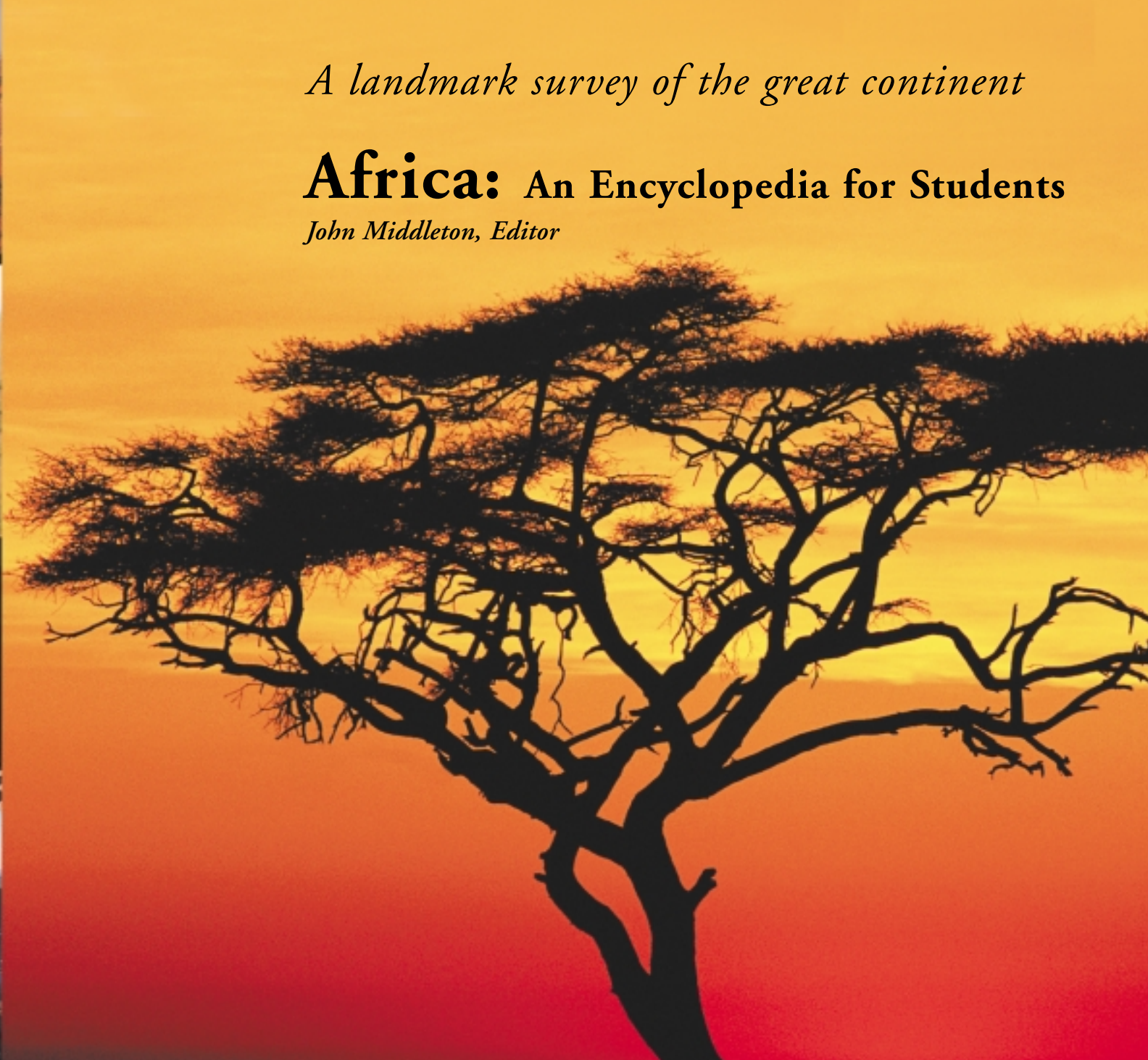




A landmark survey of the great continent

Africa: An Encyclopedia for Students

John Middleton, Editor



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4000 B.C. - First human settlements in Africa

3500 B.C. - First writing in Egypt

3000 B.C. - First pyramids in Egypt

1000 B.C. - First iron tools in Africa

500 B.C. - First coins in Africa

100 A.D. - First written laws in Africa

500 A.D. - First universities in Africa

1000 A.D. - First printing press in Africa

1500 A.D. - First modern states in Africa

1800 A.D. - First industrial revolution in Africa

1900 A.D. - First world war in Africa

1949 A.D. - First modern constitution in Africa

of Cyrenaica as well. North Africa remained part of the Roman Empire for almost 700 years. Evidence of this long association with Rome can be seen at Lepcis Magna in Libya, the site of some of the best-preserved remains of a Roman city.

