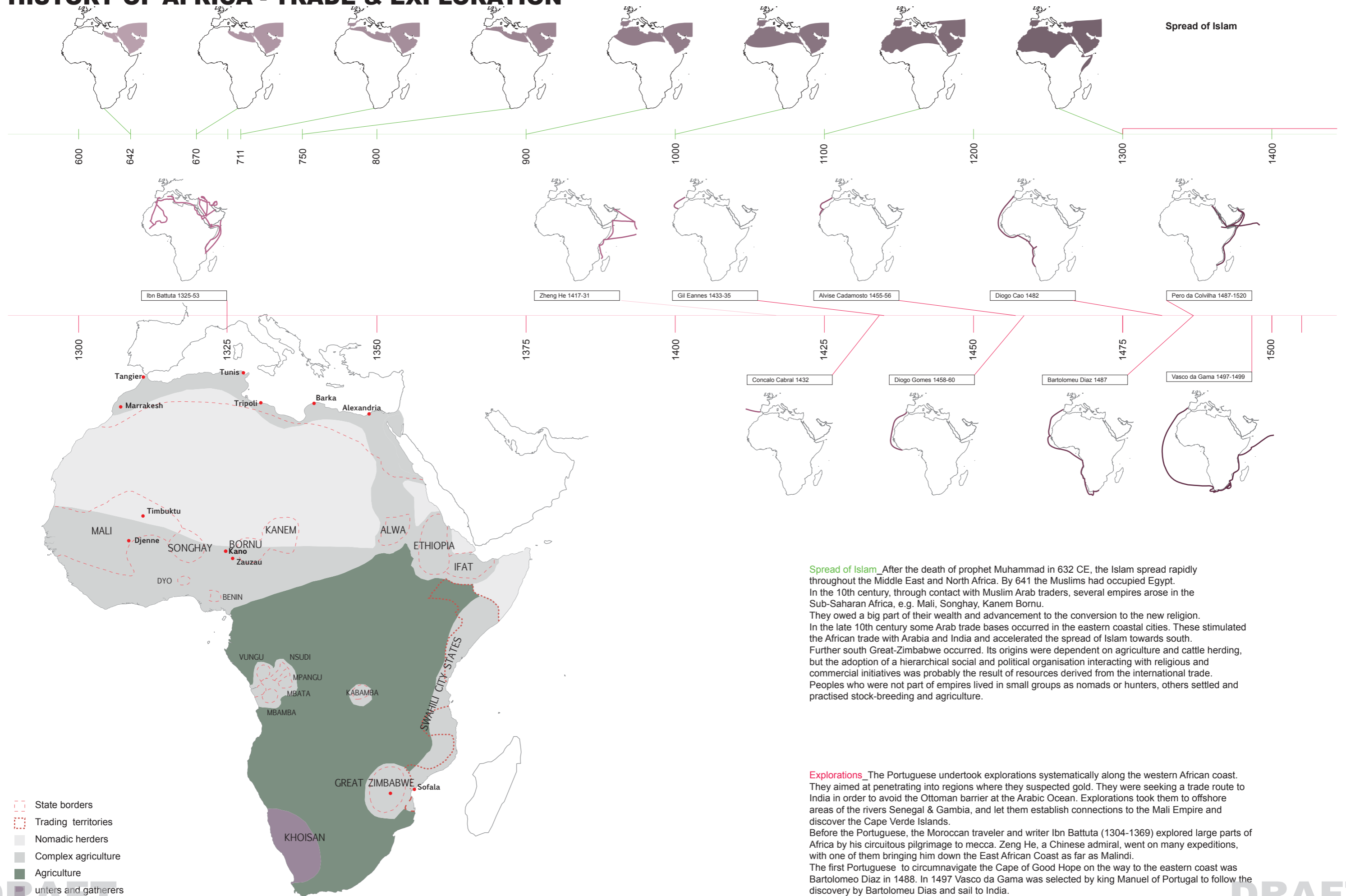


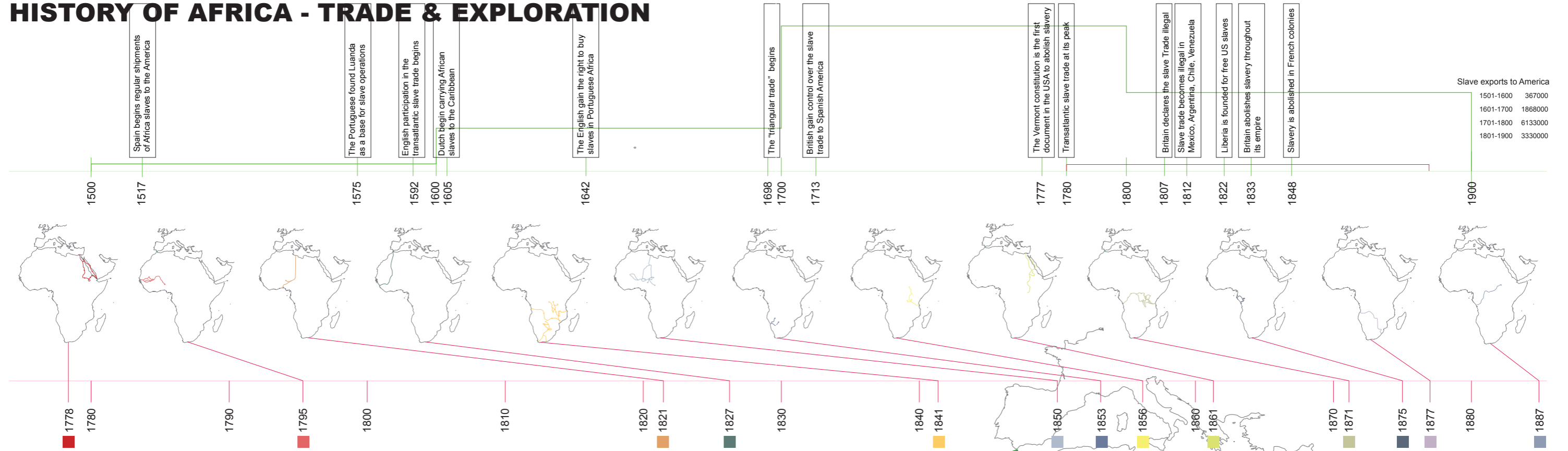
# HISTORY OF AFRICA - TRADE & EXPLORATION



**Spread of Islam** After the death of prophet Muhammad in 632 CE, the Islam spread rapidly throughout the Middle East and North Africa. By 641 the Muslims had occupied Egypt. In the 10th century, through contact with Muslim Arab traders, several empires arose in the Sub-Saharan Africa, e.g. Mali, Songhay, Kanem Bornu. They owed a big part of their wealth and advancement to the conversion to the new religion. In the late 10th century some Arab trade bases occurred in the eastern coastal cities. These stimulated the African trade with Arabia and India and accelerated the spread of Islam towards south. Further south Great-Zimbabwe occurred. Its origins were dependent on agriculture and cattle herding, but the adoption of a hierarchical social and political organisation interacting with religious and commercial initiatives was probably the result of resources derived from the international trade. Peoples who were not part of empires lived in small groups as nomads or hunters, others settled and practised stock-breeding and agriculture.

