

Chapter 25: Africa and the Atlantic World Reading Questions

African Politics and Society in Early Modern Times – p. 550

1. After Mali, what nation took over the western grasslands of Africa and dominated trans-Saharan trade?
2. What religion were the Songhay rulers, and how did this benefit them?
3. Give an example of a syncretic belief system in Songhay.
4. How did the kingdom of Songhay fall?
5. What changes or events lead to the Swahili decline?

The Kingdoms of Central Africa and South Africa – p. 553

6. Why did the kings of Kongo convert to Christianity?
7. How did the Portuguese undermine the authority of the kings?
8. How did the kingdom of Ndongo grow in power?
9. Describe the reign of Queen Nzinga.
10. How did the Dutch interact with the native Khoikhoi of South Africa?

Islam and Christianity in Early Modern Africa – p. 556

11. Why did many Muslim merchants worry about the purity of sub-Saharan Islam?
12. Why did the Fulani begin conquering other nations?
13. Describe the Antonian movement.

Social Change in Early Modern Africa – p. 557

14. What crops did the Africans get from the Americas? Underline the most important one of these.
15. How did the introduction of American crops affect African populations?

The Atlantic Slave Trade – p. 558

16. How did Africa's traditional lack of private property lead to a high amount of slavery within Africa?
17. What did Muslim merchants do when traditional sources (war captives, especially) failed to provide a sufficient number of slaves?

Human Cargoes – p. 559

18. The first Portuguese slave traders encountered resistance when they attempted to capture slaves. How did future slave traders avoid problems like this when they attempted to acquire slaves?
19. Why could the Portuguese not just use the labor of the native inhabitants of islands such as the Azores, Madeiras, the Cape Verde Islands, and São Tomé?
20. What problems did the Spanish encounter when they attempted to use native laborers?

21. Triangular Trade: They traded _____ for slaves in Africa, slaves for cash or _____ in the Americas, and then took American goods back to _____.
22. The Middle Passage was the part of Triangular Trade that took slaves to America. Describe the conditions of this passage.

The Impact of the Slave Trade in Africa – p. 561

23. How many Africans came via the slave trade total, and how many died resisting or traveling?
24. American plantation owners preferred male slaves. How did this affect Africa?

The African Diaspora – p. 563

25. What kind of work did most slaves do?
26. List the ways that slaves resisted. (List at least four.)

The Making of African-American Cultural Traditions – p. 566

27. What is a creole language?
28. What traditional African religious elements did the slaves mix with Christianity?
29. What role did music play in slave society?

The End of the Slave Trade and Abolition of Slavery – p. 567

30. Give two reasons the cost of slavery increased in the late eighteenth century.
31. When did the slave trade end?
32. When was slavery outlawed in Europe and the Americas?
33. When did Saudi Arabia and Angola abolish slavery?
34. Despite the outlawing of slavery, millions of people still live in a state of servitude. How many people live in servitude in the modern world?