

SUBSAHARAN AFRICA – Part 1

Defining the Realm

A world map with a red box highlighting the continent of Africa. The southern portion of Africa is shaded in purple, representing Sub-Saharan Africa.

Locator - Sub-Saharan Africa
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

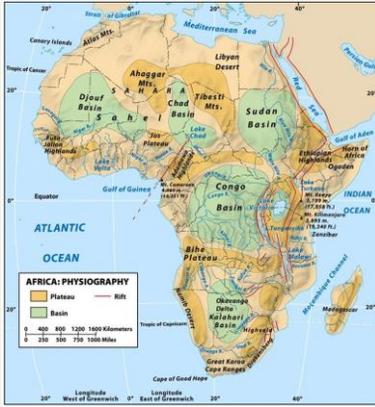


Figure 6A-2
© H. J. de Blij, R. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Photo Essay 7.1b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.1c
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.1d
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Africa's Physiography

Map Analysis Activity:

Physiographic Features

1. Identify the lowland coastal plains or basins. Then, identify the plateaus and highlands.
2. What latitude zone is most of Sub-Saharan Africa found in?
3. Considering topography and climate, where might people cluster?



Map of Africa
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Africa's Physiography:

Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics

- **Continental drift**
 - All continents once part of supercontinent Pangaea
 - Plate tectonics split Pangaea apart and continue their work on Africa today
- Africa's unique land:
 - Escarpments, rifts, river systems and interior basins relate to Africa's central location in Pangaea



Map of Pangaea
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

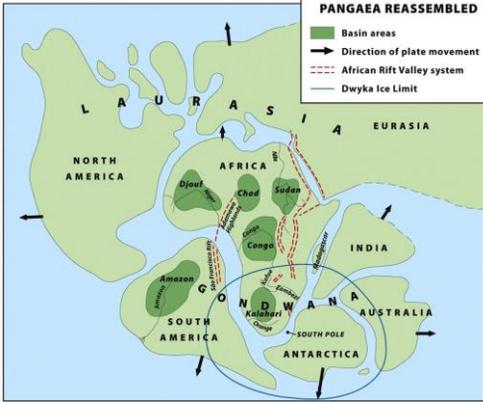


Figure 68.3
© H. J. de Wit, P. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Climate and Vegetation

- Sub-Saharan Africa has a tropical climate with an average temperature staying above 64°F (18°C); this has provided good agriculture for thousands of years
- Most rain comes from the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), a band of atmospheric currents that circle the globe around the equator
- ITCZ brings rain north to the Sahel, an area where steppe and savannah grasses grow
- The Horn of Africa is one of the driest places on the continent due to wind patterns, which greatly affect this region

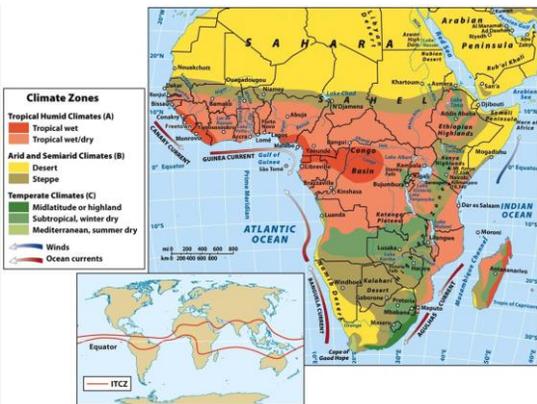


Photo Essay 7.1
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Africa's Historical Geography: African Genesis

- ❑ Cradle of humankind
 - ❑ 7 million years of archeological research
- ❑ Precolonial period:
 - ❑ African innovations and exchange
 - ❑ West Africa was one of the most culturally and economically productive areas on the continent



© Ham de Bi

- ❑ African cultures established in all environmental settings
 - ❑ Predated Islamic and European contact

Africa's Historical Geography: African Genesis

Early Trade

- ❑ Regional complementarity between forest and dry land people in West Africa
- ❑ Growth of exchange markets and rise of urban centers

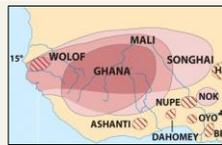


Figure 4.1
© C. L. BARRETT, M. D. BAKER, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Early States

- ❑ Strong and durable states in inland West Africa
- ❑ Ancient Ghana:
 - ❑ Oldest and best known

- ❑ Large capital complete with market, suburbs, and shrines
- ❑ Collected taxes, tributes, and tolls

Africa's Historical Geography: African Genesis

Eastward Shift

- ❑ Politico-territorial focus of the West African culture hearth shifted to the east:
 - ❑ Eastward movement may have resulted from the growing influence of Islam.
 - ❑ Ghana's successors sent pilgrimages to Mecca via corridor along the savanna.
 - ❑ Many pilgrims remained in the east.

