

PEOPLE	PLACES	THINGS
Akbar the Great	Asia Minor	absolutism
Christopher Columbus	Aztec Empire	constitutional monarchy
conquistadores	Ghana	encomiendas
Hong Wu	Inca Empire	ethnocentrism
Louis XIV	Lepanto	Glorious Revolution
Mansa Musa	Mali Empire	Imperialism
Oliver Cromwell	savanna	mercantilism
Peter the Great	Spanish Empire	vertical climates
Phillip II		westernization
Suliman I		
Yong Le		

INTRODUCTION

In this first Global Age, the people of Asia and Europe actively engaged civilizations in Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific Rim. European encounters and exploration of the Western Hemisphere grew out of the quest for trade, wealth, and knowledge begun in the Commercial Revolution and Renaissance of the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries.

Both continents have great central basins drained by two of the three longest river systems in the world – North America’s Missouri-Ohio-Mississippi River system and South America’s Amazon. The vast interior of the con-

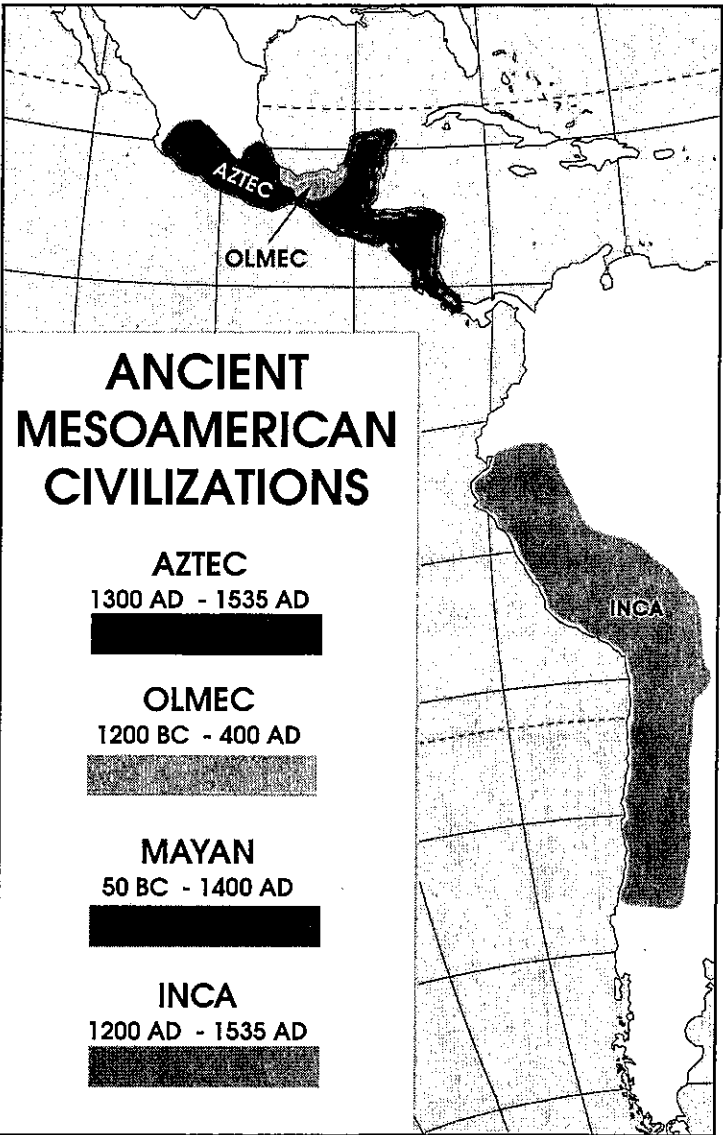
AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS (1400 BC - 1570 AD)

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION AND GEOGRAPHY

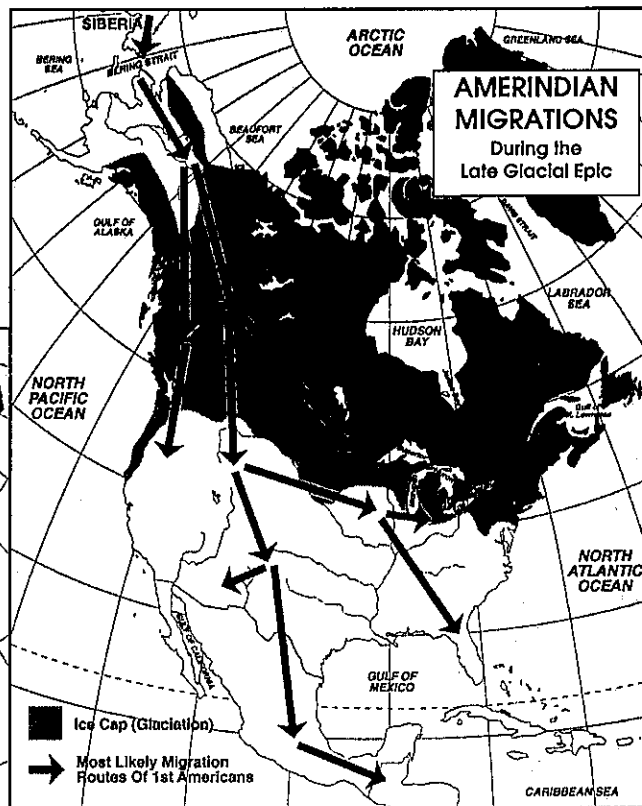
The two great land masses of the Western Hemisphere stretch 12,500 miles from the Arctic in the north almost to Antarctica in the south. Combined, North and South America and associated islands encompass nearly 16.2 million square miles. With such vast range, the two continents’ climatic structures reflect nearly every major Koppen climate type.

