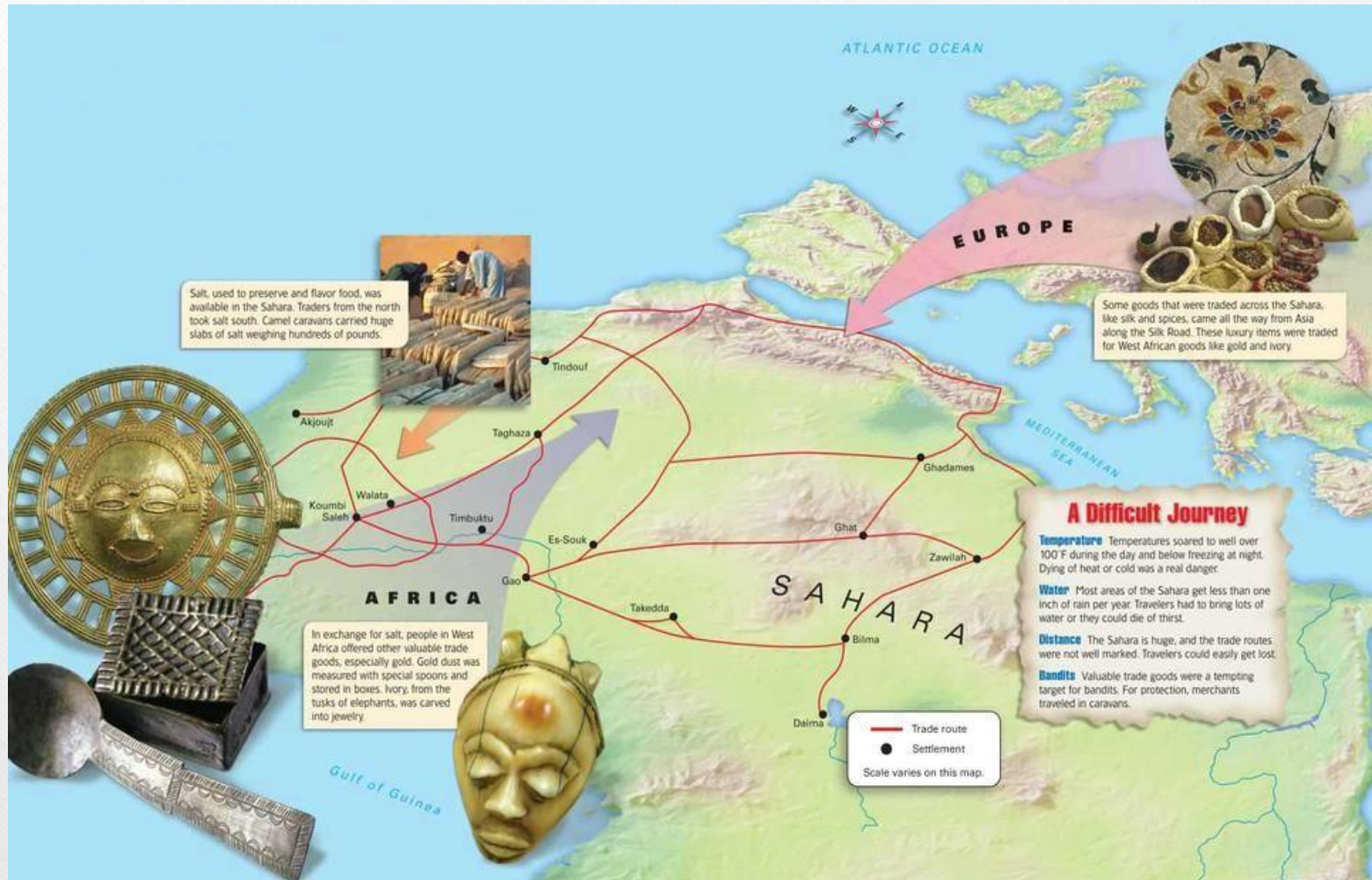


Tour of Post-Classical Africa



Trans-Saharan Trade Routes



Kingdom of Ghana

400-1200 CE

- **Iron weapons** allowed Ghana's army to conquer neighboring territory
- Ghana's **merchants** and kings grew very wealthy **trading iron ore and gold for North African salt and levying taxes**
- **Muslim traders** traveled across the Sahara using **camel caravans**
 - **Ghanaian kings were tolerant of Islam**