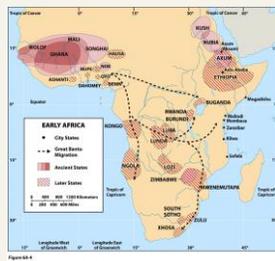
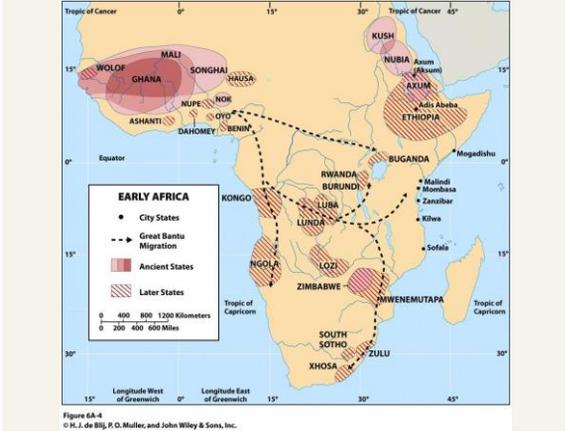


Figure 4.4
© C. L. BARRETT, M. D. BAKER, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Africa's Historical Geography: African Genesis

Beyond the West

- Eastern states influenced by Egyptian culture hearth
- Clash of Christianity and Islam
- Territorial **state formation** in process as first Europeans arrived:
 - Large, efficient states developed on equatorial west coast and southern plateau
 - Several city-states in east Africa

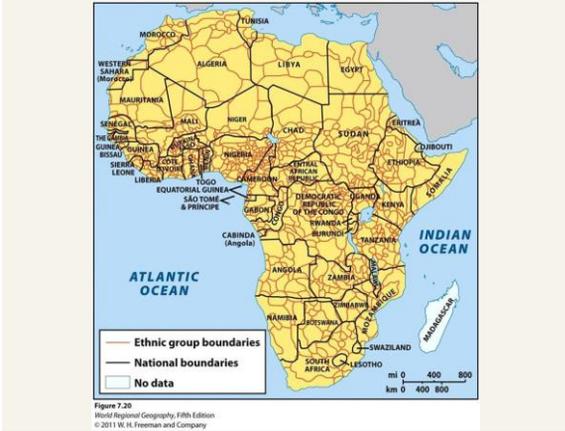


Africa's Historical Geography: African Genesis

Bantu Migration

- Migration waves:
 - From Nigeria and Cameroon
 - To Great Lakes area and South Africa
- Fragmented African realm:
 - Rich and varied cultures
 - Weakness to European intrusion





Africa's Historical Geography: *The Colonial Transformation*

- Started with fifteenth-century arrival of Portuguese ships:
 - Coastal station were established en route to the Orient.
 - Strongest impact on West Africa, especially on the slave trade.

Coastward Reorientation

- With European incursion, centers of activity were shifted from inland to the Atlantic coast:
 - Interior societies declined as coastal societies thrived.
 - Coastal states participated in the slave trade:
 - They captured interior peoples and brought them to European traders on the coast.
 - Later, these powerful coastal states opposed abolition.

Africa's Historical Geography: *The Colonial Transformation*

Horrors of the Slave Trade

- "Peril of proximity": short maritime intercontinental journey from Africa to Brazil
- Slaves in West African interior and in Arab trading
- European slave trade:
 - Unparalleled in volume and misery
 - Reoriented trade routes and ravaged interior population
- Europeans kept at bay by strong coastal states for nearly 400 years:
 - No interior incursion nor colonies until 1800s



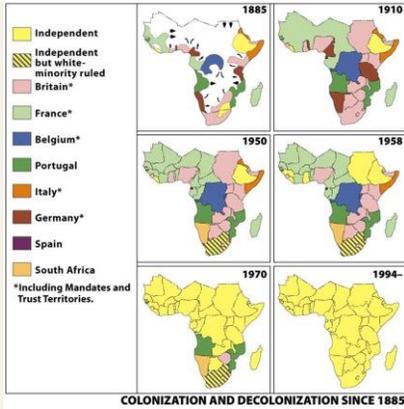


Figure 6A-7
© H. J. de Blij, P. G. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