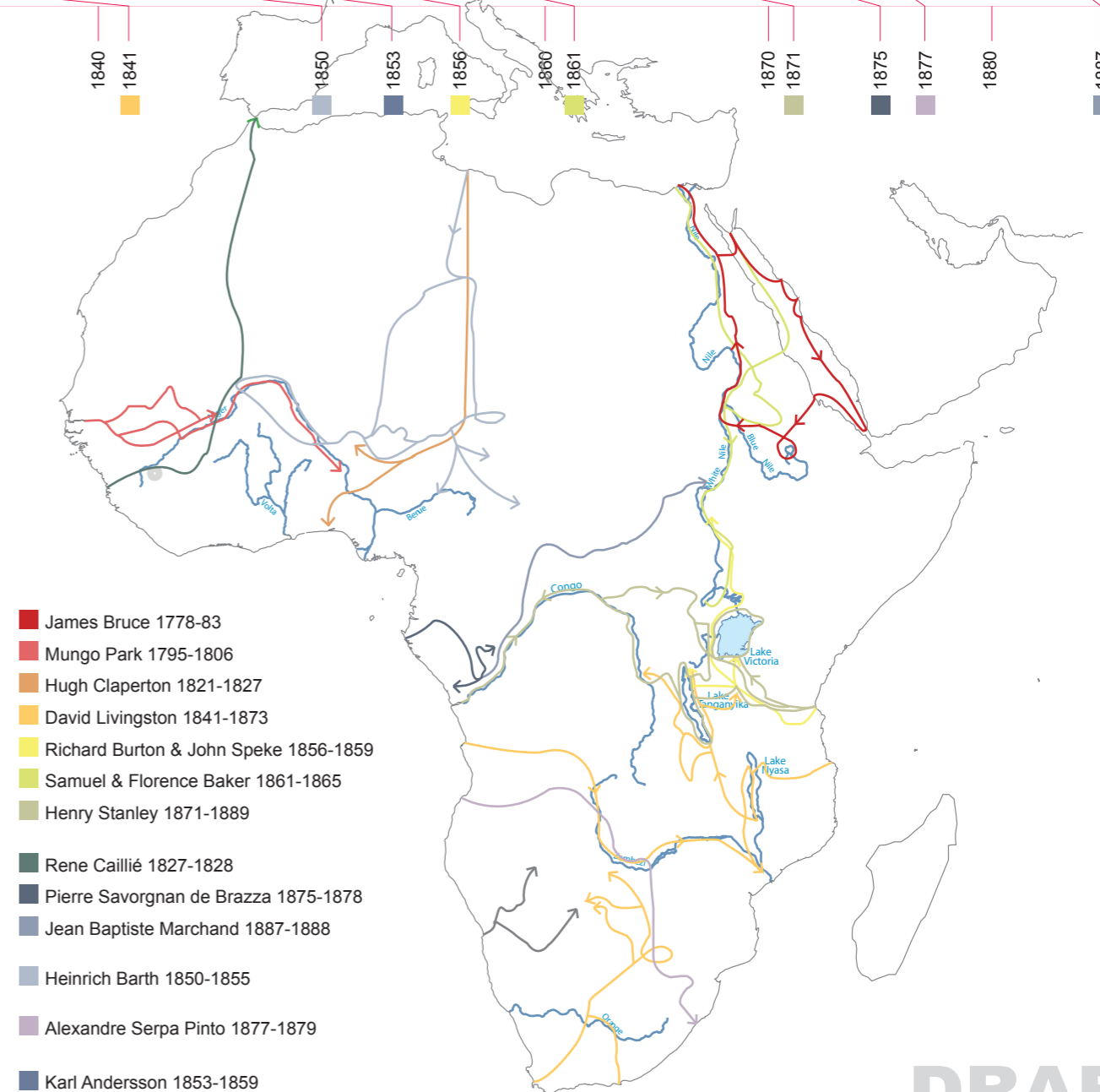
**Explorations** The Portuguese undertook explorations systematically along the western African coast. They aimed at penetrating into regions where they suspected gold. They were seeking a trade route to India in order to avoid the Ottoman barrier at the Arabic Ocean. Explorations took them to offshore areas of the rivers Senegal & Gambia, and let them establish connections to the Mali Empire and discover the Cape Verde Islands. Before the Portuguese, the Moroccan traveler and writer Ibn Battuta (1304-1369) explored large parts of Africa by his circuitous pilgrimage to mecca. Zeng He, a Chinese admiral, went on many expeditions, with one of them bringing him down the East African Coast as far as Malindi. The first Portuguese to circumnavigate the Cape of Good Hope on the way to the eastern coast was Bartolomeo Diaz in 1488. In 1497 Vasco da Gama was selected by king Manuel of Portugal to follow the discovery by Bartolomeu Dias and sail to India.

