



African History (1500
to Present)

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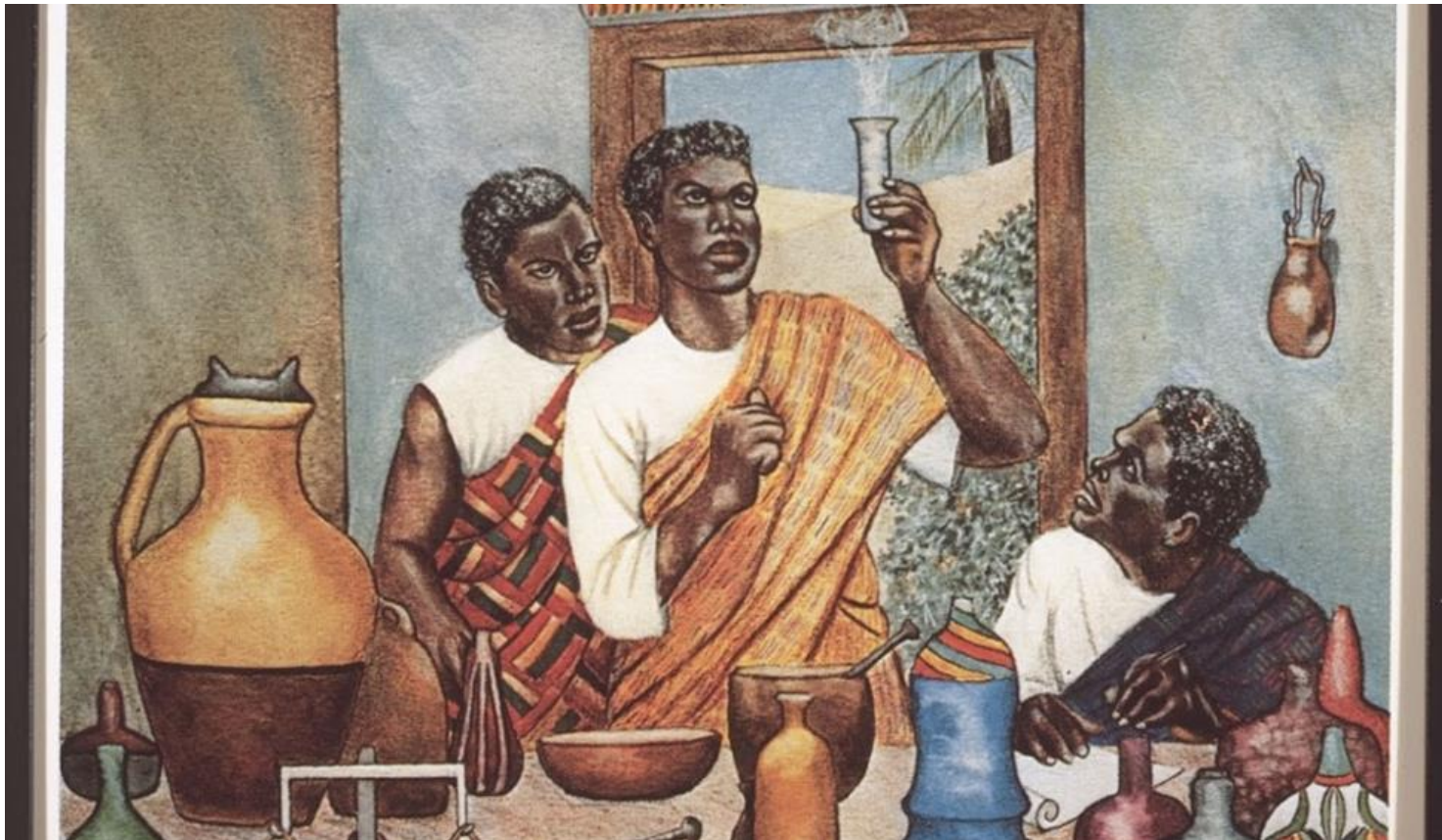


The Scramble of Africa

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Africa Prior to Colonialism



- Africa is a continent with great history and tradition.
- Although there is evidence of thriving kingdoms and communities prior to the colonization of Africa, much of its history has been disregarded which has led many people to believe in misconceptions about Africa.
- One of many misconceptions is that Africa had an inability to govern themselves, which is not true.
- The concept of treaties comes from Ancient Egypt.
- The first circumference of the earth was first correctly calculated by the Egyptians, later borrowed and copied by the Greek, Eratosthenes”.