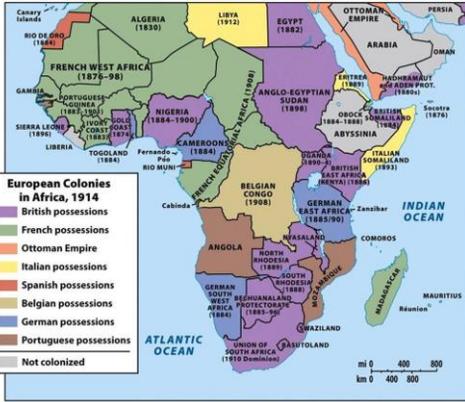


Figure 7-9
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

The Berlin Conference

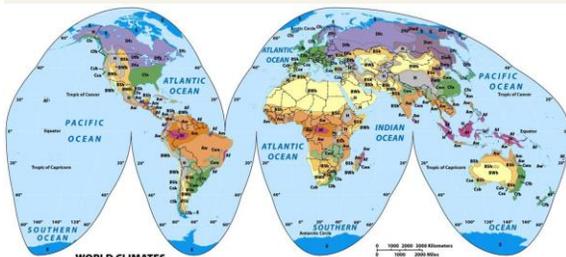
- 1884 conference of mostly European states to settle the political partitioning of Africa:
 - At the time, more than 80 percent of Africa was still under traditional African rule.
 - Regardless, boundaries were drawn across known and unknown areas alike:
 - Divided culture groups; unified regions ripped apart
 - Hinterlands disrupted
 - Bounded hostile societies together and closed off migration routes
- Agreement left a legacy of entrenched and intractable political fragmentation.



Figure 7.21
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Natural Environments

- Climatic regions nearly symmetrically distributed around the equator:
 - Africa's bulky landmass means many areas are far from maritime moisture.
 - Elevation tempers equatorial climate in the east.
 - Farther north or south from equatorial Congo, dry seasons grow longer.
 - Deserts are on both northern and southern sides of the continent.



WORLD CLIMATES
After Köppen-Geiger

A HUMID EQUATORIAL CLIMATE	C HUMID TEMPERATE CLIMATE	E COLD POLAR CLIMATE
■ No dry season	■ No dry season	■ Tundra and ice
■ Short dry season	■ Dry winter	
■ Dry winter	■ Dry summer	H HIGHLAND CLIMATE
	■ Wet summer	■ Unclassified highlands
B DRY CLIMATE	D HUMID COLD CLIMATE	
■ Semiarid	■ No dry season	
■ Arid	■ Very cold winter	
	■ Dry winter	

Figure 6.7
© H. J. de Blij, P. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Natural Environments: *End of an Era*

- Practices of European colonizers:
 - Hunting as “sport”
 - Cleared vast areas for settlements, pushing wildlife species to near-extinction
- Fragmented game reserves and conservation areas:
 - Not well-connected for migrating range and access to pasture or water sources
 - Force wildlife into farmland and livestock areas incurring violent clashes with protective farmers



Unnumbered 7 p372b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Natural Environments: *End of an Era*

Wildlife Management and Tourism

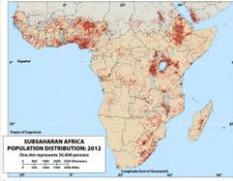
- Conservation and tourism as national revenue
- Challenges for national governments:
 - Seasonal migration of both wild animals and livestock
 - Long history of habitation by local people
 - Protection from poaching and hunting?
 - Ecosystem modification for tourism

What do you think?

1. Do the cost-benefits of tourism revenues justify creation of large conservation areas that might disturb wildlife habitats?
2. Can hunting be “sustainable”?

Natural Environments: *People, Farmlands, and Environments*

- ❑ Some population clusters, but most of the realm is sparsely peopled.
- ❑ Dominated by subsistence agriculture:
 - ❑ Much of Africa's land is not well-suited for farming.
 - ❑ Population clusters reveal arable locations.
 - ❑ Yet, some are under-productive.



- Government policies often disadvantage farmers.
- Protectionist policies and unfree trade are costly.

