

SWAH 403

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July 13, 2009

The History

It is believed the "eastern coast of Africa changed significantly around the close of the first millennium A.D." The first of the Bantu-speaking people migrated and settled along the coast from Kenya to South Africa. Afterwards, merchants and traders from the Muslim world and India settled on the coast as well. These merchants and traders realized the importance of the east coast of Africa, made for commercial traffic. They began to make it their home.

According to a report from the Swahili Kingdom, "from 900 AD onwards, the east coast of Africa saw an influx of Shirazi Arabs from the Persian Gulf and even small settlements of Indian." (The Civilization in Africa: The Swahili Kingdom, p1). The Arabs called this region al-Zartj, "The Blacks," and the coastal area slowly came under the control of Muslim merchants from Arabia and Persia. In other words, these Arabs and Persian settlers took over. They made this land their own. They infiltrated it and by the 1300s, the major east African ports reached from Mombaza in the north to Sofala in the south." It had become thoroughly Islamic and cultural centers.

The Swahili civilization gradually moved southward until they reached "Kilwa in Zanzibar ()". Later, Swahili civilization formed a small region further southward around Sofala. in Zimbabwe. The northern cities remained localized and did WA have but a little influence on African culture inland from the Coast, the Sofalans actively went inland and spread Islam and Islamic culture deep into the African territory.

Blue is identical wording from the below source.

Red is credited quotes from the same source below

Black is original text.

<http://public.wsu.edu/~dee/CIVAFRCA/SWAHILI.HTM>

This entire paragraph is paragraph three with black text only changed from Civilizations of Africa, The Swahili Kingdoms. By Richard Hooker
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The major Swahili city-states were Mogadishu, Barawa, Mombasa (Kenya), Gedi, Pate, Malinda, Zanzibar, ICilwa, and Sofala in the far south. These city-states were Muslim. They were also cosmopolitan and remained politically independent of one another. They refused a Swahili empire. In fact, they were more like {"competitive"} companies or corporations competing and {"each"} vying for the "lion's share of African trade," (pi). The chief export was ivory, sandalwood, ebony, and gold. These commodities were very profitable and they were worldwide rather than limited local. They were from a cultural mix of Bantu, Islamic and Indian influences, but the commerce also brought Chinese artifacts and culture as well as the Indian culture.

This entire paragraph is paragraph four from Civilizations of Africa, The Swahili Kingdoms. By Richard Hooker

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Africa of today presents a complex picture. In area, a "vast ill-formed triangle," (The Future of Africa, p. 1), the continent covers eleven and a half million miles in space. Each side of the triangle is pierced by a mighty river; on the north the Nile, on the west the Congo, on the east Zambesi. An African traveler has roughly classified the great continent thus: "north Africa where men go for health South Africa where they go for wealth., Central Africa where they go for adventure" (page 10. Its population of about one hundred and sixty million seems enormous, yet, in comparison to the area, it is small. It is computed at fifteen to the square feet. Its races are innumerable; its dialect a vast confusion. The climate of Africa is modified by its elevation above the sea level, but two thirds of the continent lies within the tropics. The religion of Africa may be unequally divided under three heads: Christianity, Mohammedanism. and Paganism. Africa's territorial divisions are, in the main, a matter of recent history. Eight million square miles of its area are partitioned amongst the various European powers. (Page 3)

This entire paragraph is paragraph from The Future of Africa. By Donald Frazer

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/donald-fraser/the-future-of-africa-sar/1-the-future-of-africa-sar.shtml>

From the dawn of history, North Africa has been accessible and preserved in record, but until the Middle Ages nothing was known of South and Central Africa. **Wonderful stories now came to Europe of the riches of "Timbuctoo," where the king tied his horse to a rock of solid gold.** From Sofalu on the East Coast came reports of the mines of Ophri which had enriched Solomon and the East; and expedition after expedition was dispatched to find them. Yet, for all types of men, Africa holds the abiding fascination: "The riddle of the human race, its origin and development, the greed of gain, the desire for sport and adventures, the love of fellowmen, the sense of the mysterious awful responsibility of millions of souls still ignorant of Christ" (Page 10). All this embodied in Africa has its significance for the readers and researchers of her story. In other words, the Swahili are a result of the coming together of two distinct cultures: a blend of the African and Middle Eastern whose origins lie lost in the mists of time.

