

East African borders from the colonial partition to the present disputes

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Africa's Facts and Figures

- Africa holds approximately 30% of the earth's minerals and oil production
- Africa is the Earth's oldest, second largest (after Asia) continent
- Africa has the world's longest river (the Nile), biggest desert (the Sahara), oldest desert (the Namib) and shortest coastline

Geography of Africa

The Land



Water Resources



People



The Plants and Animals



Climate Zones





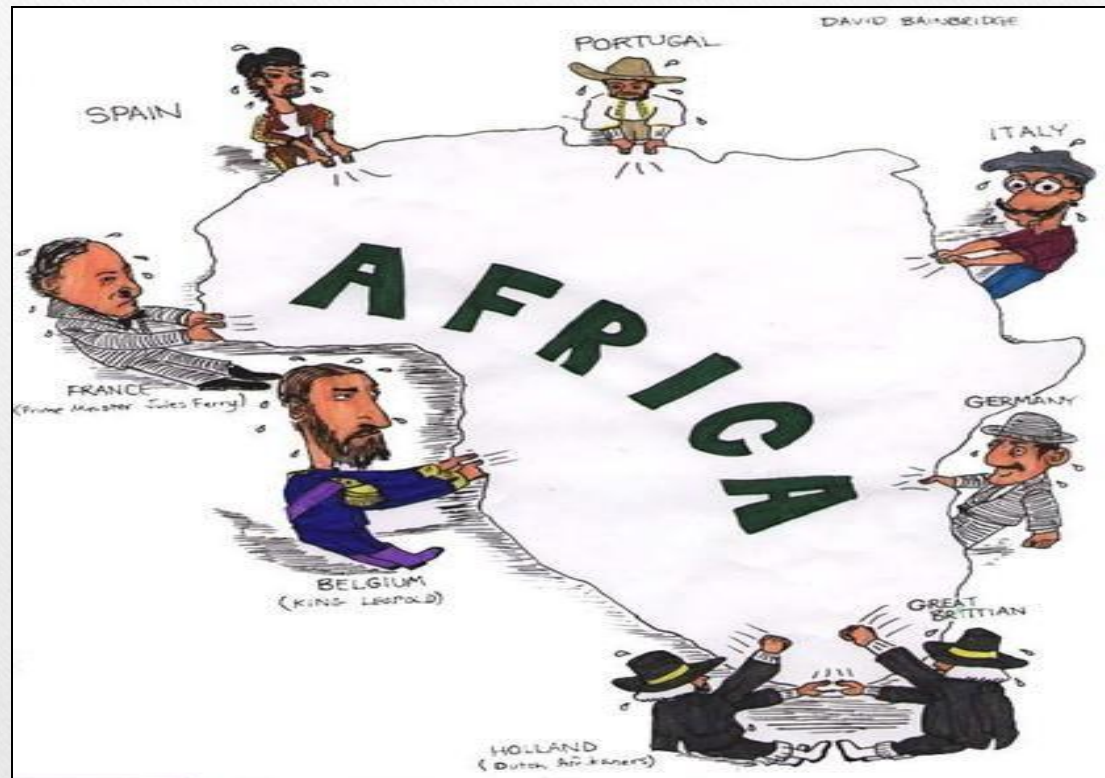
Colonial borders

- Borders – a line separating two countries, administrative divisions, or other areas
- Borders are complex phenomena
- Involves territory
- Territory is an inescapable agent of social and political differentiation and integration
- Africa's territorial borders was not drawn by Africans – instead Europeans

The Partition of Africa

- The Partition of Africa began in earnest with the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, and was the cause of most of Africa's borders today.
- Germany, France, Great Britain, Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, and Spain were all considered to have a future role in the imperial partition of Africa