The natural regions of the Western Hemisphere are broad based. The entire western margin (Pacific) of the two continents is paralleled by the Rocky-Sierra Madre-Andes cordillera¹ with intervening basins and plateaus. The eastern (Atlantic) sides of the continents have low mountains and coastal plains. The central eastern coasts have almost flat topography.

¹ Cordillera (extensive chain of mountains or mountain ranges)



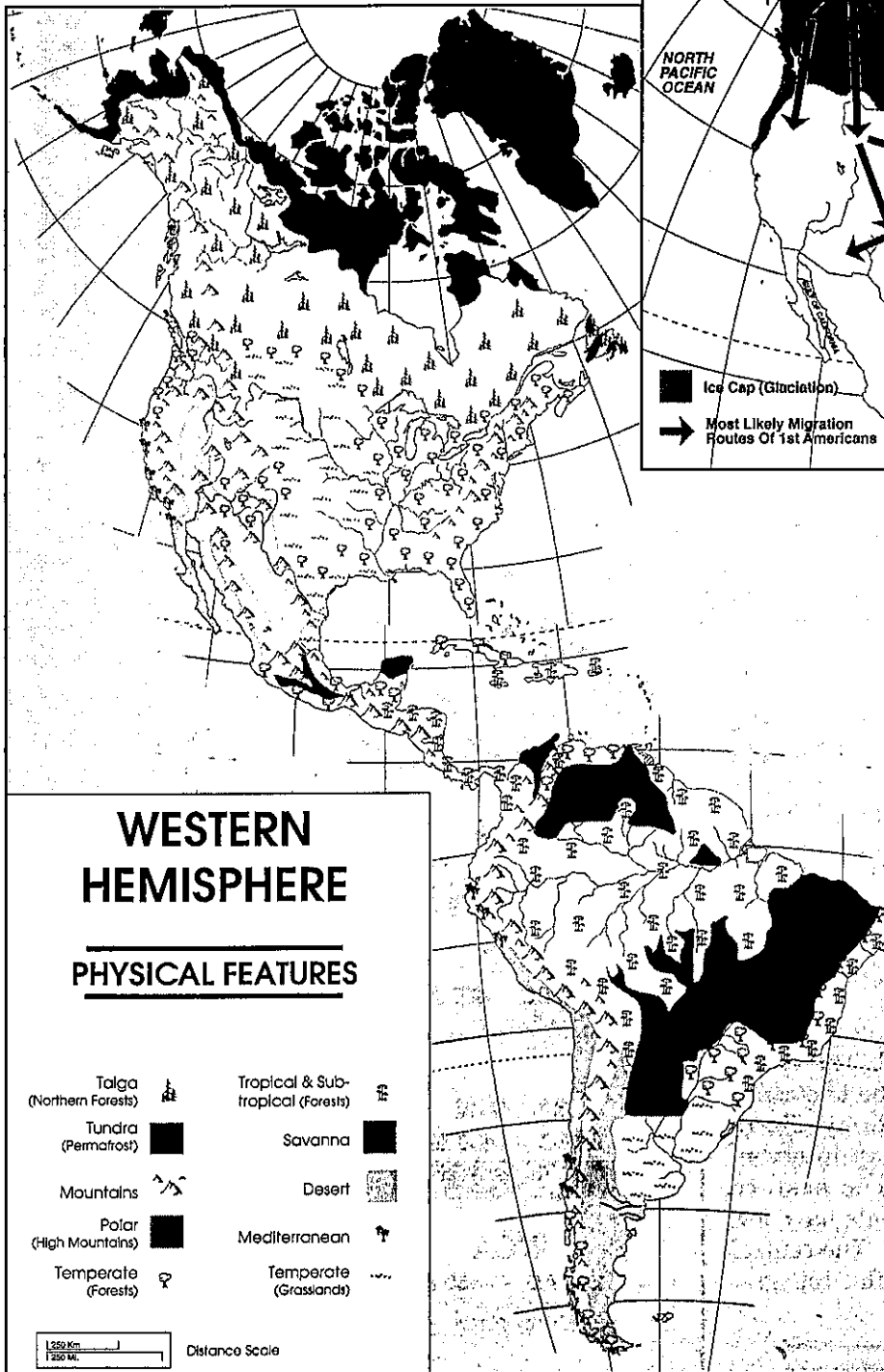
tinents is dominated by rolling plains in the north and rain forests in the south. In North America, the open plains and gently flowing rivers allowed early inhabitants ease of migration eastward. In South America, the rapid rivers and thick vegetation of the Amazon rain forest and the imposing heights of the Andes were barriers to settlement of the interior.