Spread of Islam

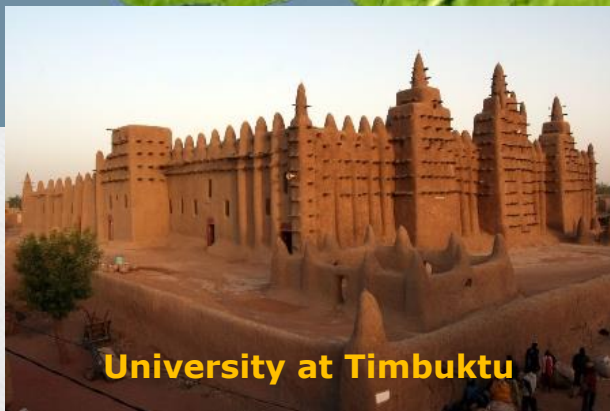
622-709

- **Islam spread into North Africa** under the rule of Islamic caliphs
- **Displaced the control Christian Aksum (Ethiopia) over trade**
- Spread south across the Sahara **into West Africa by Berber tribes.**
 - **The first West African converts were rulers** of kingdoms (including Mali)
 - **Islam a tool to increase authority & unify a polytheistic population.**
 - **Conversion** by the common people was gradual & **rarely replaced all Animist rituals/beliefs**
- **West African kingdoms were increasingly connected to the outside world through trade and the Hajj.**



Mali Empire

1250-1450



University at Timbuktu

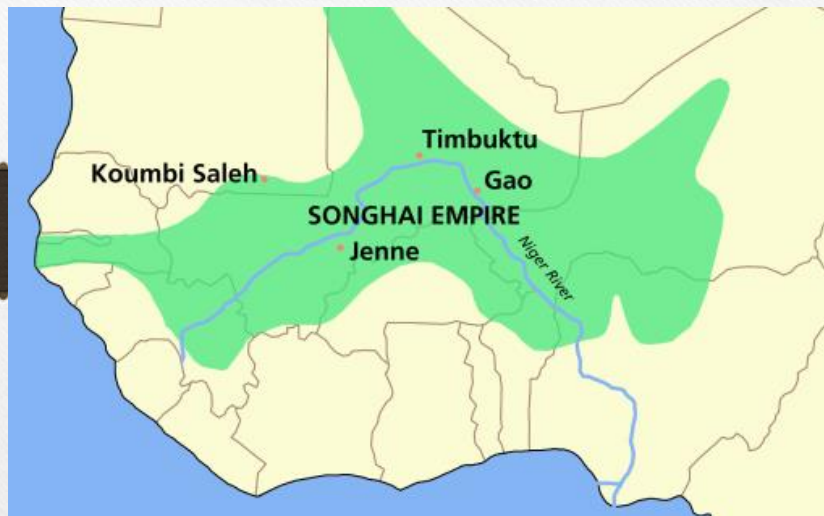
- In the 13th century, **Sundiata united the people of Mali and created a strong government** by taking control of goldfields
 - Ruled for 25 yrs until his death
- Wealth and power of Mali and its capital, **Timbuktu** were built on the **gold and salt trade**.
- **Mansa Musa, Sundiata's nephew (1312-1337)** doubled the size of Mali.
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca: **Gold and Gifts**
 - Established **Timbuktu as a center for scholarship and religious study**.
 - **Empire deteriorated after Mansa Musa's death** – unable to protect territory from attack

The Catalan Atlas



Songhai Empire

1000-1600



- Over 800 years, the **Songhai originally lived as fisherman and farmers** on the Niger River
 - **Slowly expanded**
 - **Developed its power as Mali declined.**
- Under the leadership of Sunni Ali, the **Songhai led conquest of Mali's Timbuktu and Jenne**
- **Strong central government**
 - **Islam declared official religion.**
 - **Social system similar to a caste systems** including **war captives and slaves**
 - **Center of learning and Timbuktu's university attracted scholars** from across the world

Bantu Migration

- Before the use of iron most people were **hunter-gatherers**
- Bantu tribes migrated **across southern Africa, spreading agriculture, ironworking, language and culture** to those areas.
- Bantu groups migrated to **East African coast and interacted with Arab traders, resulting in Swahili city-states** for Indian Ocean trade.
- Bantu speakers also **founded Kongo and Zimbabwe**