# HISTORY OF AFRICA - TRADE & EXPLORATION



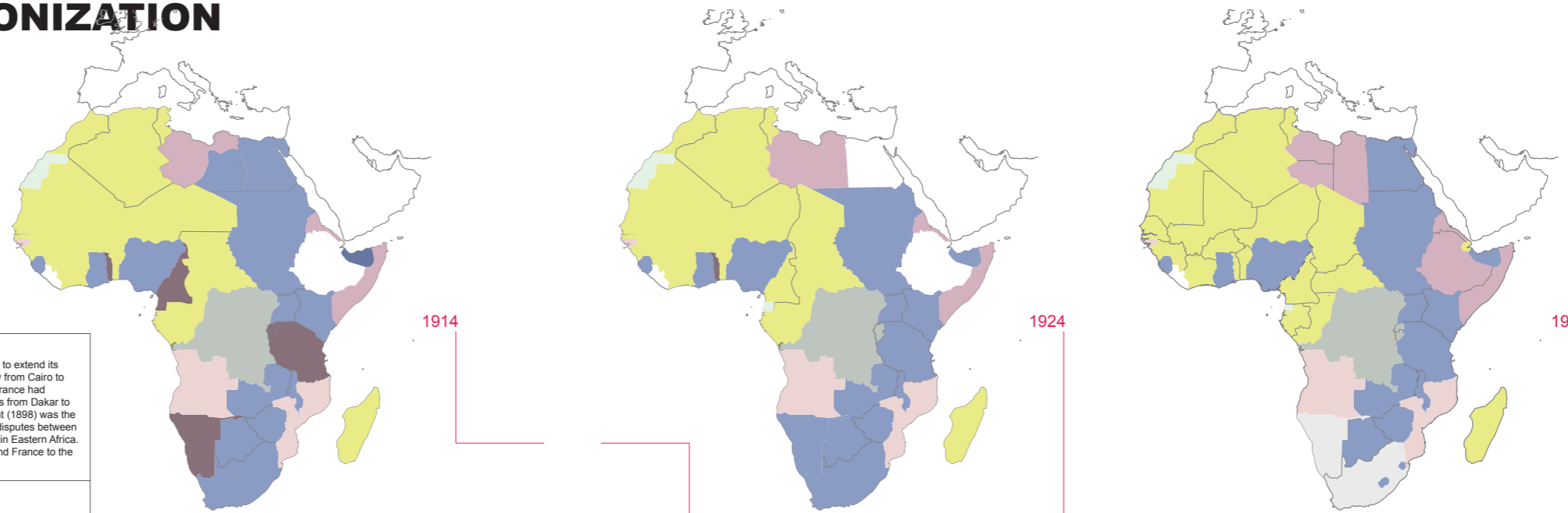
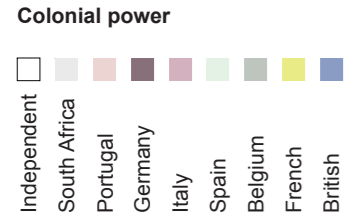
**Slave Trade** Historically there were three principal markets for African slaves: The dynastic Egypt, places within the continent and America. The reason for slavery were similar in each era: to put prisoners from war and societal outcasts to use and to fill needs for labour, sex and reproduction. The number of slaves traded across the Sahara, the Red Sea and the East African coast from 800-1900 has been estimated at 15 millions. These numbers are bigger than the estimates for the transatlantic trade, but they are spread over a millennium, not just the 300 years of slave exports to the New World. The most dramatic forced migration of Africans was from the west coast of Africa to the Caribbean and the Americas. While the Portuguese expeditions in the 15th century were interested in gold, ivory, and the Orient more than in African slaves, this changed rapidly after 1500. Because of the insatiable demand for labor to work the sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations of the Americas, slaves were the principal and most profitable export out of Africa by the end of the 16th century. Most slave ships sailed from European ports, carrying goods to trade for African slaves. Slaves were delivered to trading posts and crammed into the ships holds without delay. On board the ships conditions were appalling: little ventilation, poor food, and no medical care. In general, up to one quarter of the Africans died during the three to six-week journey as a result of diseases, suicides, or because they were being thrown overboard for acts of resistance or because of sickness. On arrival in the Americas, the Africans were sold and the ships were loaded with gold, silver, sugar, tobacco, cotton. The ships then returned to Europe and resumed their triangular trading.