According to archaeologists' current assessments, the first humans entered North America between 30,000 and 10,000 years ago. They crossed the Bering Land Bridge from northeast Asia. Around 10,000 BC, global warming submerged that narrow bridge of land beneath the Bering Sea.

The early people were ancestors of the **Amerindians**¹. The early people drew sufficient food supplies from the dry grasslands (steppes), tundra, marshes, and forests. The natural environment allowed for grazing ani-

¹ Amerindians, also Native Americans, (members of any of the aboriginal peoples of the Western Hemisphere; the term Indian has always been a misnomer for the earliest inhabitants of the Americas. Many people now prefer Native American as a corrective to Columbus's mistaken claim)



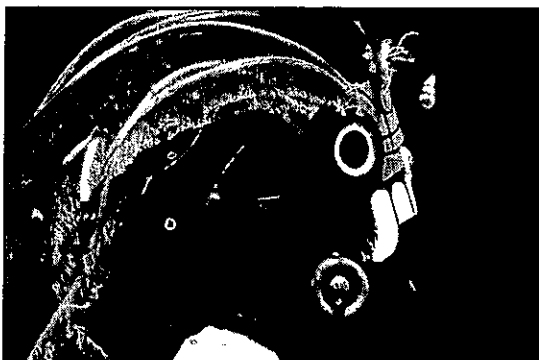
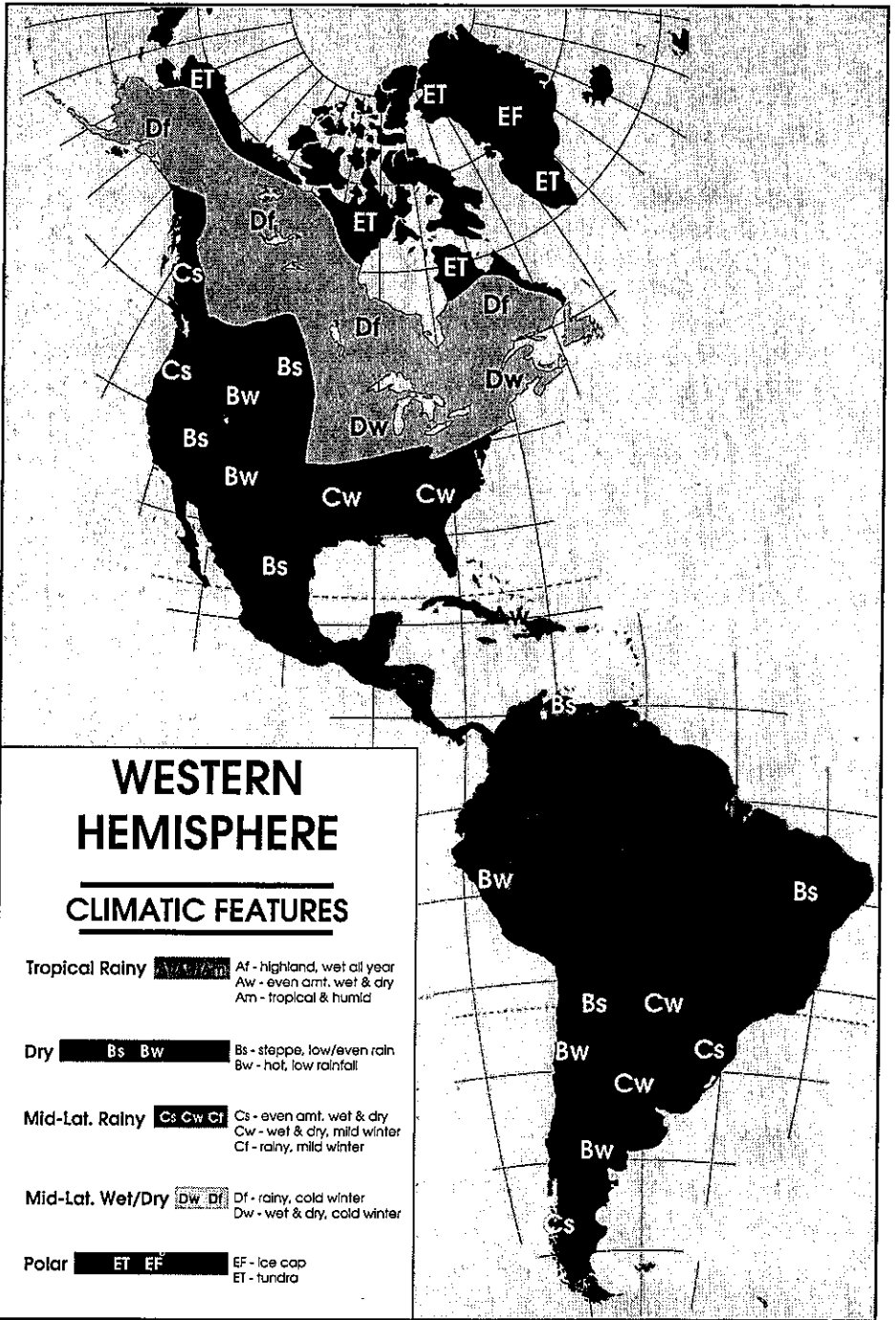
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Oaxaco - Pre-Columbian Figure
South Mexico © PhotoDisc, Inc. 1994

mals (horses, reindeer). Wild game and fish provided additional food sources for early hunters. Early Amerindians lived in small groups and made spears, knives, scrapers, and other instruments from stone.

