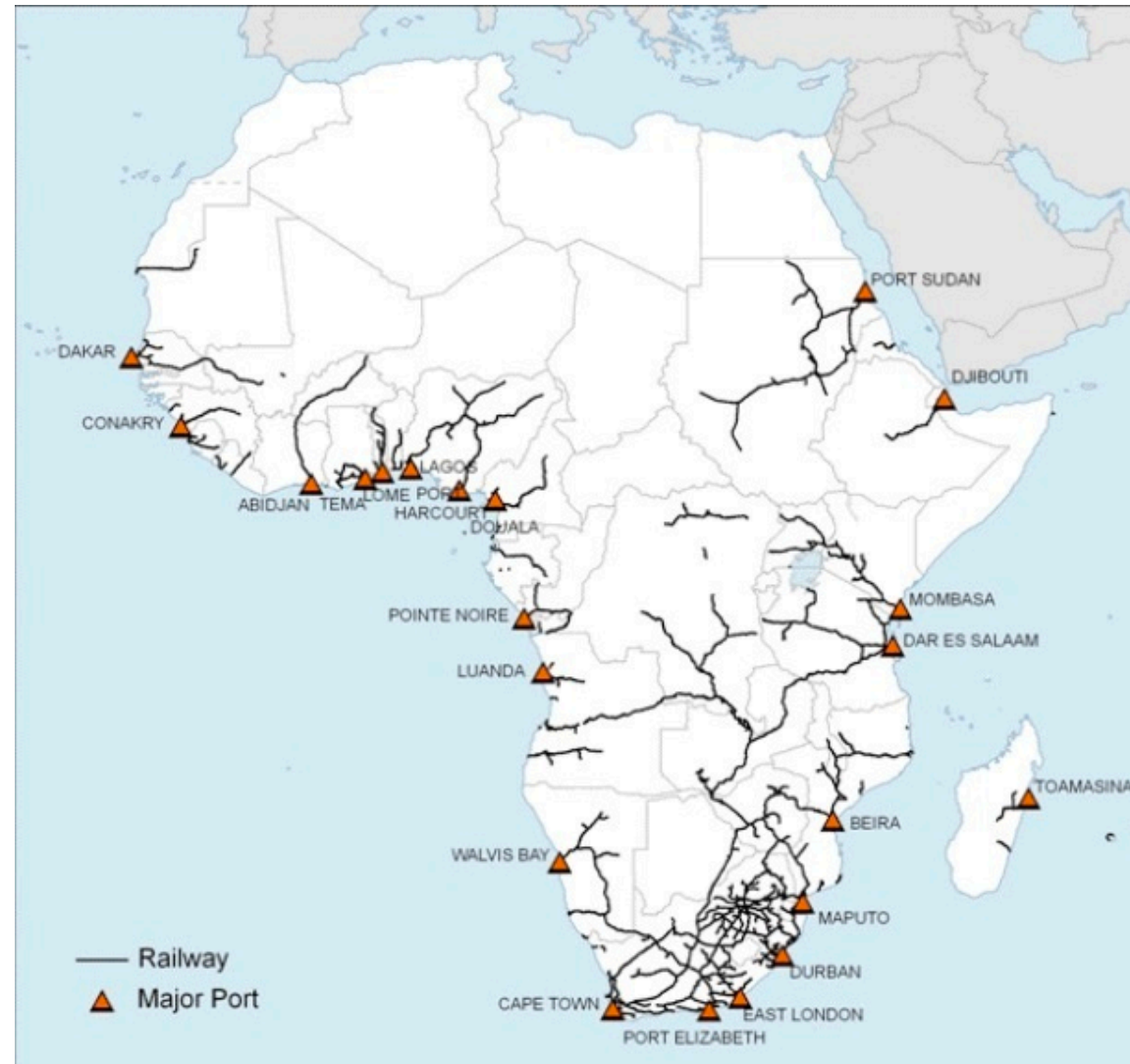


What have been the economic impacts of colonization?

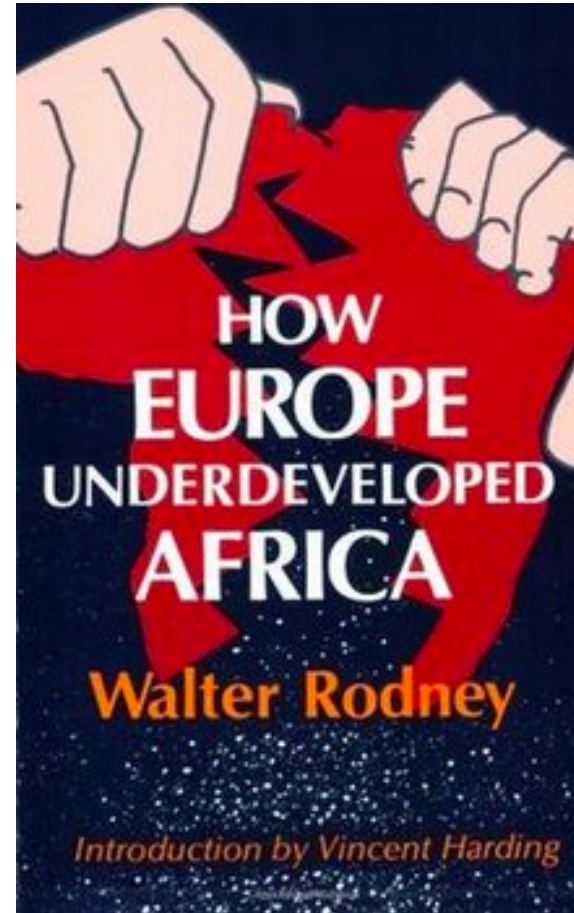
Impacts of colonization: extraction

- Finn Fuglestad:
 - “The fact that the French were able to squeeze more than a million francs out of the impoverished and hunger-stricken peoples of Niger can only be described as a major performance.”
 - Fuglestad, Finn. 2008. *A History of Niger, 1850-1960*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Effects of colonization: infrastructure



Impacts of colonization: underdevelopment?



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