**Exploration** Apart from the notable Journeys of James Bruce between 1768 and 1773 in search of the source of the Blue Nile, the most significant exploration during this period was undertaken by the African Association between 1788 and 1831. Driven by partly scholarly, partly economic motives, the Association stands as a pathfinding promoter of Europe's exploration of Africa. Mungo Park for example travelled under the auspices of the Association. Although Europe's geographical understanding of West Africa was well consolidated by 1830, exploration of East Africa did not reach the same point for another twenty-five years. The names of Burton and Speke, Grant and Baker are closely associated with the exploration of the Nile; Livingstone with the exploration of the Zambezi and its tributaries, and Stanley with the Congo. Three explorations of the mid-nineteenth century deserve special recognition. David Livingstone's is set apart not only in the annals of humanitarian and missionary endeavours but equally for its geographical exploration. It was also Livingstone who provided the inspiration for Cameron. Stanley's expedition was motivated by the desire to find a commercial alternative to the slave trade. After the scramble imperial initiative took priority in the objective of expeditions, and geographical knowledge and economic benefit were often incidental. Among the French in particular, explorers like de Brazza and Marchand are notable for their imperial rather than geographical achievements.



- James Bruce 1778-83
- Mungo Park 1795-1806
- Hugh Claperton 1821-1827
- David Livingston 1841-1873
- Richard Burton & John Speke 1856-1859
- Samuel & Florence Baker 1861-1865
- Henry Stanley 1871-1889
- Rene Caillié 1827-1828
- Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza 1875-1878
- Jean Baptiste Marchand 1887-1888
- Heinrich Barth 1850-1855
- Alexandre Serpa Pinto 1877-1879
- Karl Andersson 1853-1859

# HISTORY OF AFRICA - COLONIZATION



**Berlin Conference 1884**  
The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 regulated European colonisation and trade in Africa during the New Imperialism period, and coincided with Germany's sudden emergence as an imperial power. Called for by Portugal and organized by Bismarck, the first Chancellor of Germany, its outcome, the General Act of the Berlin Conference, is often seen as the formalization of the Scramble for Africa.

**Fashoda Incident 1898**  
The United Kingdom had sought to extend its East African empire continuously from Cairo to the Cape of Good Hope, while France had sought to extend its own holdings from Dakar to the Sudan. The Fashoda Incident (1898) was the climax of this imperial territorial disputes between the United Kingdom and France in Eastern Africa. It brought the United Kingdom and France to the verge of war.