Africa's Abundance of Wealth & Resources

Many of the items that we use and cherish today were first curated in African countries.

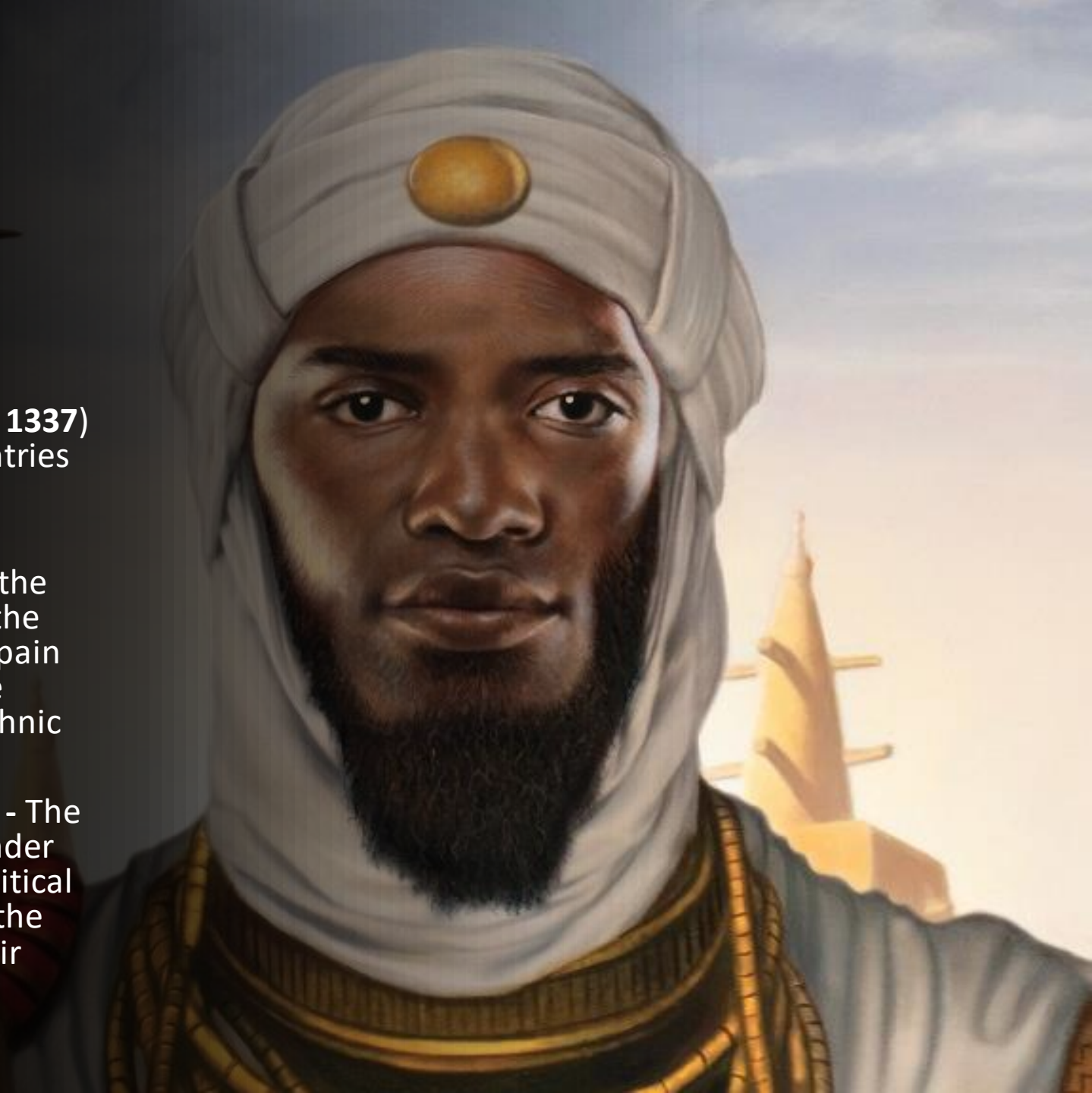
Valuable Resources

- Rice made its way to the United States through African slaves or Coffee which originated in Ethiopia.
 - The Gold Coast and Nigeria were rich in gold and timber.
 - Egypt produced grains and cotton.
 - Other valuable raw materials produced were rubber, gold, copper, and diamonds.
 - These resources piqued the interest of Europeans who saw this as an opportunity to gain wealth
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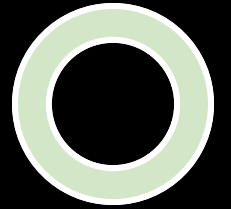


Great Pre-Colonial African Leaders

- **Mansa Musa (King of Kings) (Ancient Mali c. 1312-c. 1337)** - Under his rule, Mali became one of the richest countries in the world. Forbes named him the richest person in history.
- **Yusuf (Almoravids, Morocco 1061-1106)** - Yusuf was the first west African leader to extend influence outside the continent. He extended his influence into southern Spain and created the first Moorish dynasty from Africa. He acquired significant wealth from taxing conquered ethnic groups.
- **Osei Kofi Tutu (Ashanti Kingdom, Ghana 1660-1717)** - The Ashanti was a very wealthy west African kingdom. Under the leadership of Osei Kofu a strong and effective political structure was implemented. The Ashanti was one of the first sub-Saharan militaries to adopt firearms into their arsenal.



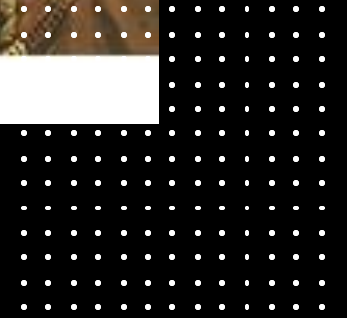
Great Pre-Colonial Queens



- **(Princess Amina or Aminatou The Expansionist – Queen of Zazzau):** Amina, the Muslim queen-warrior was a Zarian princess and the eldest daughter of Bakwa Turunku – the founder of the Zazzau Kingdom in 1536 who ruled up until 1566. After the death of her brother in 1576, Amina ascended the throne. She had an outstanding military career as a professional soldier and was known as a great military strategist.
- **(Queen Nandi - Zulu kingdom, South Africa):** Queen Nandi was resilient as a mother and the hope against social pressures. She was the mother of **Shaka Zulu**, one of the Zulu kingdom's greatest kings. According to historians, during the reign of her son, she had significant influence over the affairs of the kingdom.
