Geog 126: Maps in Science and Society

Colonial Mapping:
the Middle East and Africa
1554: Sebastian Münster. Earliest map of the continent of Africa. (Dias 1487, Da Gama 1497)
Ralph A. Austen: Mapping Africa: problems of Regional Definition and Colonial/National Boundaries.  
http://fathom.lib.uchicago.edu/1/777777122619/

- Africa defined by physical and ecological factors
  - Continent surrounded by bodies of water
  - Deserts (Sahara, Namib, Kahahari)
  - Savanna (East, West)
  - Mediterranean (Northern coast, South Africa)
  - Convention divides into Mediterranean and sub-Sahara
  - Med. Africa seen as Maghreb “The West”
  - Also temperate and tropical,

- Varying indigenous representations of space
- Superimposed colonial boundaries
- $37^\circ 20' 50'' N$ to $34^\circ 49' 59'' S$
Physical constraints

- Northern and Northeastern narrow seas
- Atlantic and Indian ocean coasts
- Isolated geographically
- Few natural harbors
- Only short internal rivers (Niger, Congo, Zambezi, below cataracts (navigable 100 miles) well separated
- Sahara a major obstacle (Camel about 1CE)
- Rain forest largely impenetrable and disease prone (e.g. Tsetse, Malaria)
Africa: Regional Divisions

Key:
- National Boundary
- Corridors
  - Albertine Rift montane forests
  - Atlantic equatorial coastal forests
  - Cameroon Highlands forests
  - Central Congolian rainforest
  - Cerrado forests
  - Cross-Niger transition forests
  - Cross-Savane-Bioko coastal forests
  - East African montane forests
  - Eastern Arc forests
  - Eastern Congolian swamp forests
  - Eastern Guinean forests
  - Ethiopian montane forests
  - Granitic Seychelles forests
  - Guinea montane forests
  - Kryena-Armatok montane forests
  - KwaZulu-Natal coastal forest mosaic
  - Madagascar lowland forests
  - Madagascar subhumid forests
  - Mopti-Pindilu coastal forest mosaic
  - Mount Cameroon and Bioko montane forests
  - Niger Delta swamp forests
  - Niger Lowland forests
  - Northwestern Congolian lowland forests
  - Northern Zambian-Inhambane coastal forest mosaic
  - Northwestern Congolian rainforest
  - Sao Tome and Principe moist lowland forests
  - Southern Zambian-Inhambane coastal forest mosaic
  - Western Congolian swamp forests
  - Western Guinean lowland forests
  - Madagascar dry deciduous forests
  - Zambian Cryptostapilum dry forests
  - Angolan Mombio woodlands
  - Angolan Mopane woodlands
  - Central Zambian Mombio woodlands
  - East Sudanic savanna
  - Eastern Mopane woodlands
  - Guinea forest-savanna mosaic
  - Igbo-Sumbu forest
  - Kalahari Acacia-Rhusoides woodland
  - Monalisa Plateau mosaic
  - Northern Aecaia-Camphora bushlands and thickets
  - Northern Congolian forest-savanna mosaic
  - Sahelian Aecaia savanna
  - Sarangali volcanic grasslands
  - Southern Aecaia-Camphora bushlands and thickets
  - Southern Aecaia-Camphora bushlands and thickest
  - Southern African lowveld
  - Southern Congolian forest-savanna mosaic
  - Southern Mopane woodlands
  - Victoria Basin forest-savanna mosaic
  - West Sudanic savanna
  - Western Congolian forest-savanna mosaic
  - Western Zambian grasslands
  - Zambian Mopane woodlands
  - Zambian Mahanga woodlands
  - East African halophytes
  - Ebisen Pan halophytes
  - Inner Niger Delta flooded savanna
  - Lake Chad flooded savanna
  - Saharan montane grasslands
  - Zambian coastal flooded savanna
  - Zambian flooded grasslands
  - Zambian helophytes
  - Angolan montane forest-grassland mosaic
  - Angolan savanna woodlands
  - Cape Buffalo grasslands and woodlands
  - D riftberg montane grasslands and woodlands
  - Drakensberg montane grasslands and woodlands
  - Eastern montane mountains
  - Eastern Zambian montane forest-grassland mosaic
  - Ethiopian montane grasslands
  - Ethiopian montane grasslands
  - Highveld grasslands
  - Jos Plateau forest-grassland mosaic
  - KwaZulu-Natal bushland
  - Namibia montane forest-grassland mosaic
  - Northern montane forest-grassland mosaic
  - Abony tracts
  - Lowland fynbos and rorosvered
  - Montane fynbos and rorosvered
  - Adanced Island xeric scrub
  - Eastern Saharan montane xeric woodlands
  - Eritrean coastal desert
  - Ethiope xeric grasslands and shrublands
  - Hoopy grasslands and shrublands
  - Kalahari xeric savannas
  - Karkowid desert
  - Magalas-epi-thickets
  - Magalas succulent woodlands
  - Malee xeric grasslands and shrublands
  - Nama Karoo
  - Namib desert
  - Namibia savanna woodlands
  - Red Sea coastal desert
  - Somali montane xeric woodlands
  - Succulent Karoo
  - Central African mangroves
  - East African mangroves
  - Guinean mangroves
  - Magalas mangroves
  - Southern Africa mangroves
  - Mediterranean forest and mixed forests
  - Nile Delta flooded savanna
  - Saharan halophytes
  - Mediterranean high Atlas juniper steppes
  - Mediterranean xacca-argana dry woodlands and succulent thicket
  - Mediterranean dry woodlands and steppes
  - Mediterranean woodlands and forests
  - Atlantic coastal desert
  - North Saharan steps and woodlands
  - Sahara desert
  - South Saharan steps and woodlands
  - Tiber-Abel-Jawah montane xeric woodlands
  - West Saharan montane xeric woodlands

