A Timeline of Selected Periods in African History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bantu Migrations</strong> (c. 500 B.C. – A.D. 1500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gradual migrations of Bantu-speaking peoples spread ironworking</td>
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<td>technology throughout sub-Saharan Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rise of Islam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Muslim faith spreads from the Middle East to North, West, and</td>
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<td>East Africa, mixing with Arabic and African cultures.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>West African Trading Empires</strong> (c. 800–1600)</td>
<td>500 B.C.</td>
<td>A.D. 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great empires grew by controlling the trans-Saharan trade of gold,</td>
<td></td>
<td>A.D. 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>salt, and other goods. Ghana maintained its traditional religion</td>
<td></td>
<td>A.D. 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>while Mali and Songhai were influenced by Islam.</td>
<td></td>
<td>A.D. 2000</td>
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<td><strong>Turkish Empire</strong> (c. 1500–1918)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ottoman Turks conquer African states of Algiers, Tunisia, Tripoli, and Egypt, consolidating the influence of Islam in North Africa.</td>
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<td><strong>European Colonialism</strong> (1880s–1950s)</td>
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<td>Eight western European nations divide Africa into colonies whereby Europeans control Africans politically and exploit them economically.</td>
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<td><strong>Swahili Trading States</strong> (c. 1200–1500)</td>
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<td>East African Swahili-speaking states grew from trading with China</td>
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<td>(silk, porcelain), India (spices, rice, cotton, cloth), and the</td>
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<td>Middle East (glass, pearls, fabric).</td>
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<td><strong>Slave Trade</strong></td>
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<td>(c. 1600–1880s)</td>
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<td>Europeans initiate trade of enslaved Africans to the Americas. Arabs trade slaves in the east. Some African societies also participate in the trade.</td>
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<td><strong>African Independence</strong> (1957–present)</td>
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<td>African nations win independence from European nations after many years of resistance. The new nations struggle with the political and economic legacy of colonialism.</td>
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