

# North Africa to 1000 CE

## *Further reading list*



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For **Roman north Africa**, see:

- G. C. and C. Picard, *The Life and Death of Carthage* (Taplinger, New York, 1969)

A clear exposition, especially of the Punic wars between Rome and Carthage.

- S. Raven, *Rome in Africa*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Routledge, London and New York, 1993)

This remains the best overall study of the period.

- M. Brett and E. Fentress, *The Berbers* (Blackwell, Oxford, 1996)

An invaluable study over a long time-span of these often neglected peoples of north Africa.

For those looking for an in-depth study of the impact of Roman rule in north Africa, the following two books will be invaluable:

- B. D. Shaw, *Environment and Society in Roman North Africa* (Variorum, Aldershot, 1995)
- D. Cherry, *Frontier and Society in Roman North Africa* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1998)

For **Egypt under Greek and Roman** rule:

- A.K. Bowman, *Egypt after the Pharaohs, 332 BC-AD 642*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (British Museum Press, London, 1996).

A well-illustrated introduction to the period.

- N. Lewis, *Life in Egypt under Roman rule* (Scholars Press, Oxford, 1983)

Through the study of thousands of papyri, Naphtali Lewis provides a fascinating and rare insight into the economy and society of Roman Egypt.

For **early Christianity**, see:

- B. A. Pearson, *Earliest Christianity in Egypt* (Institute for Antiquity and Christianity, Claremont, CA, 1997)
- W. H. C. Frend, *The Donatist Church*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1971)
- W. H. C. Frend, 'The Christian Period in Mediterranean Africa, c. AD 200 to 700', in J. D. Fage (ed), *The Cambridge History of Africa*, Volume 2 (CUP, Cambridge, 1978)
- H. Chadwick, *Augustine* (OUP, Oxford, 1986)  
There are many books on St Augustine of Hippo: this one must stand out as one of the best.
- M. A. Tilley (trans. & ed.), *Donatist Martyr Stories: The Church in Conflict in Roman North Africa* (Liverpool UP, Liverpool, 1996)

The early chapters of the following interesting survey places the north African heresies of the early Christian centuries in their historical context:

- M. Thomsett, *Heresy in the Roman Catholic Church. A History* (McFarland, Jefferson NC, 2011)

For **Aksum**, see the most recent work by the pre-eminent archaeologist of the site and period:

- D. W. Phillipson, *Foundations of an African Civilisation: Aksum and the Northern Horn, 1000BC-AD1300* (James Currey, Oxford, 2012)

For the **Arab conquest** of Egypt and the Maghrib:

- A. Butler, *The Arab Conquest of Egypt*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1978)

This work, in its second edition, has not been bettered.

- J. M. Abun-Nasr, *A History of the Maghrib* (CUP, Cambridge, 1975)

This puts the arrival and impact of Islam in its broader historical perspective.

- E. Savage, *A Gateway to Hell, a Gateway to Paradise: The North African Response to the Arab Conquest* (Darwin, Princeton, 1997):

Particularly useful for the Berber Kharijist movement.

- Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1991).

Puts the north African conquests in the broader context of Arab history.

# Trans-Saharan trade and the Kingdom of Ancient Ghana

## *Further reading list*

- E. W. Bovill, *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1968).

Although generally regarded as somewhat dated now, this is still well worth reading for capturing the atmosphere of the trans-Saharan gold trade, and containing numerous quotations.

- N. Levtzion, *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (Methuen, London, 1973)

Still the best general survey by the leading scholar of the place and period; but see the additional [‘Almoravids, Islam and Ancient Ghana’ Debate feature](#) for details of subsequent challenges to some of its well-established assertions.

- N. Levtzion and J. F. P. Hopkins (eds), *Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History* (CUP, Cambridge, 1981; Markus Wiener Edition, 2000).

This book transformed our understanding of the period by providing for a wide readership, translations of extracts from the original documents upon which much of our knowledge of medieval west African history rests.

- P. A. Lovejoy, *Salt of the Desert Sun* (CUP, Cambridge, 1986).

Essential reading for those interested in trans-Saharan trade.