WWF
Okavango Delta, Botswana
Political

South Sudan, 2011
De Gama: Juan de la Cosa, 1500
Tabula noua partis Africae.
mapmakers: M. Waldseemuller L. Fries
place and date of publication: Lyons 1522-1535
medium and colour: woodblock, Uncoloured
"A New Map of the Coast of Guinea from Cape Mount to Iacquin" appeared in William Smith's *Thirty Different Drafts of Guinea* (not before 1727)

- The Grain Coast
- The Ivory Coast
- The Gold Coast
- The Slave Coast
Mombassa
"Diocesis Goanae Processus martyrum de Mombassa"

- 1631 - Portuguese "expelled. Sultan of Mombasa, Dom Jerónimo Chingulia, assassinated the Portuguese governor, reclaimed his Muslim name of Yusuf ibn al-Hasan, and ordered all Christians in the city to convert to Islam
- Portuguese returned from Zanzibar in 1632 and retook Mombassa

Record of the court of inquiry held by the diocese of Mombasa to ascertain whether those who died during the rebellion were martyrs and eligible for canonization as saints.

- The testimonies of eyewitnesses give the historian views of the confrontation between Islam and Christianity and between African and European political powers
- Issues were race and slavery: Who was Christian?
Fort Jesus, Mombasa
David Livingstone: Explorations 1849 to 1856
Livingstone’s travels 1841, 1853-56, 1858-64, 1866-73.
Colonial Mapping
Historical northern interior trade routes

Figure 3: Relations between North Africa and the Sudan during the era of the great trans-Saharan trade routes. 5th to the 18th centuries.
Culture

- Savanna and rain forest different cropping regimes
- Strong tribal-kingdom structure
- Major differences in religion, arts, knowledge and military
- Key early civilizations and later keepers of geographical science (e.g. Islam)
- Much indigenous geographical knowledge, few “maps” survive (e.g. Muhammed Bello-Sokoto caliphate in Nigeria 1807-1837)
- Major language divisions
  - North and Northeast: Afro-Asiatic languages
  - Tropical zones: Niger-Congo language family
  - South: until C19th Bushman/Khoi, later Bantu
Language groups

