Chapter 25: Africa and the Atlantic World

Chapter Outline

I. African politics and societies in early modern times
   A. The states of west Africa and east Africa
      1. The Songhay empire was the dominant power of west Africa, replacing Mali
      2. Fall of Songhay to Moroccan army in 1591
      3. Decline of Swahili city-states in east Africa
   B. The kingdoms of central Africa and south Africa
      1. Kongo, powerful kingdom of central Africa after fourteenth century
      2. Slave raiding in Kongo
      3. Kingdom of Ndongo (modern Angola) attracted Portuguese slave traders
      4. Southern Africa dominated by regional kingdoms, for example, Great Zimbabwe
      5. Europeans in south Africa after the fifteenth century
   C. Islam and Christianity in early modern Africa
      1. Islam popular in west Africa states and Swahili city-states of east Africa
      2. Christianity reached sub-Saharan Africa through Portuguese merchants
   D. Social change in early modern Africa
      1. Kinship and clans remained unchanged at the local level
      2. American food crops, for example, manioc, maize, peanuts, introduced after the sixteenth century
      3. Population growth in sub-Sahara: 35 million in 1500 to 60 million in 1800

II. The Atlantic slave trade
   A. Foundations of the slave trade
      1. Slavery common in traditional Africa
      2. The Islamic slave trade well established throughout Africa
   B. Human cargoes
      1. The early slave trade on the Atlantic started by Portuguese in 1441
      2. Triangular trade: all three legs of voyage profitable
      3. At every stage the slave trade was brutal
   C. The impact of the slave trade in Africa
      1. Volume of the Atlantic slave trade increased dramatically after 1600
2. Profound impact on African societies
3. Politically disruptive

III. The African diaspora
   A. Plantation societies
      1. Cash crops introduced to fertile lands of Caribbean early fifteenth century
      2. Plantations racially divided: one hundred or more slaves with a few white supervisors
      3. Resistance to slavery widespread, though dangerous
   B. The making of African-American cultural traditions
      1. African and Creole languages
      2. African-American religions also combined elements from different cultures
      3. Other African-American cultural traditions: hybrid cuisine, weaving, pottery
   C. The end of the slave trade and the abolition of slavery
      1. New voices and ideas against slavery
      2. Slavery became increasingly costly
      3. End of the slave trade