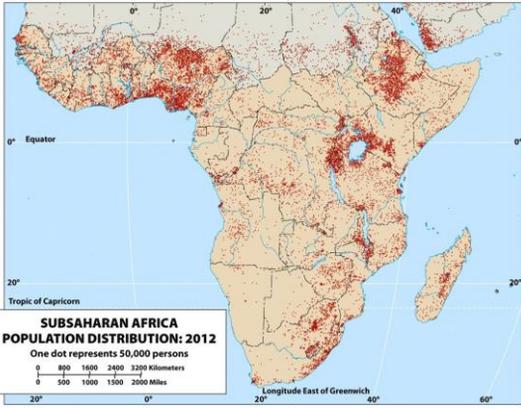


Figure 6A-8
© H. J. de Blij, P. D. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Unnumbered 7 p372a
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Africans and Their Land

- Many political and economic factors influence farming:
 - **Land tenure** is the way people own, occupy, and use land.
 - African land was held by communities, not individuals.

Stolen Lands

- During **colonialism**, indigenous people were evicted from most fertile areas:
 - Became controlled by colonial settlers and governments in a process known as **land alienation**
 - Difficulty in overcoming legacy of colonial land management
- Population explosion has led to land overuse.
- Traditional communal land tenure works best with a stable population.

Africans and Their Land: *Persistent Subsistence*

- Limited commercial farming:
 - Subsistence farming endures among various limitations.
 - Government policies promote one export crop and block farmers and pastoralists from markets.
 - Government-led development focuses on industrial projects and neglects agriculture.
- **Green Revolution**: more productive, drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and higher-yielding types of grain has a minor impact on Africa:
 - Dominant crops are not grains.
 - Poorest farmers cannot afford more expensive Green Revolution seeds or pesticides.



Photo Essay 7.3a
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.3b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.3c
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.3d
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Regional Issue:

The Impact of Colonialism on Sub-Saharan Africa

COLONIALISM IS THE GUILTY!

- ❑ "All you have to do is look at the map," as it is a terrible burden.
- ❑ It was Europeans that labeled people into tribal groups to help them divide and rule.
- ❑ Europeans exploited Africa's resources.
- ❑ Ex-colonial powers are doing nothing now to help with the mess they left behind.

COLONIALISM IS A SCAPEGOAT!

- ❑ There have been at least two generations of independence.
- ❑ Poor governance, corruption, and environmental problems are all current failures.
- ❑ There are real disadvantages not relating to colonialism.
- ❑ Models for the future: look to countries with good leadership and look to the African Union.

A Green Revolution for Africa?

- ❑ Green Revolution's minimal impact on Africa:
 - ❑ Realm's high population growth rate.
 - ❑ Africa's staple crops are not priorities of research.
 - ❑ Many African farmers cannot afford costly Green Revolution seeds and fertilizers.
- ❑ Lack of food security:
 - ❑ Investment capital is lacking.
 - ❑ Farming methods and equipment are inefficient.
 - ❑ Soil exhaustion and drought reduce productivity.
 - ❑ Unequal gender division of labor and civil conflicts contribute to decline in food production.



Figure 7.5a
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Figure 7.5b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Africans and Their Land: *Neocolonial Land Grabs?*

- ❑ Selling of large tracts of public land:
 - ❑ Inefficiency and low agricultural productivity lead to sell-off.
 - ❑ Governments need revenues.
 - ❑ Major agro-industrial or commercial investors can develop the land best.
- ❑ Mixed impact of mega land deals:
 - ❑ Some large commercial farms do increase output.
 - ❑ While some lands are left fallow by speculators.
 - ❑ Farmers are displaced and villages are destroyed.
 - ❑ Success depends on government handling and assistance to locals.

Environment and Health

- ❑ **Medical geography** studies human health in a spatial context.
- ❑ Tropical Africa is the source of many serious diseases:
 - ❑ Research on carriers, environmental conditions, social and cultural geographies of dispersion/transmission.
 - ❑ **Endemic** disease infects many people without causing rapid or widespread deaths.
 - ❑ Disease affects quality of life and productive capacity.