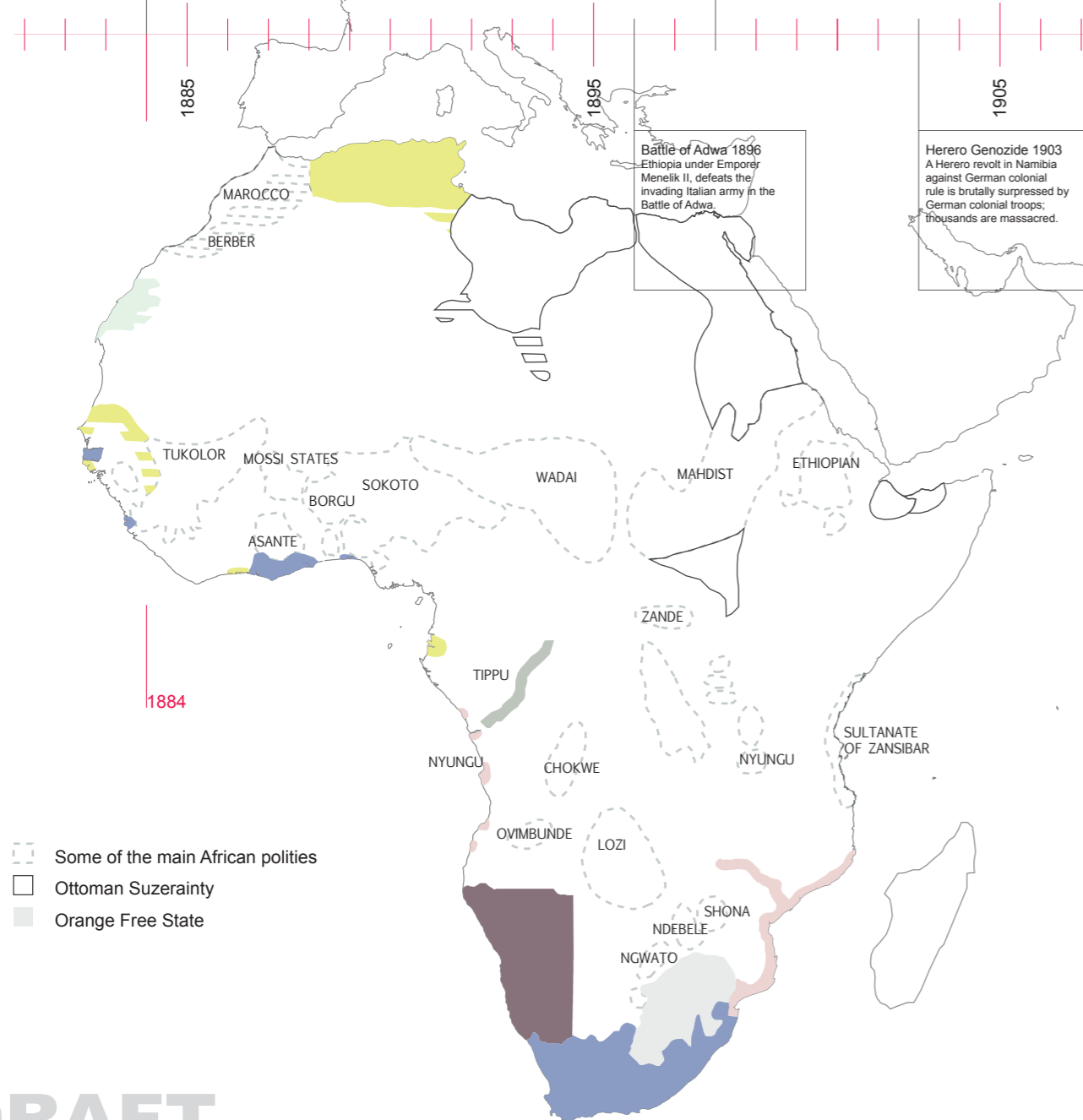
**Battle of Adwa 1896**  
Ethiopia under Emperor Menelik II, defeats the invading Italian army in the Battle of Adwa.

**Herero Genocide 1903**  
A Herero revolt in Namibia against German colonial rule is brutally suppressed by German colonial troops; thousands are massacred.

**World War I 1914 - 1918**

**Pan-African Congress 1919**  
W.E.B. Dubois organizes the First Pan-African Congress in Paris. The congress was intended to address the problems Africa was facing due to the European colonization of large parts of the continent.