As in other global regions, Neolithic Era Americans eventually developed agricultural techniques, religious beliefs, trading networks, and even military tactics. Yet, current evidence indicates that highly developed civilizations with cities and imperial political structures developed much later in the Americas than in other global regions.



at left:
Ceremonial
Mayan
Headdress
Mexico



at right:
Teotihuacan
Aztec Figure
Mexico

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MESOAMERICAN EMPIRES: Organization & Contributions

<p>OLMEC EMPIRE 1200 BC – 400 BC</p> <p>Southern Mexico El Salvador</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formed the first truly complex Mesoamerican culture established civic-ceremonial centers at San Lorenzo and La Venta, with temples, palaces built towns with clay building platforms and stone pavements and drainage systems traded in raw materials such as jade created large stone Jade sculptures of human heads developed rudimentary hieroglyphic writing
<p>MAYAN EMPIRE 50 BC – 1400 AD</p> <p>Southern Mexico Yucatan Guatemala Central America</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> invented writing system which mixed script with ideographs and phonetics wrote historic records on pots, stone stele (upright inscribed slabs), and palace walls cultivated corn as staple crop produced a complex astronomical calendar established religious rituals which included human sacrifice, mythology, and ancestral worship created a monarchy that united small settlements into larger states built flat-topped pyramids as temples and rulers' tombs built palaces, shrines, large ball courts for ceremonial sport and astronomical observatories invented math system, including zero base
<p>AZTEC EMPIRE 1300 AD – 1535 AD</p> <p>Central Mexico</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> founded island capital Tenochtitlan (modern Mexico City) created a highly specialized, strictly hierarchal society conquered and dominated neighbors for tribute (protection payments), not for territory elected by nobility, ruler-emperor (tlatoani) had near god status and supreme authority formed a powerful priestly hierarchy to administer government produced a severe legal code of laws with judgments based on generally accepted ideas of reasonable behavior developed a sophisticated agricultural economy, carefully adjusted to the land with crop rotation and extensive aqueduct and irrigation systems adopted Nahuatl as a language of learning that accompanied a hieroglyphic writing system created a 365-day solar calendar system divided into 19 months of 20 days each
<p>INCA EMPIRE 1200 AD – 1535 AD</p> <p>Andes Mountains (Peru, Ecuador parts of Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> established largest empire of the Americas – at its height in the 16th century, the Inca Empire controlled 12 million people, over 100 cultures with 20 different languages formed a strong monarchy ruled from Cuzco by using strategic resettlement of loyal "colonists" among rebellious groups believed emperors descended from the Sun god and worshiped them as divine beings adapted an intricate 12,000 mile road system for traveling messengers and services for traveling bureaucratic officials created agricultural terracing and irrigation systems adapted various "vertical climates" of the Andes' elevations for a variety of crops built elaborate fortress cities such as Machu Picchu developed refined spoken language (Quechua) instituted quipu (knot-cord) record keeping system developed a religion centered on the worship of the Sun mined gold for use by the elite for decorative and ritual purposes

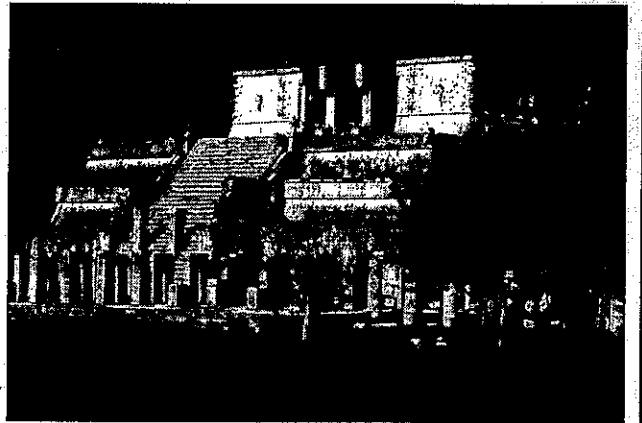
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CHICHEN ITZA

The Maya of the Yucatan created a great capital at Chichen Itza. Its architecture was advanced. The palaces had great colonnades that opened onto private patios. There are large paintings preserved that show hundreds of warriors celebrating feasts and battle victories.

In the 13th century, the Maya built a new capital to the west of Chichen Itza, Mayapan, with a population estimated at 15,000, had great walls to protect against the increasing power of other warring states.



©PhotoDisc, 1994

Fighting and competition among the Mayan city-states broke down their strength, and they succumbed to the Europeans - and the diseases they brought- in the 16th century. The Spanish took advantage of division and took control in 1542.



Conquistadors overpower Aztecs.

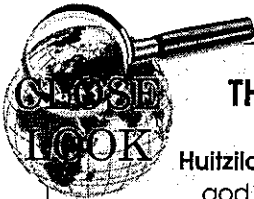
The term **Mesoamerica** refers to a cultural region occupied by the native people extending south and east from central Mexico to include parts of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Pre-Columbian ancient cultural groups included the Aztec, Maya, Mixtec, Olmec, Toltec, and Zapotec.