- **(Makeda - The Queen of Sheba, Ethiopia):** Makeda was known to be a queen of incredible strength, after surviving a battle with the serpent king **Awre**.



Queen Amina of Ancient Zaria





The Scramble of Africa

- The scramble of Africa, details when Europeans moved into the interior of Africa to exploit its wealth. Among financial exploitation, not all people were able to be absorbed by the new capitalist industries which caused social problems to develop in Europe. Those factors along with the growing slave trade are all reasons for the scramble of Africa. In 1884, at the request of Portugal, German Chancellor Otto von Bismark held a meeting to discuss how power and territory would be split between fourteen nations.

- Of the fourteen nations who attended the conference; France, Germany, Great Britain, and Portugal were the major players in the conference, controlling most of colonial Africa at that time.
- By the end of the 19th century, European powers claimed the entire continent. During this period, Liberia and Ethiopia were the only countries to prevent colonial rule.
- The skepticism of African rulers left them vulnerable as the industrial revolution brought new political ambition to Europe with a need to expand its wealth and prosper with new technological advancements. The European intentions of dominating the continent of Africa led to many forms of resistance in almost all parts of Africa. African rulers who resisted colonial rule were either killed or exiled.



Aftermath

- One of the most damaging results of colonialism in Africa, is the fact that many African territories had become underdeveloped in many ways. The education being offered by Europeans did not encourage the teaching of African culture, thus, without any link to their ancestors, African territories were unable to develop organically. colonial education was essentially literary, so Africans were not taught skills to adapt to changing times.





Thank You!

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