

World History: 700 to 1516

700

The Arab Slave Trade begins and continues into the 20th century.

The States of Gao and Kanem are established and exist until about 900.

711

The Moors conquer Spain under the leadership of General Tarik. During almost 800 years of occupation, the Moors pull Spain, and by extension the rest of Europe, out of the Dark Ages by introducing innovations in such areas as agriculture, technology, and architecture.

715

The first Moorish Dynasty, the Umayyad, rule Spain from 715 to 750.

846

The founding of the Kanem-Bornu kingdom east of Lake Chad.

880

The Yoruba establish Ife, still the spiritual center of Yorubaland.

900

The Kingdom of Ghana is established. Much of Ghana's wealth is built on its gold trade.

990

Grasslanders move into the forests of Nigeria and begin dynasties at Oyo and Benin.



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1000

Islam moves into sub-Saharan Africa.

1000

Great Zimbabwe is the capital of the Mwenetupa Empire in Southern Africa.

1050

Mandingo King Baramendana Keita converts to Islam by choice.

1054

Muslim Berbers (Almoravids) declare a jihad against the Kingdom of Ghana.

1067

Tunka Menin rules the Empire of Ghana.

1087

Kanem-Bornu converts to Islam

10th 14th centuries

Swahili City States develop on the east coast of Africa along the Indian Ocean. These city-states blend aspects of Bantu and Arab cultures.

1000

Benin develops kingship and is on the path to becoming a great kingdom.



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1200

Establishment of Hausa kingdoms in West Africa; the first kingdom is Daura.

1200

Europeans establish sugar plantations in southern Spain, Portugal, and on islands Cyprus and Sicily. Enslaved Europeans, Arabs, and Africans comprise the labor force for this system that lasts 200 years.

1203

Fall of the kingdom of Ghana to the Sosso.

1230

Kingdom of Mali established under King Sundiata Keita (ruled 1230-1255).

1290

The Dogon people of Mali plot the orbits of various star systems, including Sirius B1. Western scientists were not able to corroborate the Dogon's calculations until the development of sophisticated technology in the late 20th century.

1300

The Arab slave trade greatly expands in northern Africa, Ethiopia, and West Africa.

1310

Abubakari II, ruler of the Mali Empire, sends a fleet of 400 ships across the Atlantic toward America. Only one ship returns to Mali.



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1311

Abubakari II leads a fleet of 2,000 ships to America and is never heard from again. He leaves his brother Mansa Musa in charge of the empire.

1324

Emperor of Mali, Mansa Musa goes to Mecca with an entourage of 60,000. On the way, he spends so much gold in Cairo that the Egyptian economy was disrupted for more than a decade.

1332

Death of Mansa Musa, the great king of Mali (ruled 1311-1332).

1375

Gao gains its independence from Mali.

1415

The Portuguese battle Arabs and Moors in Ceuta in Morocco.

1420

Minority Tutsi follow Hutu into Rwanda and establish a feudal monarchy.

1440

Eware the Great (ruled 1440-1473) expands Benin into a great forest empire that extends from the Niger delta to the coast of Lagos.



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1441

12 Africans are captured and carried to Lisbon to please Prince Henry of Portugal.

1442

The Portuguese buy African prisoners of war from other Africans.

1444

The Portuguese establish sugar plantations on the islands of Madeira, Principe, and Sao Tome. These plantations are prototypes for sugar plantations that would be established in the New World.

1450

Decline of the Kingdom of Mali; rise of the Songhai Empire, the largest of the West African empires.

1453

Prince Henry begins a war against African people with the blessing of Pope Eugene IV, who gives "complete forgiveness of all of their sins" for all who would engage in further raids and conquest.

1460

Cayor emancipates itself from Mali to become an independent province.

1465

Seven Cayorian dynasties last until 1870; they never embraced Islam.

1468

Sonni Ali conquers Timbuktu, removing the Tuaregs.



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1484

The Fung Kingdom reigns in Sudan until 1790.

1486

The Portuguese build Elmina Castle on the Ghana coast. The initial purpose of the fortress is to protect the gold-rich land they have claimed. Later Elmina would become a slave castle.

1492

Spain defeats the Moors at Granada ending almost 800 years of Moorish occupation of the country.

Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain finance an attempt by Christopher Columbus to chart a trade route to India. Columbus goes in the opposite direction, sights land in the Bahamas and then lands in Cuba.

1493

Muhammad Touré (1493-1528) assumes power in Songhai; it converts to Islam.

1494

Most of the land in the Americas is "given" to Spain and West Africa is "awarded" to Portugal under the Treaty of Tordesillas--without the consent of the indigenous people.

1500

Consolidation of the Songhai Empire occurs under Askia Muhammed.



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1501

Queen Isabella of Spain issues an initial proclamation of laws that would govern the capture and trading of Africans.

1502

The first Africans are taken to Hispaniola (later Haiti) to work on sugar plantations established by Spain.

1502

Portuguese fleet invades the prosperous Swahili seaside City States.

1516

The slave trade is restricted by the king of Benin. Later, he would ban the trading of enslaved Africans altogether; but Europeans found ways to nullify that ban.

Egypt is conquered by the Turks of the Ottoman Empire..