Scramble for Africa

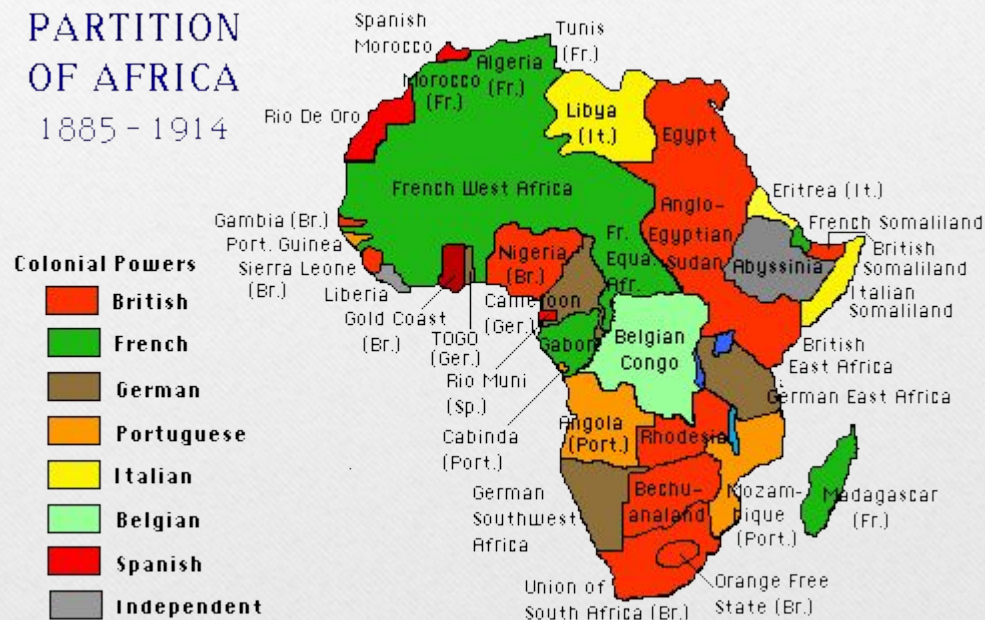


Berlin meeting

- By the end of the meeting, European powers “owned” most of Africa and drew boundary lines that remained until 1914.
- Great Britain won the most land in Africa and was “given” Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, and South Africa after defeating the Dutch Settlers and Zulu Nation.
- The agreements made in Berlin still affect the boundaries of African countries today.

Partitioned Africa

PARTITION OF AFRICA 1885 - 1914



Africa divided

- European powers structured Africa's population in ways that would make the most efficient workforce, ignoring Africa's cultural groups or existing political leadership at the time of colonization.
 - Sometimes they grouped together people who had never been united before.
 - Sometimes they divided existing groups of people.
- The creation of these borders had a negative impact on Africa's political and social structures by either dividing groups that wanted to be together or combining ethnic groups that were enemies.

Colonial administration

- Europeans placed colonies into administrative districts and forced the Africans to go along with their demands.
 - In order to establish their indirect rule, Europeans used local chiefs as their enforcers in the colonies.
- Europeans also tried to assimilate Africans (have African people give up their own African customs and adopt European customs).

Partition evolved into disputes

1. Territorial boundaries

- S. Sudan – Uganda
- Uganda – Kenya (Rock Island)
- Uganda – Congo – Albertine region
- Uganda – Rwanda – border closed
- S.Sudan – Sudan (oil region)
- Kagera crisis – 1978/79 war

Disputes cont'd

2. Governance - Sudan and South Sudan
3. Religion – Islam Vs Christianity
4. Culture – cattle raiding Vs modernity
5. Resources – oil boundaries (S.S Vs Sudan, Uganda Vs Congo)

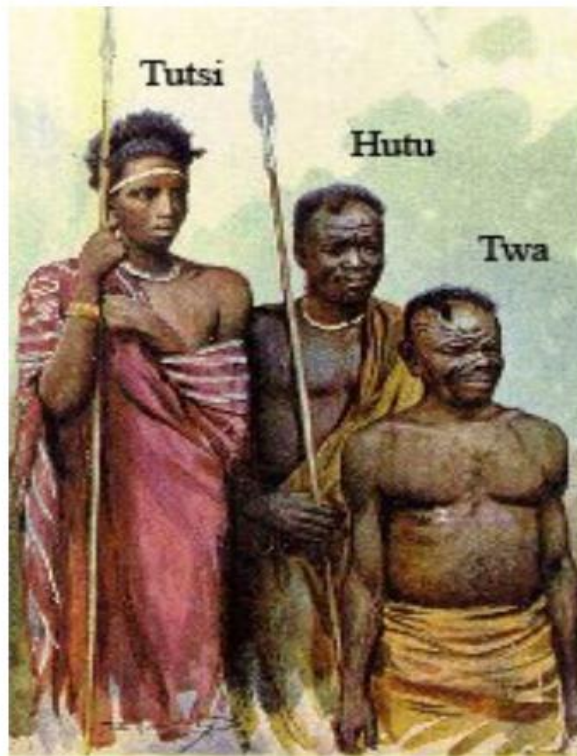
Creating Ethnic Units

- Ethnicity, tribalism and Nationalism often used interchangeably
- Tribalism (an outdated term)
- Ethnic group (Preferred term for group) *How to determine*)
- Identity: Conception of self; social attributes of particular individuals shaped by many social, cultural, political, economic factors
- Ethnic pluralism

Causes of Ethnic Conflict

- Ancient Hatreds
- Rarely about just ethnicity
- Political undertones
- Stereo types 'Us vs Them'
- Competition for resources (Buganda/Bunyoro)
- Modernization?
- Weak political institutions
- Democratization?
- Proliferation of automatic weapons?