**World War II 1939 - 1945**  
Africa was much more deeply affected by the second World War than it had been by WWI. Some of the major battles of the war between the Allied and Axis powers were fought on African soil, notably in North Africa. The French Belgian and British territories, together with the dominion of South Africa and British dominated Egypt, took up arms on the side of the Allies, while the Italian territories were brought in on the Axis side. In sub-Saharan Africa the only theatre of war was Italian East Africa, where British and West African troops dislodged Italians.



Some of the main African polities

Ottoman Suzerainty

Orange Free State

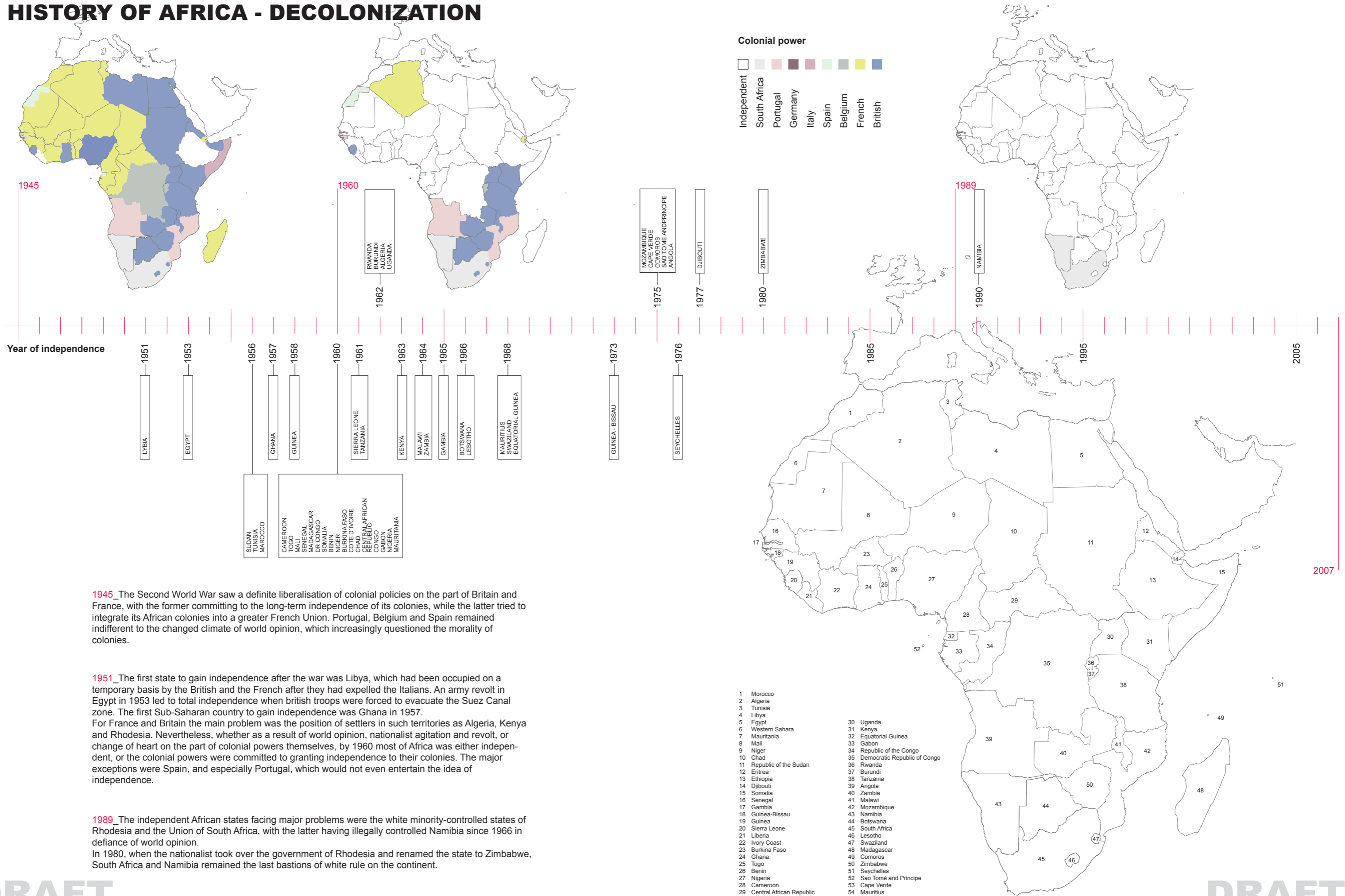
**1884** On the eve of the Berlin Conference, very little African territory was yet under European rule. The foreign occupation of Africa was limited mainly to the coastline, a considerable part of strategic and economic importance. The largest area under European control was in the south, where Boer and British settlements had expanded inland. Authority claimed by British over African states in the interior. Wide parts of Africa remained in the hands of independent states (e.g. Ndebele, Asante), of sultanates (Zanzibari) or kingdoms (e.g. Lozi).