FALL OF MESOAMERICAN EMPIRES

The Aztec and Inca Empires came to an abrupt end with the Spanish conquests in the 1520s and 1530s. Gradual colonization and Christianizing undermined the cultural bases of the civilizations. Conquistador **Hernán Cortés** (1485-1547) alliances with rival groups, the killing of the **Tlatoanis**¹ Montezuma II and Cuauhtemoc, and the Spanish soldiers' introduction of diseases destroyed the Aztec realm.

Conquistador **Francisco Pizarro** (1475-1541) and a small force of 180 Spanish troops arrived in Peru amidst a civil war among the Incas. In 1532, he captured Emperor Atahualpa and his army near Cuzco. Pizarro had the Emperor executed, and set up a puppet ruler. Inca leaders went into exile and continued to resist the Europeans for another 50 years, but they could not hold their diverse people together.

¹ Tlatoanis (supreme rulers/commanders of the Aztec Empire, see chart p.118)



THE AZTEC PANTHEON

Huitzilopochtli - ancestral warrior-hero god

Huehueteotl - fire deity, identified with the renewal of time itself

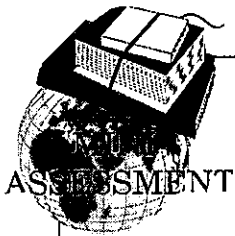
Quetzalcoatl - "feather serpent," symbolic of the earth

Tezcatlipoca - the most powerful, supreme deity, associated with destiny

Tlaloc - rain deity, identified with life-giving rain

Tonantzin - the female earth-deity

Tonatiuh - sun deity, primary source of life associated with warriors



Mini Assessment

1 Knowledge of early Mesoamerican civilizations is limited because their

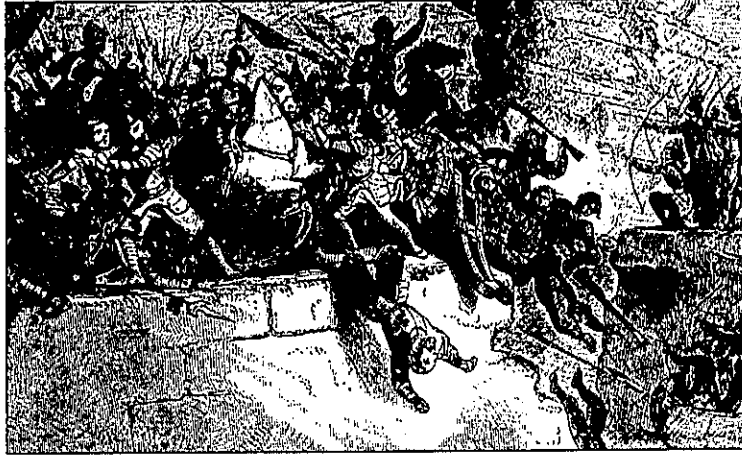
- 1 religious rituals were closely guarded secrets
- 2 remains were destroyed by rain forest growth
- 3 ideographs cannot be translated
- 4 European colonizers destroyed cultural remains

2 The Inca diet was enhanced by extensive crop varieties supplied through

- 1 vertical climate agriculture
- 2 the quipu processing system
- 3 rebellious conquered peoples
- 4 an accurate solar calendar

3 What does Aztec rule in Mesoamerica have in common with Mongol rule in Central Asia?

- 1 building ceremonial pyramids
- 2 collection of tribute from conquered peoples
- 3 extensive astronomical research programs
- 4 knot-and-cord record keeping systems



Constructed Response:

1 How can you tell the European from the Mesoamerican figures in the engraving above?

2 What military advantages did the Europeans have over Mesoamerican cultures?

RISE AND FALL OF AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS: MALI AND SONGHAI EMPIRES

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION / GEOGRAPHY

Africa is the second largest continent after Asia. With more than 11.7 million square miles, Africa is more than three times the size of the United States.

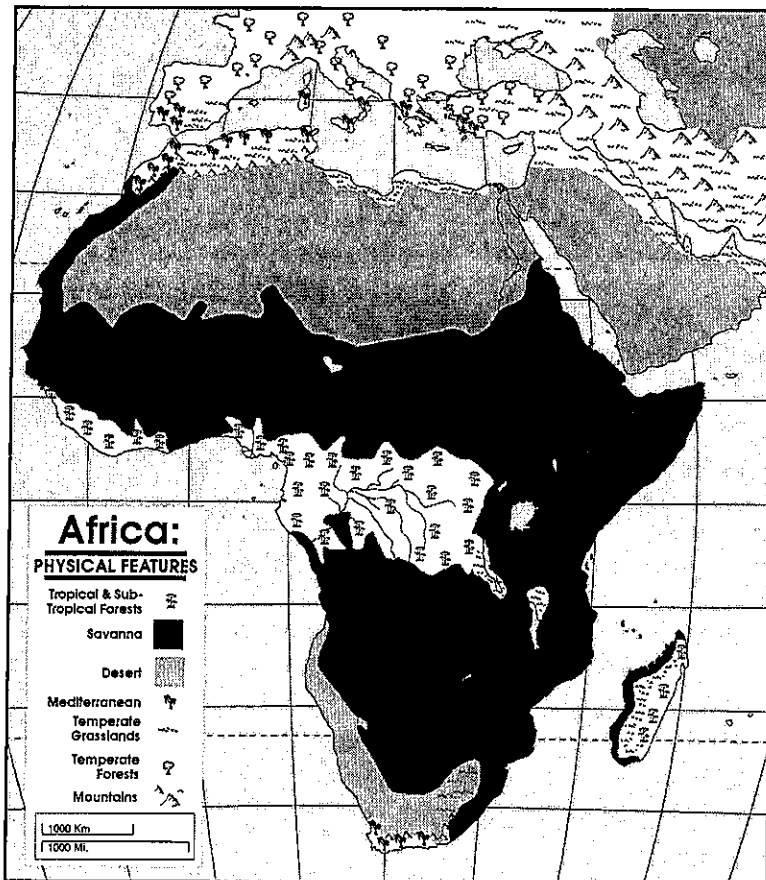
When viewed as bisected by the Equator, Africa's natural and climatic regions almost mirror each other to the north and south. The largest natural area is the **savanna**¹. These regions stretch in great bands to the north and south of the Equatorial rain forests. The northern savanna is shrinking because of relentless **desertification**². The fragile Sahel region