Example of Rwanda Ethnic disputes



Hutu became oppressed.

Tutsi were seen as more “European” because they were taller, had lighter skin, and willing to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Tutsi had power under

Example of African Traditional Conflict Resolution

<https://youtu.be/R39RWdwCmGw>

Results of borders

Ethnic Conflicts:

- Occurs when violent acts are committed between ethnic groups
- Ethnic cleansing/Genocide
 - EX: Rwanda, Kosovo & Sudan



Religious Conflicts:

- Occurs when there is violence between different religious groups
 - Ex. Conflict between India (Hindu) & Pakistan (Muslim) over Kashmir



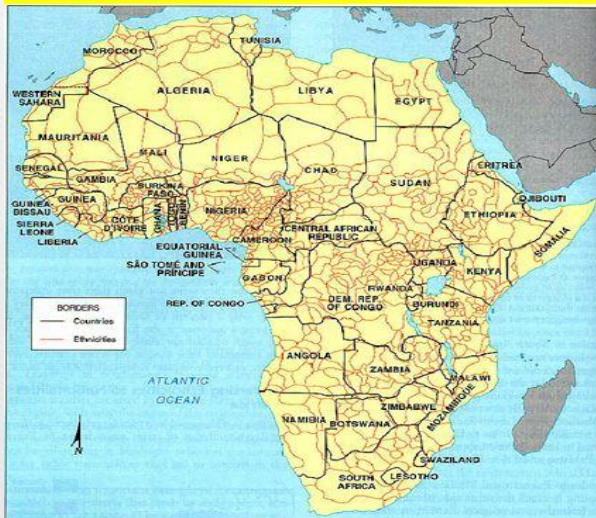
Boundary Disputes:

The Great Lakes

Sudan, S. Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda

Political Legacy of European Imperialism in sub-Saharan Africa:

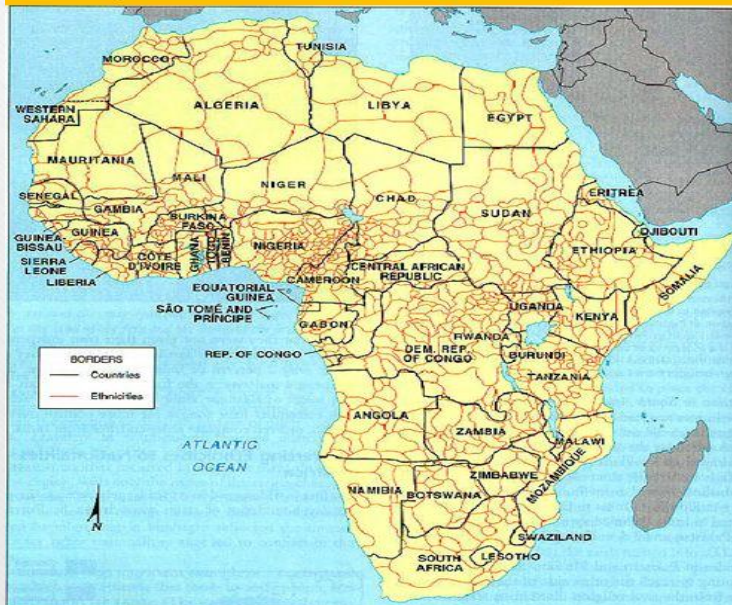
1) Most African countries are dominated by political instability- primarily due to the Europeans creating political boundaries that grouped several tribes together who were traditionally enemies..



Lack of Political Unity (Cont'd)

Reasons For sub-Saharan Africa's Lack of Political Unity:

2) Sub-Saharan Africa is too culturally diverse (there are over 2,000 ethnic groups, or *tribes*).



All of these ethnic groups do not have enough in common to form a national identity and thus form one nation.

Uganda - Rwanda

Consequences of European Imperialism on sub-Saharan Africa's Current Political Instability



The Europeans created political boundaries (countries) without regard to the location of African ethnic groups; the Europeans combined African ethnic groups (tribes) who were traditional enemies.

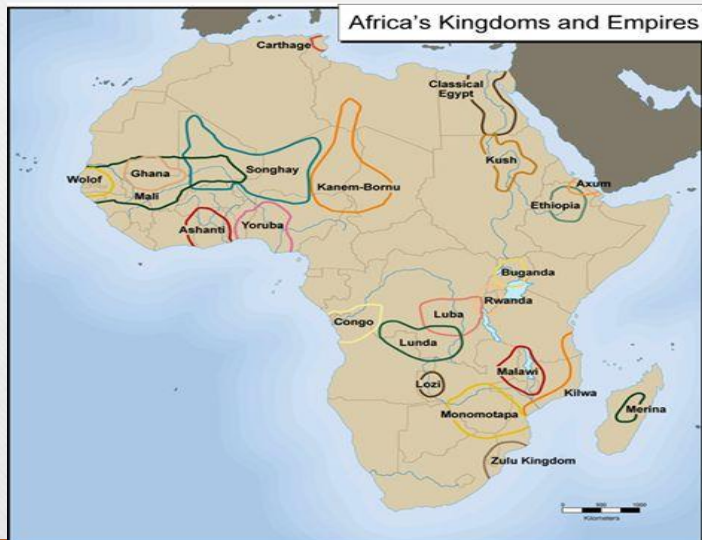
Rwanda –Uganda border closure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fh9vqbxNQmk>