[Map of Africa showing different language groups]
Ashanti, or Asante major ethnic group in Ghana speak Twi
Prior to European colonization, the Ashanti people developed a large and influential empire in West Africa.
The Ashanti later developed the powerful Ashanti Confederacy and became the dominant presence early 18th-19th Century
The North African Almoravid dynasty gold coin was renowned throughout the medieval world as being the purest gold, since West African gold was 92% pure at the time it was mined, higher than old Egyptian gold ore, which started at 85%, and later refined to 95% gold.
Evidence of Ashanti connection to the Islamic world is the Ashanti word for money - "sikka" - the same as the Arabic word for minting money
Pilgrimage to Mecca 1324 by the wealthy king Mansa Musa (reigned, 1312?-37) of the Mali Empire. Catalan Atlas Abraham Crèsques (d. 1387)
Mansa Musa: Richest person in history

- Pilgrimage to Mecca between 1324 and 1325
- Procession included 60,000 men, wearing brocade and Persian silk
- 12,000 slaves who each carried 1.8 kg gold bars
- Heralds dressed in silks, with gold staffs
- 80 camels each carrying 23–136 kg of gold dust.
- Musa gave the gold to the poor he met along his route.
- Gave gold to Cairo and Medina, and traded gold for souvenirs.
- It was reported that he built a new mosque every Friday
Indigenous view of space

• Core and periphery, not boundary
• Power radiating from centers, sometimes limited by natural features
• Maps often integrated with identity, migration history, mythology, and spirituality
• Included wall decorations, sand drawings, tattoos, orientations written on unconnected objects (e.g. lukasa=memory board)
East African Trade Routes

Fig. 3.12. SABATELE’S MAP OF THE MAIN CARAVAN ROUTES IN EAST AFRICA. Paper and pencil. This map with its southerly orientation traces the main caravan routes across Tanzania, with the terminus points placed at Dar es Salaam. See figure 3.13 for an explanatory diagram.

Size of the original: unknown. Current location unknown. Photograph courtesy of the Archiv Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig (Neg. Af 0 1428; from the original glass plate negative).

The relative locations of Tripoli, Ghadâmis and Ghat, the Hoggar (Ahaggar) Mountains and Agades, and Tombouctou. Largeau was at a loss to explain how “the idea of meridians had found its way to this son of the Niger.” The parallel lines were possibly the boundaries of climates that commonly appeared on medieval European and Islamic maps. Adler believed Arab merchants were responsible for the diffusion of such elements of “scientific geography” in their trans-Saharan travels.

The German geographer Karl Weule was “over-

Fig. 3.13. EXPLANATION OF SABATELE’S MAP (Fig. 3.12).
Colonial Era

- European powers build settlements and extracted/traded resources after 1500
- Division of territory took place in Europe, in diplomatic maneuvers unrelated to the terrain or cultures
- Frequent boundary changes as the powers shifted
- World War I led to first major changes
Aaron Arrowsmith's To the Committee and Members of the British Association for Discovering the Interior Parts of Africa This Map Is With Their Permission Most Respectfully Inscribed (1802)
Colonial Boundaries

- Imposed serious disadvantages on Africa (primary extractive structure, reinforced by road and rail)
- Much balkanization, but no proof that bigger is better
- Once states gained independence, “they all became staunch defenders of the existing boundaries”
- Charter of Organization of African Unity “respects boundaries at independence”
- States are nevertheless often failed organizational mechanisms
- “the modern mapping of this region is still inked to its asymmetrical relationships with outsiders”
German SW Africa: Caprivi strip

1909 German South West Africa


Source: Library of Congress Maps
DIGITAL ID g8200m.gct00004 http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g8200m.gct00004
Colonial era needs
Religion 1913
1829 details
South Africa 1829 and 1895
The Voortrekkers 1830-40s
Diamonds Kimberly 1866-

