

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68708-9 - A History of Sub-Saharan Africa
Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A History of Sub-Saharan Africa

In a trawl through the entire sweep of sub-Saharan history, the authors, both teachers of African history and experienced travelers to the region, have written an accessible and comprehensive introduction for students and general readers. The opening chapter on geography and climate frames the discussion, demonstrating how the environment has shaped the societies and cultures of those living in the region. Thereafter they describe the rise of states and empires in the classical period, the slave trade within Africa and beyond to the Americas, and the European conquest. The concluding section focuses on Africa in the twentieth century as it gains independence and searches for a new identity beyond colonialism. While the authors mull over the debates which have shaped the study of African history over the last decade, at the center of this story are the tragedies, triumphs and resilience of the African people. The book is illustrated with photographs, maps and sidebars which feature the salient points on either side of a debate, and lists of further reading for those who want to delve deeper.

ROBERT O. COLLINS is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His most recent books are *The Nile* (2002), and, with Millard Burr, *Revolutionary Sudan: Hasan al-Turabi and the Islamist State, 1989–2000* (2003) and *Alms for Jihad: Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World* (2006).

JAMES M. BURNS is Associate Professor of History at Clemson University. He has written *Flickering Shadows: Cinema and Identity in Colonial Zimbabwe* (2002) and co-edited, with Robert O. Collins, *Problems in African History* (1997).

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68708-9 - A History of Sub-Saharan Africa
Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A History of Sub-Saharan Africa

ROBERT O. COLLINS
University of California, Santa Barbara
and

JAMES M. BURNS
Clemson University



Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68708-9 - A History of Sub-Saharan Africa
Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521687089

© Robert Collins and James Burns 2006

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-86746-7 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-86746-0 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-68708-9 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-68708-X paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

List of illustrations	page vii
List of maps	viii
List of boxes	ix
List of tables	x
Preface	xi
Conversion table	xii
Introduction	1
Part I Foundations	
1 The historical geography of Africa	7
2 Kingdoms on the Nile	23
3 The peoples of sub-Saharan Africa: society, culture, language	40
4 Crops, cows, and iron	52
5 Northeast Africa in the age of Aksum	64
6 Empires of the plains	78
7 East Africa and the Indian Ocean world	96
8 The Lake Plateau of East Africa	114
9 Societies and states of the West African forest	128
10 Kingdoms and trade in Central Africa	142
11 The peoples and states of southern Africa	159

Part II Africa in world history

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 12 | The arrival of Europeans in sub-Saharan Africa | 175 |
| 13 | Diseases and crops: old and new | 191 |
| 14 | Slavery in Africa | 202 |
| 15 | The Atlantic slave trade | 213 |
| 16 | The Asian slave trade | 228 |

Part III Imperial Africa

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 17 | Prelude to the European conquest of Africa | 251 |
| 18 | The European conquest of Africa | 265 |
| 19 | Africans, Dutch, and the British in South Africa, 1486–1910 | 280 |
| 20 | European colonial rule in Africa | 296 |
| 21 | The colonial legacy | 309 |

Part IV Independent Africa

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 22 | Nationalism and the independence of colonial Africa | 331 |
| 23 | The Union of South Africa and the apartheid state | 344 |
| 24 | A decade of hope | 357 |
| 25 | Cold war Africa | 366 |
| 26 | Africa at the beginning of the twenty-first century | 377 |
| | Index | 390 |

Illustrations

1.1 The East African savanna. Library of Congress	<i>page</i> 9
1.2 Mount Kenya	9
1.3 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Library of Congress	18
2.1 Great Pyramid of Cheops. Library of Congress	24
2.2 Meroitic pyramids, modern Sudan. Xinhua/Das Fotoarchiv	33
4.1 Maasai herders. Alison Wright photography	58
5.1 Stelae of the kingdom of Aksum. Peace-on-earth.org	67
5.2 Ethiopian Orthodox church at Lalibela. Peace-on-earth.org	72
6.1 Dogon village. Peace-on-earth.org	79
7.1 Modern Zanzibar town. Africa Foto	107
10.1 Chokwe chair. University of Kansas	154
10.2 Chokwe carvers. University of Kansas	155
11.1 Golden rhino. Pretoria Museum, Republic of South Africa	166
11.2 Great Zimbabwe. Ron Giling/Das Fotoarchiv	169
12.1 Quelimane. Das Photoarchiv	182
12.2 A Portuguese legation visiting the king of Kongo. Collection SoA museum/Das Fotoarchiv	183
16.1 Slaves, Indian Ocean. Public Records Office, UK	241
16.2 Ivory for export. Library of Congress	242
18.1 Steamboat on the Zambezi River, Portuguese East Africa. Library of Congress	267
19.1 Zulu village. Collection SoA museum/Das Fotoarchiv	287
19.2 African, European, and Chinese miners, South Africa. Frank and Frances Carpenter Collection (Library of Congress)	294
20.1 Asante troops. Library of Congress	297
21.1 Railway workers. Frank and Frances Carpenter Collection (Library of Congress)	317
21.2 Women on chain gang. Library of Congress	318
21.3 Christian mission station, Belgian Congo. Library of Congress	321
23.1 Apartheid. Minbuza/Das Fotoarchiv	351
26.1 Johannesburg today. Das Fotoarchiv	384