("coast of the desert") along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert barely supports sparse vegetation because of uneven annual rainfall and over grazing. Beyond the savannas are two large desert regions – the 3.5 million square mile Sahara and the 100,000 square mile Kalahari. Fertile strips of farmlands with mild Mediterranean climate (Koppen type Cf) hug the southern Cape of Good Hope and the northern Mediterranean coast. The low mountains along the north (Atlas) and south (Drakensburgs) coasts have had little climatic and settlement influences.

Ninety percent of Africa's land is plateaus higher than 500 feet above sea level, and a substantial portion is not arable. The five major

¹ savanna (flat grassland of tropical or subtropical regions)

² desertification (transformation of arable or habitable land to desert, caused by a change in climate or destructive land use)



regions. Historically, Egypt, Nubia, and North Africa interacted with Middle Eastern and Mediterranean civilizations and institutions. Christianity, and then Islam, spread across this area, but did not influence sub-Saharan Africa for centuries.

Awareness of civilizations south of the Sahara was sparse until after 1000 AD. Anthropologists estimate that the use of iron tools emerged for the sub-Saharan groups between 500 BC-500 AD. As with other regions, the food surpluses that the tools helped to produce led to trade and land hunger. As these human contacts expanded, cultural diffusion occurred. For example, the Bantu root language spread, but written records did not emerge until the Muslim Era (10th-12th centuries).

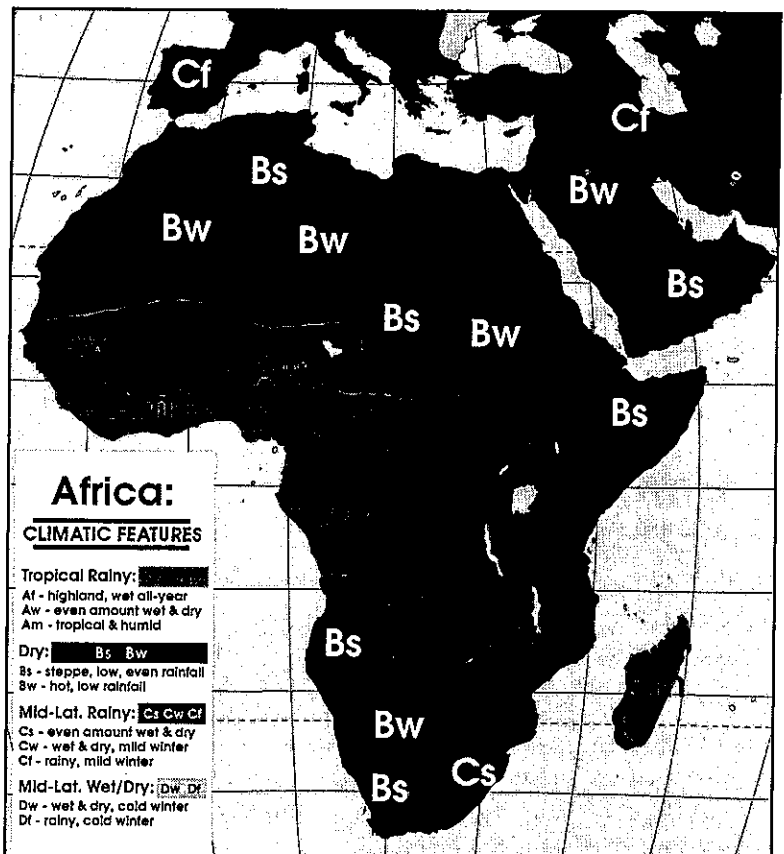
Knowledge of early civilization is based on archaeology, radio-carbon dating, and oral traditions. Oral traditions include tales and genealogies, myths, legends, and proverbs. Mali's famed

rivers (Congo or Zaire, Niger, Nile, Chad, Zambezi) have cataracts (falls) down to the coasts, making inland navigation difficult. Africa has remarkably smooth seacoasts which offer few good natural harbors. The density of the rain forest makes travel very difficult, and diseases such as malaria are added deterrents. These factors made penetration of the interior of the continent difficult. As a result, Africa long remained a mystery to outsiders.

