

THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

- I. On the Eve of the Scramble
 - a. Dark Continent – called this because so little was known about it
 - i. Only had contact with coasts, not interior
 - b. A Diverse Land
 - i. 4 times size of Europe
 - ii. hundreds of languages
 - iii. diverse politics and cultures
 - c. North Africa
 - i. Close ties with Muslim world
 - ii. 1400-1800 was dominated by Ottoman Empire
 - d. West Africa
 - i. Islamic reform movement inspire change
 - 1. jihad – holy war to purify and revive Islam
 - ii. Asante
 - 1. kingdom that traded with both Europeans and Islam
 - 2. ruled over many smaller states in exchange for protection
 - a. Europeans able to use smaller states to weaken Asante
 - e. East Africa
 - i. Islam had strong influence from Red Sea through East Africa
 - ii. Traded slaves from interior to Middle East
 - iii. Ivory and copper traded for weapons from India
 - f. Southern Africa
 - i. Unification under Shaka caused mass migrations and wars throughout Southern Africa
 - ii. 1830's Zulus and Boers began fighting when Boers came north
- II. European Contact Increase
 - a. Impact of the slave trade
 - i. Europeans, African, Arabs all traded in slaves
 - ii. 1800 Britain abolish slavery
 - iii. US had movement to send slaves back to Africa
 - 1. Sierra Leone (Brit) Liberia (US) founded for free slaves
 - iv. Arab and African slavery continue to Middle East and Asia
 - b. Explorers
 - i. Mungo Park and Richard Burton try to navigate great rivers of Africa (Niger, Nile, Congo)
 - ii. Had little understanding of people they met
 - iii. After self promotion
 - c. Missionaries
 - i. Try to convert Africans to Catholicism or Christianity
 - ii. Built churches and talk against slavery
 - iii. Viewed Africans as “children” in need of help
 - iv. Urge Africans to reject their culture in favor of Western ideas

- d. Livingstone
 - i. Dr. Livingstone was major explorer – provided unbiased view of Africa
 - ii. Only way to end slavery was with Christianity
- III. Great Scramble Begins
- a. King Leopold of Belgium hire Stanley to make trade agreements in Congo basin
 - i. Began rush of European activity in Africa
 - b. Berlin Conference
 - i. European powers met in 1884 to split Africa and avoid European war – Africans not invited
 - ii. Agree no European power could claim an area unless had a government office there
 - 1. cause Europeans to send officials around the world
 - iii. set up borders with not attention to traditional rivalries or ethnic backgrounds
 - iv. by 1904 only Ethiopia and Liberia were independent
 - c. Horrors of Congo
 - i. Belgian overseers would torture Congolese into working
 - ii. Force Congo to switch from King Leopold's private land to Belgian land
- IV. Carving Up the Continent
- a. France
 - i. 1830 France take over Algeria, slowly extend power along North Africa
 - ii. French colonies as large as the US
 - b. Britain
 - i. Took smaller but more populated areas
 - ii. Egypt, East and West Africa, Sudan
 - c. Boer War
 - i. 1815 – England get South Africa from Dutch
 - ii. Boers – Dutch farmers, resent British rule
 - iii. Late 1800's diamonds and gold discovered, causing war
 - 1. 1899-1902 British win but lost a lot of men
 - iv. British create Union of South Africa and establish white only government
 - d. Our place in the sun
 - i. Every European power try to take some land for its image and economy
 - ii. Italy, Portugal, Germany all try to take lands
- V. Africans Fight Back
- a. Across continent Africans fought European advances
 - b. 1905 Maji-Maji Rebellion – Germans used scorched earth to win battle
 - c. Ethiopia Survives
 - i. Was a Christian nation
 - ii. Emperor Menelik II modernized land with roads, schools, bridges
 - 1. imported western weapons
 - iii. 1896 Italians invade and Ethiopians smash Italian army

- d. Impact
 - i. Western educated African elite emerge
 - ii. Some reject African ways
 - iii. Early 1900s nationalist movements begin