Maps

1.1	Topographical map of Africa	<i>page</i> 12
1.2	Vegetation regimes of Africa	14
1.3	Precipitation and flow of rainfall across Africa	19
2.1	Dynastic Egypt and the Kingdom of Kush	31
3.1	Languages of the African peoples	45
3.2	Diffusion of Bantu languages	49
3.3	Bantu linguistic qualification	50
4.1	The Iron Age in Africa	60
5.1	Aksum and the Christian kingdoms of Nubia	73
6.1	Empires of the plains	86
6.2	Islam in West Africa	90
7.1	Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and the Sabaeen Lane	98
7.2	The world of the Swahili	100
8.1	Peoples and migrations in East Africa	125
9.1	States of the West African forest and savanna	133
9.2	The Asante empire	138
10.1	States and trade routes in Central Africa	144
11.1	Great Zimbabwe and neighbouring states	164
12.1	Portuguese explorations of the West African coast	177
13.1	The distribution of the tsetse fly in sub-Saharan Africa	196
15.1	The trans-Atlantic slave trade	217
15.2	The slave trade	218
16.1	Trans-Saharan trade routes	232
16.2	East Africa in the nineteenth century	239
17.1	Missionaries and explorers in Africa prior to the partition	253
18.1	African states on the eve of the partition	266
18.2	Europe in Africa on the eve of the partition	271
19.1	The Dutch Cape Colony and its settlements	281
19.2	Southern Africa	288
20.1	Africa in 1914	304
21.1	Central Africa under colonial rule	313
21.2	The infrastructure of colonial Africa	324
23.1	The unification of South Africa, 1910	345
24.1	“Bantustans” in South Africa	352
25.1	Independent Africa	368

Boxes

2.1	The debate over African origins and influence in Egypt	<i>page</i> 28
3.1	Bantu and Africa	47
7.1	The African and Asian worlds of the Swahili	102
8.1	The Hamitic myth	115
9.1	The lost-wax process	135
10.1	Art and history on the Central African savanna	156
11.1	The “lost city” of Great Zimbabwe	167
12.1	Who were the Jaga?	185
12.2	Kongo letter	186
16.1	Gold of the Sahara	234
17.1	The campaign to abolish the trans-Atlantic slave trade	261
21.1	Did Europe underdevelop Africa?	310
21.2	The media in colonial and independent Africa	325
26.1	African history and the academy	378

Tables

15.1	Slave exports from Africa across the Atlantic, 1450–1900	<i>page</i> 214
15.2	The trans-Atlantic trade, 1601–1700	217
15.3	Regional origins, number, and percent of slaves in the eighteenth-century Atlantic trade	219
15.4	Regional origins, number, and percent of slaves in the Atlantic trade, 1801–1867	226
16.1	Slave exports across the Sahara, Red Sea, and East Africa and the Indian Ocean, 800–1900 and 1600–1900	230
16.2	Estimated slave exports across the Sahara, 1600–1900, with percent of the total Asian trade, 1600–1900	240
16.3	Estimated slave exports from the Red Sea, 1600–1900, with percent of the total Asian trade, 1600–1900	243
16.4	Estimated slave exports from East Africa, 1600–1900, with percent of the total Asian trade, 1600–1900	244
16.5	Estimated slave exports from East Africa, 1800–1900, with percent of the total Asian trade, 1800–1900	246

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68708-9 - A History of Sub-Saharan Africa
Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

The following *History of Sub-Saharan Africa* was born after decades of gestation. It is the work of two historians who, between them, have been teaching Africa's history to American undergraduates for the better part of four decades. As any honest professor of history will ruefully admit, those lecture notes become yellowed with age when not continually revised to incorporate new information and interpretations. This is particularly the case for the dynamic historiography of Africa. In the 1960s the efforts of African historians were focused on such questions as "Where did the Bantu come from?" "Did Africans resist, or collaborate with, European imperialists?" "Did colonial rule bring ruthless exploitation or beneficent development?" During the subsequent half-century these and myriad other questions have been addressed by historians, their compatriots in the social sciences, and even many scholars from the physical sciences in a never-ending search for the African past. Today new questions engage the attention of Africa's scholars, who explore such issues as identity, popular culture, and the environment, to name but a few. This volume aspires to synthesize the work of the vast army of scholars, young and old, who continue to revise and broaden our understanding of the continent's past.

We wish to give special thanks to Marigold Acland, the Senior Editor for the Middle East and Africa at Cambridge University Press, to Mary Starkey for her splendid copyediting, and to Steve Brown of UCSB, a talented cartographer (and a good friend), who produced this volume's superb maps.

Robert O. Collins
Santa Barbara, California

James M. Burns
Clemson, South Carolina

Conversion table

1 mile = 1.61 kilometer

1 foot = 0.3 metre

1 inch = 2.54 centimeter

1 pound = 0.45 kilogram

1 ounce = 28.35 gram

100 degrees Fahrenheit = 37.78 degrees Celsius