**1914** When war broke out in 1914 only two countries in Africa were independent; Ethiopia and Liberia. France and Britain, the dominant powers in the continent, had consolidated their positions. Belgium and Germany had smaller shares. Italy had acquired Libya as recently as 1911 after a brief war with Ottoman Turkey. In Angola and Mozambique, the Portuguese were still developing as a colonial power after intermittent fighting. Most of the continent fell under direct European administration. In this political situation the process of devitalization of the traditional forms of government had set in.

**1924** At the end of World War I one country, Egypt, had become technically independent: it was recognized as a kingdom 1922. The German territories were allotted to the conquering powers by a League Nations Mandate. Togo and Cameroon were divided between the French and British invaders, Ruanda and Burundi were occupied by the Belgians, the rest of German East Africa by the British. German South-West Africa was entrusted to the Union of South Africa, who enjoyed dominion status in the British Empire. Under the terms of the mandates each of these powers was responsible for the administration, welfare and development of the native populations until they „were able to govern themselves.“

**1938** On the eve of Second World War, the boundaries of what were to become the independent states of Africa had been laid down. In 1931, the Union of South Africa became fully independent under their white minority government. In 1935 the Italians invaded Ethiopia, putting an end to it's independence; this left Liberia as the lone truly independent state in Africa, though economically it was very much under American control. The Italians unified the administration of their colonies of Eritrea, Somaliland and Ethiopia into the larger unit of Italian East Africa.

# HISTORY OF AFRICA - DECOLONIZATION



**1945** The Second World War saw a definite liberalisation of colonial policies on the part of Britain and France, with the former committing to the long-term independence of its colonies, while the latter tried to integrate its African colonies into a greater French Union. Portugal, Belgium and Spain remained indifferent to the changed climate of world opinion, which increasingly questioned the morality of colonies.

**1951** The first state to gain independence after the war was Libya, which had been occupied on a temporary basis by the British and the French after they had expelled the Italians. An army revolt in Egypt in 1953 led to total independence when British troops were forced to evacuate the Suez Canal zone. The first Sub-Saharan country to gain independence was Ghana in 1957. For France and Britain the main problem was the position of settlers in such territories as Algeria, Kenya and Rhodesia. Nevertheless, whether as a result of world opinion, nationalist agitation and revolt, or change of heart on the part of colonial powers themselves, by 1960 most of Africa was either independent, or the colonial powers were committed to granting independence to their colonies. The major exceptions were Spain, and especially Portugal, which would not even entertain the idea of independence.

**1989** The independent African states facing major problems were the white minority-controlled states of Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa, with the latter having illegally controlled Namibia since 1966 in defiance of world opinion. In 1980, when the nationalist took over the government of Rhodesia and renamed the state to Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia remained the last bastions of white rule on the continent.