By the A.D. 400s, Rome's control over its vast empire began to weaken. The Vandals, a Germanic people from northern Europe, migrated south into Africa and took over Tripolitania. The Vandals dominated trade in the Mediterranean until the Byzantines in the eastern half of the Roman Empire reconquered the lost territory in 533.

Muslim Influence. The arrival of Islam in the 600s changed North Africa forever. Muslim Arab forces conquered vast portions of territory around the Mediterranean, including what is now Libya. The Berber groups that inhabited Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and the surrounding deserts adopted Islam. Although some local people continued to speak Berber, most learned Arabic, which replaced Greek and Latin as the language of literature and law. Meanwhile, several waves of nomadic* Bedouins migrated into the region, bringing with them their own ways of life.

After the Muslim takeover, a series of Islamic dynasties* ruled Libya. The powerful Abbasid dynasty appointed the Aghlabids to govern the region. The Aghlabids restored the Roman irrigation system and made Libya increasingly prosperous. During the 900s the Fatimids brought most of northern Africa under their control.

By the 1500s the coast of northern Africa was famous for its pirate kings, who often came into conflict with the European states across the Mediterranean. In 1551 the Ottoman Turks conquered Libya, which became a Turkish province known as Tripolitania. The Turkish sultan appointed a series of rulers to govern the province.

Islam religion based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad; religious faith of the Muslims

nomadic referring to people who travel from place to place to find food and pasture

dynasty succession of rulers from the same family or group

Sufi member of a Muslim movement characterized by mysticism and dedication to poverty and prayer

European Colonization. By the late 1800s Britain, France, and Italy were looking for opportunities to establish settlements and expand their trading interests in North Africa. To gain control of Libya, Italy declared war on the Ottoman Turks in 1911. The Turks surrendered the region a year later. However, led by members of the Sanusi, a Sufi* religious order, the Libyans resisted Italian rule. Italy succeeded in dominating Libya until the 1940s, and thousands of Italians settled in the colony.

After World War II, France and Britain won control of Libya. In 1951 they decided to grant the territory independence. A council of leaders from Libya's three regions met and declared the new country to be a united kingdom headed by Muhammad Idris. A hero of the Sanusi resistance against the Italians, he became King Idris I.

Modern Libya. At first the new kingdom of Libya was very poor and received large amounts of aid from Western powers to survive. In 1953 the discovery of rich petroleum resources in Libya ushered in an era of prosperity. Yet even with the benefit of its oil wealth, the country faced many challenges in developing a diverse modern economy.

During the 1960s, changes in other Arab countries, particularly a movement for Arab unity, began to affect Libyan society. Conflicts

*coup: sudden, often violent, overthrow of a ruler or government

In an old quarter of Tripoli, the Libyan capital, narrow passageways lead to markets and historic mosques.

14
15

Actual page size is 8.5" x 11"

Africa — a world waiting to be revealed

It is the world's second largest continent, homeland to more than 770 million people, where more than 1,500 different languages are spoken. It is the place where the oldest hominid remains were found and where pyramids stand mysteriously frozen in time. Its savannas, deserts, and storied rivers have lured explorers and been mythologized by writers. Yet its deep history — and great potential — is only just beginning to be documented in the West.

The scope and complexity of Africa have challenged historians, with just a few single-volume reference works available, many of them written for an upper-level academic audience. Now, Charles Scribner's Sons presents the first authoritative multi-volume reference work written especially for students on the history, peoples, arts, politics, and geography of this great continent. From the travels of Ibn Battuta, the greatest African explorer of

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Crafts
Dance
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Musical Instruments
Myths of Africa
Poetry
Rock Art

Biographies

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Gamal Abdel Nasser
Steven Biko
Sir Richard Burton
Vasco da Gama
F. W. De Klerk
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Athol Fugard
Marcus Garvey
Nadine Gordimer
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Nelson Mandela
Hosni Mubarak
Anwar Sadat
Haile Selassie I
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Culture

Arabs in Africa
Bantu
Body Adornment and Clothing
Chinese in Africa
Education
Family
Food and Drink
Health Care
Kinship
Literacy
Maasai
Oral Culture and Tradition

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Hunger and Famine
Ivory Trade
Labor
Mining
Money and Currencies
Plantation Economies and Societies

Geography

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Botswana
Cameroon
Colonial and Postcolonial Boundaries
Eritrea
Frontiers and Frontier Societies
Kalahari Desert
Lesotho
Niger
Somalia
South Africa

Government

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Laws and Legal Systems
Military Governments and Armies
Muslim Political Organizations
Nationalism in Africa
Postcolonial States
Queens and Queen Mothers
Tribalism

History

African Diaspora
Apartheid
Boer War
Decolonization
Natal Colony
North Africa
South Africa

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Sennar
Slave State
World Wars I and II

Politics

Genocide and Violence
Human Rights
Independence Movements
Land Ownership
Nationalism in Africa
Neocolonialism in Africa
Role of Africa in Global Politics
United Nations in Africa

Religion

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Islam in Africa
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