Geog 126: Maps in Science and Society

Colonial Mapping: the Middle East and Africa

- Africa defined by physical and ecological factors
  - Continent surrounded by bodies of water
  - Convention divides into Mediterranean and sub-Saharan
  - Med. Africa seen as Maghreb “The West”
  - Also temperate and tropical

- Indigenous representations of space

- Colonial boundaries
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
Political
mapmakers: M. Waldseemuller L. Fries
place and date of publication: Lyons 1522-1535
medium and colour: woodblock, Uncoloured
De Gama: Juan de la Cosa, 1500
"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 Mombassा"

- English translation the "Diocesis Goanae Processus martyrum de Mombassा"
- Record of the court of inquiry held by the diocese of Mombassà 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.
- Issue was race and slavery: Who was Christian?
David Livingstone: Explorations 1849 to 1856
Colonial Mapping
Historical 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)
• Major language divisions
  – North and Northeast: Afro-Asiatic languages
  – Tropical zones: Niger-Congo language family
  – South: until C19th Bushman/Khoi, later Bantu
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 made in A.D. 1324 by the wealthy king Mansa Musa (reigned, 1312?-37) of the Mali Empire. Catalan Atlas Abraham Crèques (d. 1387)
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)
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

Colonial era needs
Religion
1913
South Africa 1829 and 1895
The Voortrekkers 1830-40s
Diamonds Kimberly 1866-

Kimberly
Orange Free State
Johannesburg: Kruger, DeBeers
Gold at Joch mine 1886
The Second Boer War 1899-1902
Times map of the conflict
Black Homelands under Apartheid

South Africa: Black Homelands

10 Bantustans = Homelands
Abolished 1994

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

- Ancient history dating back to Egypt, Biblios etc.
- Much trade via Byzantium
- 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 Cyprum, Syrium, Palestinam...
Zionism nationalistic 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 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

Dates of Independence:

- ALGERIA 1962
- LIBYA 1951
- EGYPT 1922
- TURKEY 1923
- IRAQ 1930
- IRAQ 1946
- IRAN 1979
- MOROCCO 1956
- MAURITANIA 1960
- TUNISIA 1956
- LEBANON 1946
- JORDAN 1946
- KUWAIT 1961
- BAHRAIN 1971
- OMAN 1970
- UAE 1971
- SAUDI ARABIA 1932
- SUDAN 1956
- YEMEN 1967
1947 Division and the 1967 War
Decorative map of the Turkish empire by Dutch map maker Nicolaus Visscher Amsterdam, 1680-90
van Keulen 1753 Red Sea Yemen
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) Phyllae
Long, George, 1800-1879; Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (Great Britain) 1831

Rosetta Stone 1799
British Palestine Survey: 1:250,000 series
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