This area is from section 4 of The Future of Africa. By Donald Frazer
This area is from section 12 of The Future of Africa. By Donald Frazer

This area is from Early Discovery section 3 of The Future of Africa. By Donald Frazer

Quoted

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/donald-fraser/the-future-of-africa-sar/1-the-future-of-africa-sar.shtml>

For centuries, while most Africans lay scattered across the interior of nomadic Africa, the East African coast had developed an urban civilization within which its people lived in {stone} houses, engaged in maritime trade on an intercontinental scale, used one of Africa's first languages, enjoyed a sophisticated deeply religious culture whose leaders lived in houses inlaid with gold, silver and ivory. The development of the Swahili civilization is {inextricably} linked with trade. The Swahili people who lived here before them, have been engaged in overseas trade for at least three millennia, providing a range of luxury goods unsurpassed anywhere in the world. **The East African coast begins at the tip of the Horn of Africa, with the peninsula standing octal the end of the Red Sea at a point known as Cape Guardafu. The coast line around and to the south of the Horn is a dry area- with few natural harbors where sand dunes extend far inland, but in the hinterland beyond is a land that was, from ancient times, so rich in spice and aromatic gum that it was also known as the Cape of Spices or the Cape of Cinnamon. Waves of immigrants from nearby Arabia and settlement by inland tribes came and altered the population to such an extent it cannot today be called part of the Swahili world; yet it is still where our story begins.**

This entire paragraph is paragraph from The History of the East Africa

Coast. By Charles Cornelius

Page 1

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<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15962055/The-History-of-the-East-African-Coast>

The Spartan northern Somali coast eventually breaks into the more lush Benadir coast along which towns like Warsheikh, Mogadishu, Merca, Brava and Kismayu are located farther south, a string of thin islands sit close offshore and, just beyond the frontier with modern Kenya lies the Lamu Archipelago;

three small, sand islands whose creeks act as beds for huge crops of mangrove poles, a valuable material used in construction for thousands of years. Here, the Mainland is still sandy, but it soon give way to a more Irish and fertile plain where agriculture thrives and through which the Tana and Sabald Rivers flow out into a great bay. Traveling by Water was the world over preferred method of travel until the most recent times and in this, the East African coast was no exception. To help in this, the people of the Indian Ocean invented a sewn boat with triangular sails, the dhow. Able to navigate both deep oceans and shallow coastal waters, it was ideally suited to conditions in the Indian Ocean.

The journey across the ocean was made possible by a hugely helpful weather condition known as monsoon winds; they blew away from East Africa for one part of the year, before turning 180 degrees and blowing back the other way. These winds have been blowing with metronome regularity for eons, carrying dhows laden with cargo. From October to April, the wind blows from the northeast Known to the Swahili as the - kaskazi, it carried dhows from India, Persia and Arabia to the East African coast, carrying goods to sell in. exchange for East Africa' s luxuries. Then the wind turns, and for the rest of the year the northwest monsoon blows. Known as the kuzi, it carried dhows away from East Africa, laden with gold, ivory, and all the other produce of the land. Before the age of steam, this force was the power that drove trade around the Indian Ocean world and without it; the story of Swahili that follows in history would not have been possible. So here it is then: **"A story brimming with pioneers, pirates, adventurers and entrepreneurs, horrors, tragedies and comedies, scandal and political intrigue, international commerce, lost cities, invasion, rebellion and reconstruction, an African success story that provides us, not only with a history of the past, but and understanding of the present and a hope for the future"** (Frayser, p12). (Wrong this is a direct quote of Cornelius Page 5)