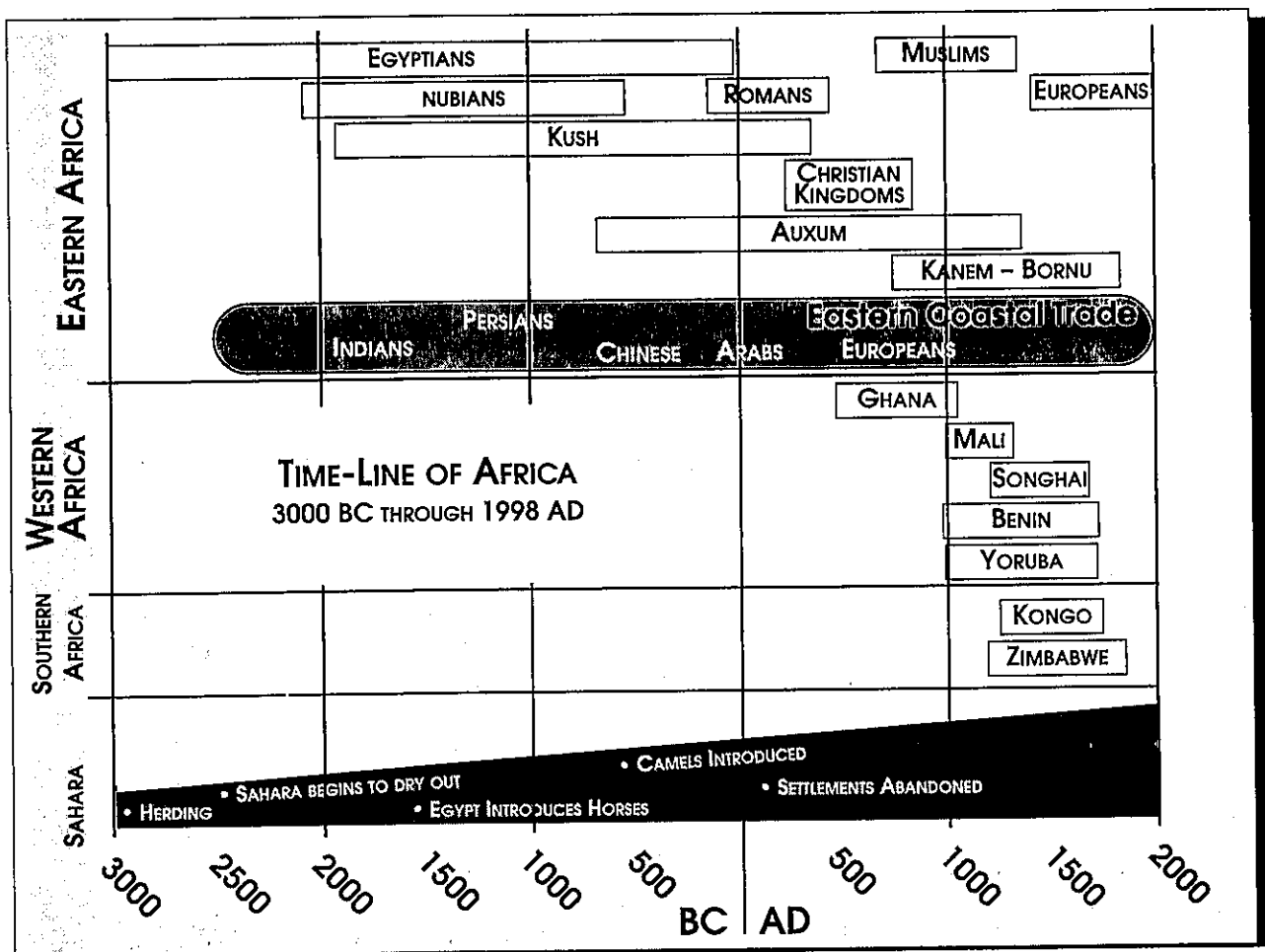
Areas of Africa are rich in natural resources such as petroleum and strategic minerals such as copper and cobalt. Mineral wealth also includes salt, iron, gold, and diamonds.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

The difficulties of penetrating the deserts and the uplands of the interior of sub-Saharan Africa limited interaction with people of other