Great Zimbabwe

1350-1450

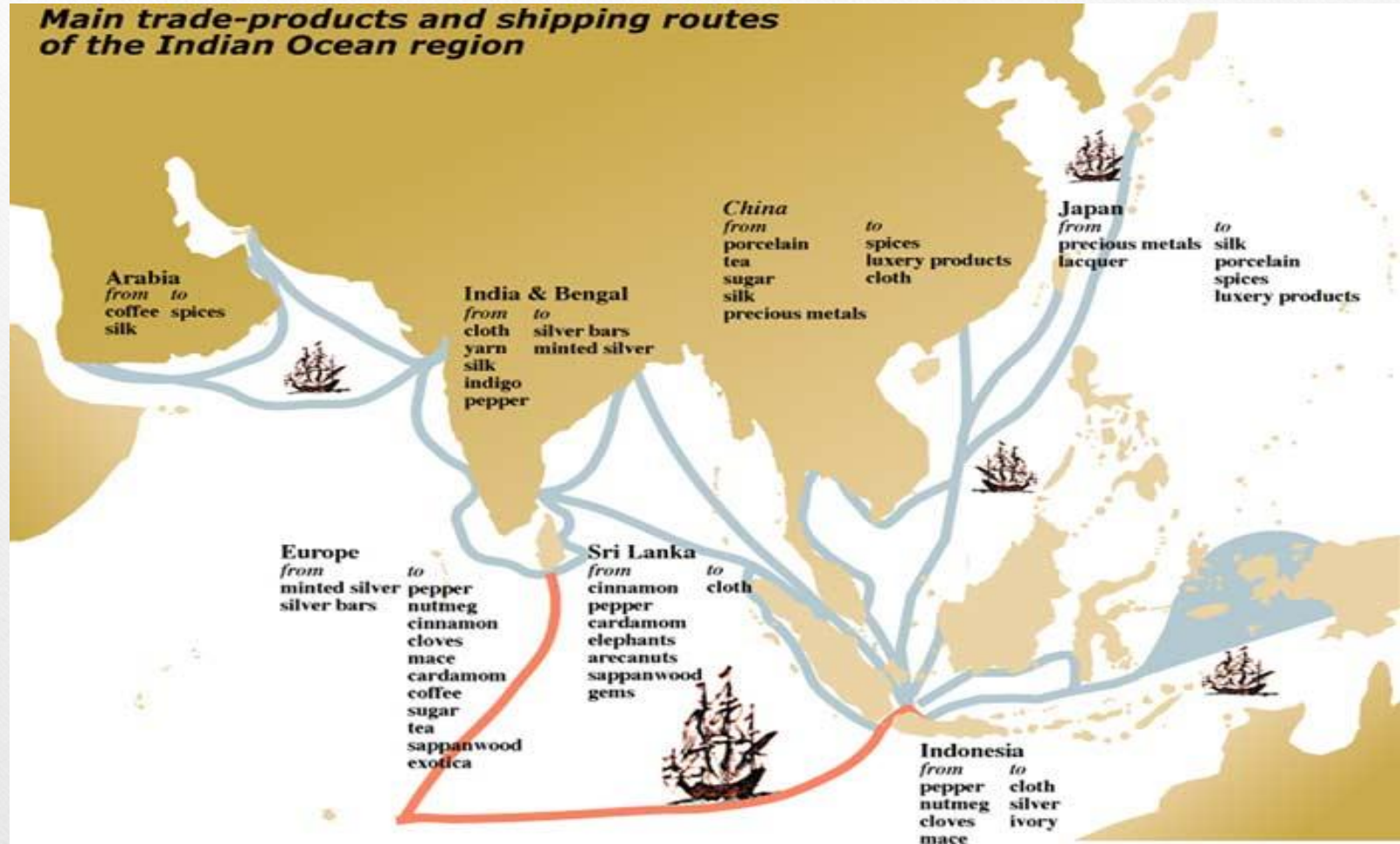
- Zimbabwe **began as a pastoral community**
- Mastered **iron making and mined gold.**
- Grew **wealthy from trade and taxation of Muslim merchants on the coast of the Indian Ocean**
- **Built Great Zimbabwe, capital city, as a sign of the state's prestige**



Ruins of Great Zimbabwe

Indian Ocean Trade

Main trade-products and shipping routes of the Indian Ocean region



East African Swahili City-States 800-1505



Beginning in the 8th century AD **Muslim traders began to settle in ports along the East African Coast**

The result was a string of **City-State trading ports.**

The People and Traders of **Mogadishu, Mombasa, Zanzibar and Kilwa** grew quite wealthy from trade with India, China and West Africa.