Environment and Health: *Epidemics and Pandemics*

- Geography of disease:
 - **Epidemics:** disease with local or regional dimension
 - Sleeping sickness and the tsetse fly vector
 - Range is limited by the tsetse fly
 - **Pandemics:** spread of a disease worldwide
 - Malaria and the mosquito vector
 - Tropical and temperate areas

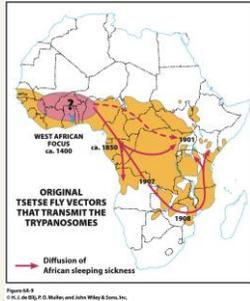


Figure 6A-9 © H. J. de Wit, P. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

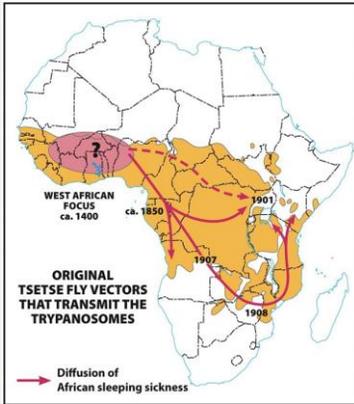


Figure 6A-9 © H. J. de Wit, P. O. Muller, and John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Environment and Health: *The AIDS Scourge*

- "AIDS Belt": Democratic Republic of the Congo to Kenya:
 - Spread to Southern Africa and Western Africa
 - Impacts on life expectancies, children, and economy
- AIDS disproportionate effects on Africa:
 - More than half of the infected are women
 - Originated in tropical Africa and spread throughout
 - Social stigma
 - Expensive medications
 - Inconsistent governmental leadership

Cultural Patterns: Religion in Africa

- Indigenous African belief systems:
 - Spiritual forces in the natural environment
- Colonialism and spread of Christianity:
 - Christian denominations spread by various colonial powers in certain areas
 - Blending of traditional and Christian beliefs
- Islam: Out of Arabia:
 - Top-down conversion: from rulers to subjects
 - Pervasive in some areas and uncompromising tenets

Urbanization and Social Change

- Least urbanized, but fast urbanizing:
 - Cities stressed by rapid rate of population influx
- Changing African cities:
 - **Formal sector:** center of legal economy and government headquarters
 - **Informal sector:** areas of the city where activities beyond the control of government now dominate
 - Squatter settlement ring around and within
 - Many capitals the strongholds of elites that add to urban-rural disparities

Among the Realm's Great Cities: Lagos

- Megacity of the realm:
 - Nigeria's largest city, major port, industrial center, and capital
- Out-of-control cityscape:
 - High-rises, dilapidated residential areas, and squalid slums
 - Severe pollution, congested traffic, mismanagement, and corruption



A Postcolonial Realm

- Legacies of colonialism:
 - The political map, chronic instability, and corruption
 - Infrastructure of exploitation and limited intra-African linkages

Supranationalism

- African states' international, continent-wide, and regional cooperation to overcome disadvantages
 - African Union
 - Economic Community of West African States
 - Southern African Development Community

Successes and Failures of Democratization

- In 1970, only 11 states had held elections since independence
- By 2006, twenty-five out of 44 sub-Saharan African states had held open, multiparty, secret-ballot elections
- Since 2006, the list of sub-Saharan democracies has shrunk by three
- In some countries democracy cured civil wars; in others it caused them

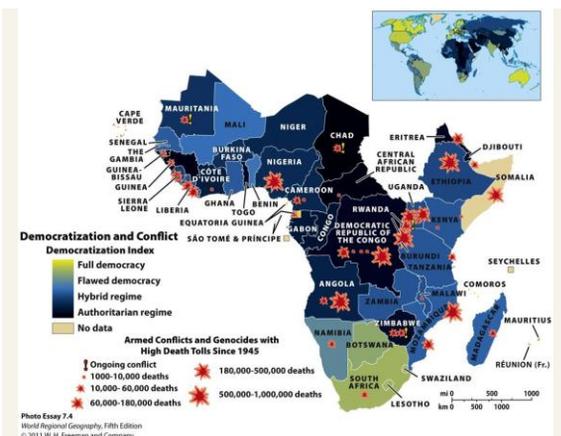




Photo Essay 7.4a
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.4b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.4c
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7 Ad
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Population Patterns

- ❑ Population dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa are particularly complex and confusing
- ❑ The region is not yet a particularly densely populated space
- ❑ Population growth rates are the highest in the world but have slowed rather drastically over the last few decades of urbanization
- ❑ They remain highest in rural areas, but are declining there, too
- ❑ In some of the developed countries, life-expectancy figures have deteriorated and, despite successful efforts to lower infant mortality rates, they still remain the highest on earth

