

Africa: Kingdom of Kush and Civilization of the Bow

I. Africa: The Cradle of Humankind

A. Pastoralism (avoiding the tse-tse fly)

1. Sahara (7000 B.C.–3000 B.C.)
2. East Africa (5000 B.C.–)

B. Metal Working

1. copper and bronze (from 4000 B.C.)
2. iron (from 670 B.C.)

C. Iron Age Kingdom of Meroe (1500 B.C.– A.D. 350)

II. Civilizations of Black Africa before A.D.200

A. Civilization of the Bow

1. hunter-gatherers
2. Bushmen, Pygmies, Mbuti
3. first use of fire — 50,000 to 60,000 years ago
4. Middle and Later Stone Age culture — 10,000 to 33,000 years ago
5. bow range = < 50 yards

B. Civilization of the Clearings

1. slash-and-burn agriculture / chop down trees and burn them
2. Ubangi, Niger Delta, rain forest zone
3. introduction of iron / importance of blacksmiths
4. poor soil /land leached by rain / root crops
5. diseases: malaria, trypanosomiasis, filariasis, ankylostomiasis

C. Civilization of the Granaries

1. slash-and-burn agriculture / use branches from surrounding trees
2. dry forest / wooded savanna / grassy savanna
3. long fallowing / rotation of crops / hoe — no plow
4. crossed line from subsistence to surplus / cereals and legumes
5. diseases of undernourishment

III. Three Sub-Saharan Cultures

A. From Basil Davidson, *Mastering a Continent*, “Africa”, program 2

1. Bakat (northern Kenya) – cattle herding
2. Surko (northern Nigeria) – iron making
3. Dogo (Mali) – religious ceremonies

Recommended Reading :

- Jacques Maquet, *Civilizations of Black Africa*, rev. and trans. Joan Rayfield, New York: Oxford University Press, 1972 (*Les civilisations noires*, Paris, 1962).
- Roland Oliver, *The African Experience: Major Themes in African History from Earliest Times to the Present*, New York: HarperCollins, 1991, pp. 1–76.
- Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, New York: Macmillan, 1989, pp. 1–48.
pp. 1–13.