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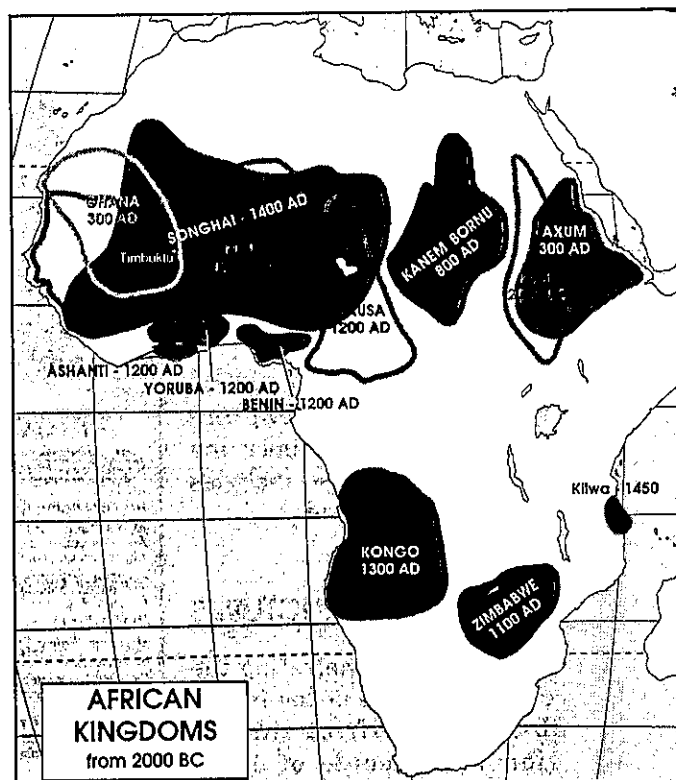


oral tradition produced the epic *Sundiata*, the story of a young prince's quest to restore his father's kingdom.

Traditional religion intertwined with social and political order. As in many areas of the globe, early rulers and chiefs were credited with religious powers or divine status. Ancestor worship was common, and charms were valued as supernatural objects and passed through generations.

TRADING EMPIRES AND ISLAMIC INFLUENCE

The Sahara and the seas were formidable natural barriers. Not until the 9th and 10th centuries did Arab traders cross the Sahara. They founded prosperous cities with organized governments and artisans. One such city was the West African city of **Timbuktu** on the Niger River. In these prosperous communities, there was a lively exchange of coastal gold for inland salt.



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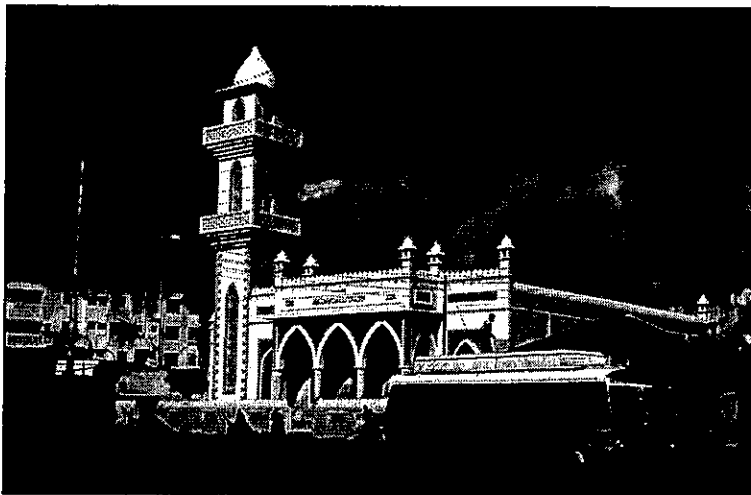
The gold attracted increasing numbers of Arab traders. As they crossed the Sahara, cultural diffusion occurred. The diversity of Islam allowed it to merge with traditional religious practices. Although there was some conflict with divine powers claimed by traditional leaders, Islam spread rapidly through the southern Saharan region. It created a common cultural bond and the disciplined life that helped leaders form empires.

After 1000 AD, Islamic trading states emerged in West Africa. **Ghana** grew from exchange centers for leather, kola nuts, cotton cloth, and slaves that moved north to the Mediterranean. Successor states included **Songhai** and **Mali**. Mali's great **Mansa (Emperor) Kankan Musa** (r. 1312-1332) raised Timbuktu to the level of a great university city and created one of the most renowned Islamic states of history.

From the 12th to the 15th centuries, East African city-states such as **Kilwa**, off the coast of Tanzania, traded with Arabs, Indians, and Chinese. Kilwa traded inland goods from kingdoms such as Zimbabwe. Great cultural diffusion took place in the cosmopolitan environment, but the cities also supplied slaves from inland communities to traders from Persia and India.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Although East and West African civilizations were developed and diverse before 1000 AD, Islamic traders and scholars brought



Islamic influence is seen across Africa. The Mosque above is in the city of Mombasa, Kenya. © David Johnson, 1992

knowledge and technology. Traditional African art varied widely. Common themes in sculptures, masks, and figures depict religious symbols, ancestor veneration, and chieftains' divine powers. Carved wood, ivory, and metal ceremonial objects were used in singing and dancing rituals. Artisans from the West African kingdom of Benin created unique sculptures in brass and bronze, many dating from the 13th century.



13th Century
Benin Bronze
Sculpture

Traditional African art reflects beliefs. A blending of wild, chaotic forces of nature with the controlled social life of the village is common. Artisans created figurines, charms, and amulets to help people guide natural and supernatural forces to make life better.

SLAVERY

A large combination of factors led to the decline of trading states and empires in Africa. The kingdoms of West Africa and the Sudan region were loose unions of trading centers forged through alliances of military strongmen. Competition for trade led to shifting of alliances and civil wars. When Arab and European traders introduced new products, especially weapons, it caused disruption. Later, the dynamic introduction of Christianity by Europeans caused more strains and shifts in loyalties. Most disruptive was the increase in the slave trade in 16th

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