Sub-Saharan Africa

Figure 7.1
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1. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- 750 million people
- Fast-growing economies, rich mineral deposits
  - Neocolonialism: continued flows of wealth out of Africa following the end of colonialism
  - Lowest average per capita income in the world
A. Physical Patterns

► Landforms

- Center of Pangaea
  - Arabian Plate breaking away to the east
- Coastal lowlands surrounding a plateau
  - Southeast Africa has uplands
- Steep escarpments hinder transportation
  - Few natural harbors (long, uniform coastlines)
Opening of the Great Rift Valley
A. Physical Patterns

Climate

- Mostly tropical – seasons change more in rainfall than temperature
  - Intertropical Convergence Zone: warm winds rising and dropping rain
    - Shifts north-south seasonally
  - Sahel: Southern fringes of Sahara; steppe and savanna grasses
Climate Zones

Figure 7-5

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A. Physical Patterns

► Climate

- Problem 1: parasites and insects thrive in warm, wet climates
- Problem 2: water shortage in drier climates
- Problem 3: leaching of minerals in tropical soils
  - Laterite: sun-baked silt
  - Shifting cultivation: method of dealing with leaching
- Problem 4: global warming will lead to marginalization of existing land
“The Dark Continent”

- Term historically used to marginalize Africa and make it liable to colonization
- Little education outside of Africa about African history prior to colonization
B. Human Patterns Over Time

The Peopling of Africa and Beyond

- Africa: original home of the human species
  - Evolved in eastern Africa over 2 million years ago
  - Migrated as far as the Caucasus

- Modern humans evolved in Africa and intermingled with existing human populations throughout Eurasia
B. Human Patterns Over Time

► Early Agriculture, Industry, and Trade in Africa
  ▪ Farming begins 7000 years ago just south of the Sahara
    ► Bantu farmers migrate into Southern Africa, displacing hunter-gatherers
  ▪ Trade networks stretched to Europe, India, China
    ► Iron production began 2500 years ago
    ► Slave trade emerged as a result of tribal conflict
    ► Expanded with arrival of Islam to create Mediterranean and Indian Ocean trade
Great Zimbabwe National Monument
B. Human Patterns Over Time

- The European Slave Trade
  - Portuguese organize trans-Atlantic trade
    - Later adopted by British, Dutch, and French
  - More brutal than earlier trade, slaves treated only as a commodity
  - Europeans controlled coast, required locals to kidnap people and sell them to Europeans
    - ¼ died during trip to Americas
    - Primary destinations: Caribbean and Brazil
    - 1600–1865: about 12 million captives taken
B. Human Patterns Over Time

The Scramble to Colonize Africa

- End of slave trade brought use of African labor in Africa
- Formal colonization occurs in late 1800s
  - Europeans exploited fertile agricultural zones, areas of mineral, and places with large populations
- Africa’s borders today largely result from colonial boundaries set up without the consultation of Africans
Colonial Borders, 1914

Figure 7.9
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B. Human Patterns Over Time

► The Scramble to Colonize Africa

- Basic geographic patterns:
  - Europeans lived in high densities only in places with lots of resources or a comfortable climate
  - Africans remained in possession of only the worst land, but were forced to grow cash crops
  - Places with few resources served as labor pools for large projects

- Main goals of colonization
  - Extract resources
  - Create markets
  - Keep administrative costs to a minimum
B. Human Patterns Over Time

► The Colonization of South Africa
  ▪ Dutch occupation pushed KhoiKhoi off land
  ▪ British invade to take control of resources
    ► Dutch move north, enslave Africans
  ▪ British occupy all the territory, South Africa created in 1910
    ► Apartheid created to maintain racial segregation
    ► Black Africans 80% of the population
    ► Resistance began in 1912; Apartheid ended in 1994
Apartheid

Figure 7.11

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

The Aftermath of Independence

- Formal colonization in Africa relatively short
  - Roughly, 1880s–1960s
- Most postcolonial governments were authoritarian, anti-democratic
  - Recent growth of pro-democracy movements
  - 23 of 47 countries are currently democracies
- Neocolonial dependence on former colonizers
  - Rapidly growing poverty
C. Population Patterns

► Misperception: Sub-Saharan Africa is densely populated
► Geographic fact: Sub-Saharan Africa is unevenly, but generally sparsely populated
  ▪ However, some countries are very high density (Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria)
  ▪ Other countries have over 3% population growth (Chad, Liberia, Mali, Niger)
Population Distribution

Figure 7.13

Nigeria is the most densely populated country in Africa

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<th>Persons per</th>
<th>sq mi</th>
<th>sq km</th>
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<tr>
<td>Above 2600</td>
<td>Above 1000</td>
<td>Above 4000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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 capitols and cities over 2 million
 capitols and cities 1–2 million

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C. Population Patterns

► Africa’s Carrying Capacity
  ▪ Carrying capacity: maximum number of people that can be supported sustainably
    ▶ Affected by cultural, social, economic, political, and physical landscapes
  ▪ Africa has about 33% of the world’s refugees
    ▶ If you include internal refugees, about half of the world’s refugees
    ▶ Impacts development strategies
Somali Refugees

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C. Population Patterns

Population Growth

- Fastest growing population in the world
  - Has tripled in less than 50 years (~752 million)
- Main threat to human well-being
- Lagging in demographic transition
  - Children both economic advantage and spiritual link to past and future
  - Declining fertility rates in most developed countries, where women are empowered
- Low rate of contraception use (half of other world regions)
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C. Population Patterns

Population and Public Health
- Troubled by infectious diseases
  - Schistosomiasis, sleeping sickness, malaria, river blindness, cholera, HIV/AIDS
  - 50% of all deaths
- Most linked to particular ecological zones
- An African child dies every 30 seconds of malaria
  - Short supply of medicine goes to Western tourists
Comparison of Cause of Death Statistics

Figure 7.16

Leading Causes of Death, 2002

Africa
- Injuries: 6.9%
- Other noncommunicable: 7.5%
- Heart disease: 9.6%
- Cancer: 3.8%
- Maternal, perinatal, and nutritional: 8.6%
- Other communicable: 9.9%

Infectious and parasitic diseases: 53.7%

Europe
- Heart disease: 51.2%
- Infectious and parasitic diseases: 19.2%
- Other communicable: 8.5%
- Injuries: 15.1%
- Other noncommunicable: 2.9%

Maternal, perinatal, and nutritional: < 0.1%

Infectious, parasitic, and communicable diseases: 2.2%

Injuries: 6.9%

Noncommunicable diseases: 7.5%
C. Population Patterns

► HIV/AIDS in Africa

- 24.5 million HIV-infected people
  - 63% of the worldwide total
  - 6.1% of adults are infected
  - Highest in Southern Africa

- Bias towards women
  - 4/5 of the world’s HIV-infected women are in sub-Saharan Africa
  - Results from inability of wives to refuse their husbands who visit sex workers
  - Similar inability to insist on condoms
C. Population Patterns

- HIV/AIDS in Africa
  - Education key to reducing infection rates
    - Successes in Uganda and Senegal
    - Poor government effort in late 1990s South Africa
  - Treatment too expensive for most Africans
    - $10,000 per year per patient
  - Patent-busting in Cuba and India has helped
    - $365 per year per patient
    - Still too expensive for most
  - 11% of AIDS patients in sub-Saharan Africa have access to antiretroviral drugs
Figure 7.17

Prevalence of HIV Infection in Adults

- 15.0–34.0%
- 5.0–15.0%
- 1.0–5.0%
- 0.5–1.0%
- 0.1–0.5%
- Less than 0.1%
- No data

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