- G. Connah, *African Civilizations: Precolonial Cities and States in Tropical Africa: an Archaeological Perspective* (CUP, Cambridge, 1987)

For works discussed in the aforementioned additional [Debate feature](#), see:

- H. J. Fisher, 'Early Arabic Sources and the Almoravid Conquest of Ghana', review article of Levtzion and Hopkins' *Corpus* (1981), *Journal of African History*, Vol 23 (1982), pp 549-60
- D. Conrad and H. Fisher, 'The conquest that never was: Ghana and the Almoravids', *History in Africa*, vols 9 and 10 (1982/83)
- P. B. Clarke, *West Africa and Islam* (Edward Arnold, London, 1982)
- J. S. Trimingham, *A History of Islam in West Africa* (OUP, Oxford, 1962)
- Adu Boahen, *Topics in West African History* (Longman, London, 1966)

# Islam and the Sudanic states of west Africa

## *Further reading list*

For the **Almoravids and the Maghrib**, see:

- Francisco Rodriguez-Manas, “ ’Abd Allah ibn Yasin: Almoravid: Sahara” in K. Shillington (ed), *Encyclopedia of African History*, Volume I (Fitzroy Dearborn, New York, 2005), pp.1-2

A good brief introduction to the origins of the Almoravids.

Also see:

- P. B. Clarke, *West Africa and Islam: A study of religious development from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century* (Edward Arnold, London, 1982), chapter 2: “The impact of the Almoravid movement on the development of Islam in West Africa in the 11<sup>th</sup> century”, pp. 13-27

For the **later Almoravids and the Almohads**, see:

- J. M. Abun-Nasr, *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period* (CUP, Cambridge, 1987); and A. Laroui, *The History of the Maghrib: An Interpretive Essay* (Princeton UP, Princeton NJ, 1977)

For the significance of the Almoravids and Almohads in the long-term history of the Berbers, see:

- M. Brett and E. Fentress, *The Berbers* (Blackwell, Oxford, 1996)

### **Mali:**

For the archaeological and environmental background, see:

- G. Connah, *African civilizations: Precolonial Cities and States in Tropical Africa: an archaeological perspective* (CUP, Cambridge, 1987), Chapter 5, ‘An optimal zone: the West African savannah’, pp.97-120

For what is still the best general survey, see:

- N. Levtzion, *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (Methuen, London, 1973)

For a detailed survey, crammed with references to Arabic sources and containing some useful chronological tables:

- J. Spencer Trimingham, *A History of Islam in West Africa* (OUP, Oxford, 1962)

For a more up-to-date survey of the role of Islam in the political and commercial life of west African states in this period, see:

- P. B. Clarke, *West Africa and Islam: A study of religious development from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century* (Edward Arnold, London, 1982), Chapter 3: “c. 1000-1600: the religion of court and commerce”, pp. 28-76

For Arabic sources, see:

- N. Levtzion and J. F. P. Hopkins (eds), *Corpus of early Arabic Sources for West African History* (CUP, Cambridge, 1981).
- E. W. Bovill, *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (OUP, Oxford, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1968)

Also has some useful quotations from similar sources.

For **oral sources**, see:

- D. T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (Longman, London, new edition, 1995)
- D. C. Conrad (ed), *Epic Ancestors of the Sundiata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea* (University of Wisconsin African Studies Program, Madison, 1999)
- R. Austen (ed), *In Search of Sunjata: The Mande Epic as History, Literature and Performance* (Indiana UP, Bloomington, 1999)

For the **Epic** itself, see:

- G. Innes (ed.) *Sundiata: Three Mandinka Versions* (SOAS, London, 1974); and J. W. Johnson (ed), *The Epic of Son-Jara: A West African Tradition* (Indiana UP, Bloomington, 1986)

For **Songhay**:

- T. Insoll, *Islam, Archaeology and History, A Complex Relationship: The Gao Region. c. AD 900-1250* (Tempus Reparatum, Oxford, 1996)

For the archaeological evidence of the origins and early growth of Songhay.

- T. Insoll, *The Archaeology of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa* (CUP, Cambridge, 2003)
- J. O. Hunwick, *Timbuktu and the Songhay Empire* (University of Leiden, Leiden, 1999)
- See also Levtzion & Hopkins' *Corpus*, above.

For **Fulbe** origins and culture, it is still worth consulting:

- D. Stenning, *Savannah Nomads* (OUP, London, 1965)