Population Growth, Density, and the Demographic Transition

- ❑ 34.8 people per square kilometer (global average of 49 people per square kilometer)
- ❑ Sub-Saharan African populations are growing faster than in any other region in the world
- ❑ In fewer than 50 years, sub-Saharan Africa's population grew from around 200 million to 828 million
- ❑ Families are much smaller than in the past; however, people are still having more children than necessary to maintain population, and more people survive long enough to reproduce

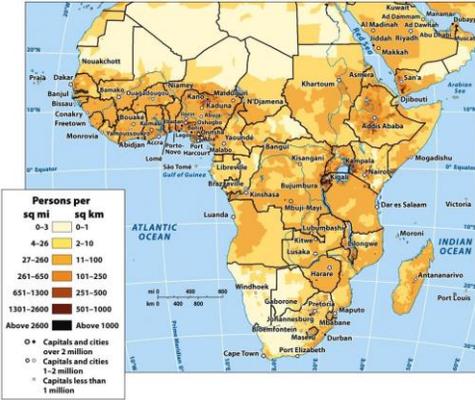


Photo Essay 7.5
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



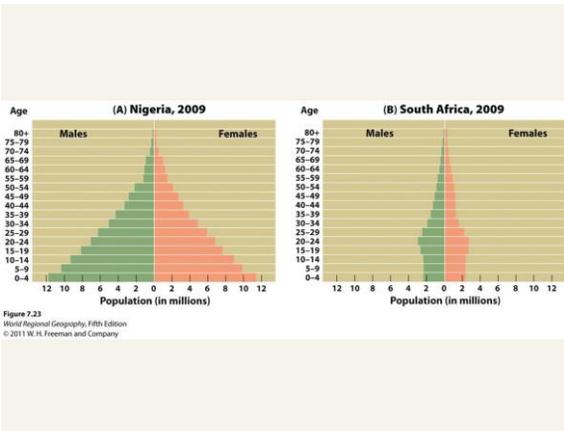
Photo Essay 7.5a
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company



Photo Essay 7.5b
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

Population Growth, Density, and the Demographic Transition

- People in Africa view children as both an economic advantage and a spiritual link
- Because of the high infant mortality rate, parents have extra children in the hope of raising a few to maturity
- Regional average of 88 infant deaths per 1000 live births



Regional Integration

- Nine regional trade associations have evolved and share several goals
 - Reducing tariffs between members
 - Forming common currencies
 - Reestablishing peace in war-torn areas
 - Upgrading transportation and communication infrastructure
 - Building regional industrial capacity

The Major African Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

- ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)
- CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)
- IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)
- SADC (Southern African Development Community)
- EAC (East African Community)
- COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)
- UEMOA (West African Economic and Monetary Union)
- UMA (Arab Maghreb Union)
- CENSAD (Community of Sahel-Saharan States)
- ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States)

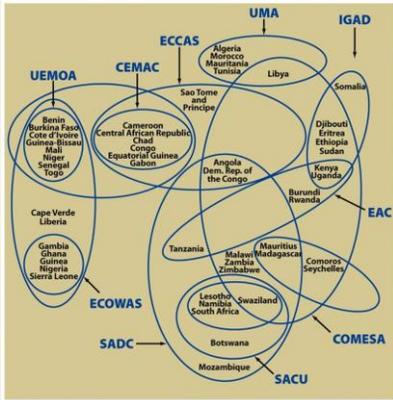


Figure 7.17
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

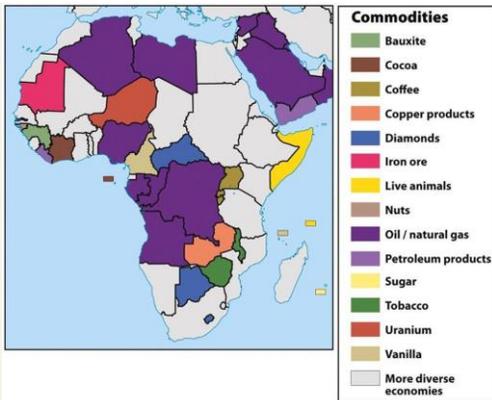


Figure 7.11
World Regional Geography, Fifth Edition
© 2011 W. H. Freeman and Company

A Postcolonial Realm: *Beyond Stereotypes: Fast-Growing African Economies*

- ❑ Stereotype the realm made up of dysfunctional governments, economic underperformers, famines, and violence.
- ❑ In reality, is a realm of remarkable diversity:
 - Many African countries have some of the world's fastest economic growth rates.
 - Population growth rates are declining.
- ❑ Could mean Africa has a role as a future emerging market.