Kimberly
Orange Free State
Johannesburg: Kruger, DeBeers
Gold at Joch mine 1886
Bacon’s Map 1890
First Boer War December 1880 to March 1881
The Second Boer War 1899-1902
Times map of the conflict
Black Homelands under Apartheid

10 Bantustans = Homelands
Abolished 1994

P.W. Botha
President and Prime Minister
1978 to 1989
The Middle East

The Middle East

• Ancient history dating back to Egypt, Biblios etc.
• Much trade via Byzantium, inc. India
• Exposure to Europe during the crusades
• Much of the area came under Ottoman rule after the fall of Constantinople in 1453
• Vaguely defined, but includes Arabian peninsula, parts of North Africa, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Persia, Turkey
From Karnak Seti I (died 1279 BCE) and Temple of Amun (Ethiopia)

Documents raids on Aleppo, Syria
Map of Constantinople (1422) by Florentine cartographer Cristoforo Buondelmonti (Description des îles de l'archipel, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris) is the oldest surviving map of the city, and the only surviving map which predates the Turkish conquest of Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453.
1545. Munster, Sebastian (1489-1552) -- Ptolemy (87-150)

TABVLA ASIAE IIII on verso QVARTA ASIAE tabula continet Cyrum, Syriam, Palestinam...
Zionism is a nationalist and political movement of Jews and Jewish culture supporting the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland in the territory defined as the historic Land of Israel.

- Emerged in the late 19th century in central and eastern Europe.
- Leaders' main goal was creating the desired state in Palestine, then controlled by the Ottoman Empire.
The Middle East 1912
The end of the Ottoman rule

- Economic, social and trade decline starts about 1683
- Major loss was Egypt, Palestine (Suez to UK in 1882)
- Crete 1896
- 1902 “Young Turks” terror campaign in Macedonia, Bulgaria. Anarchist origins.
- 1914 Assassination in Sarajevo destabilizes Austro-Hungarian empire
- Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and Germany Empires all fall after WWI
- Invaded by Britain, driving out German/Austro-Hungarian and Turkish troops about 1918
- Mustafa Kemal Atatürk leads war of independence for Turkey 1919-1922
WWI aftermath

• French and British send armies and agents
• Foment revolts in the Arabian peninsula
• Seize Iraq, Syria and Palestine
• 1916 French and British reach secret Sykes-Picot agreement on “spheres of influence”
• Successor agreement adopted by League of Nations
• Resistance efforts emerged immediately
Middle East 1916 Division

The Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916
1920 League of Nations Mandates
British Palestine 1925-1948

Palestine under the British Mandate, 1923-1948

Approximate area in which the Jews hoped to set up a National Home

The Palestine Mandate granted to Great Britain at the 1920 San Remo Conference as the region of a Jewish National Home

Area ceded by Great Britain to the French Mandate of Syria in 1923


Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA)
The Middle East: Independence
1947 Division and the 1967 War
Decorative map of the Turkish empire by Dutch map maker Nicolaus Visscher Amsterdam, 1680-90
Palestinae sive Totius Terrae Promissionis Nova Descriptio Auctore Tilemanno Stella Sigenens,
The Turkish Empire in Europe, Asia and Africa. Dividid into all its Governments, together
with the other Territories that are Tributary to it, as also the Dominions of ey Emperor of
Marocco. According to the Newest and most Exact Oberservations.
London, Th. Bowles and John Bowles 1708-26
French Campaign in Egypt and Syria (1798–1801) Phylae
Long, George, 1800-1879; Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (Great Britain) 1831

Rosetta Stone 1799
Summary

• Both Africa and Middle East had extensive early structure, mostly ignored during colonial expansion
• Africa explored from Coasts, Middle East from trade routes
• Break up of Colonial Powers led to a rewriting of the colonial boundaries after both WW I and II
• Restructured less during era of Independence (1950s-70s), but political problems remain
• Excellent but ignored cartographic history