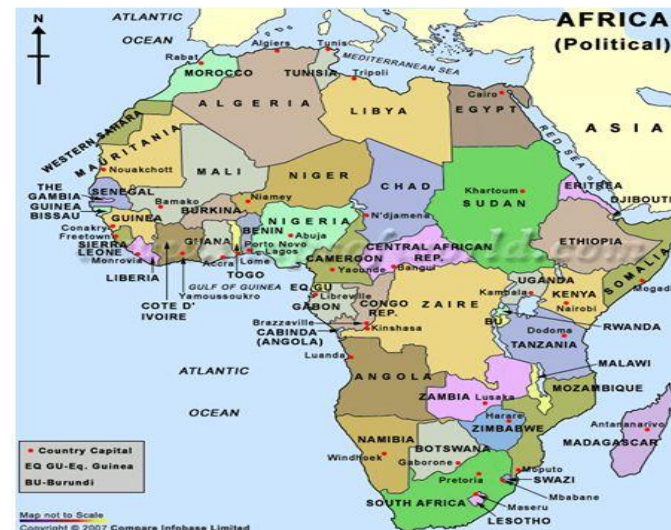
“United States of Africa” Balkanization

As a result, Africa has always lacked a larger national identity. In other words, there never has been an “United States of Africa”. *Why?*

*The Political Geography of Africa
in the Past*



*The Current Political
Geography of Africa*



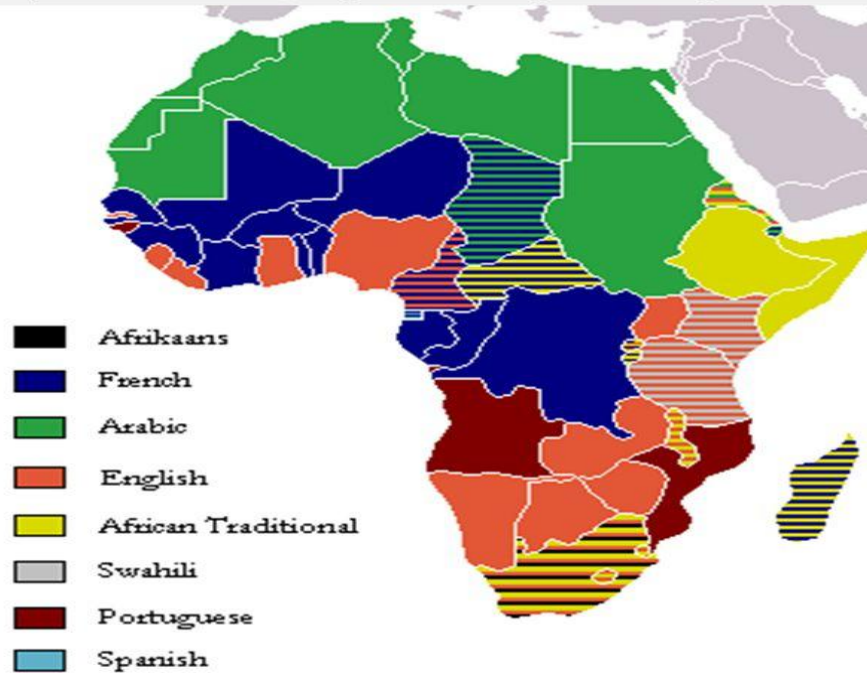
Language in Africa

- There are over 2100 and by some counts over 3000 languages spoken natively in Africa in several major language families



English and French

Cultural Legacy of European Imperialism in sub-Saharan Africa:



2) Most sub-Saharan African countries have continued to use the languages of their former European colonizers.

During the colonial period, European imperial powers used their own languages for administrative purposes.

and armed groups controlling much of the countryside.

diplomacy to defuse tensions between the two.

7. SOUTH SUDAN

The South Sudanese government has the military upper hand, but much of the country remains in a state between war and peace. The AU is reviving its High-Level Ad Hoc Committee; it should closely engage South Sudan's neighbours to mitigate regional tensions and support peace, as well as setting a realistic timetable for elections.

6. SOMALIA

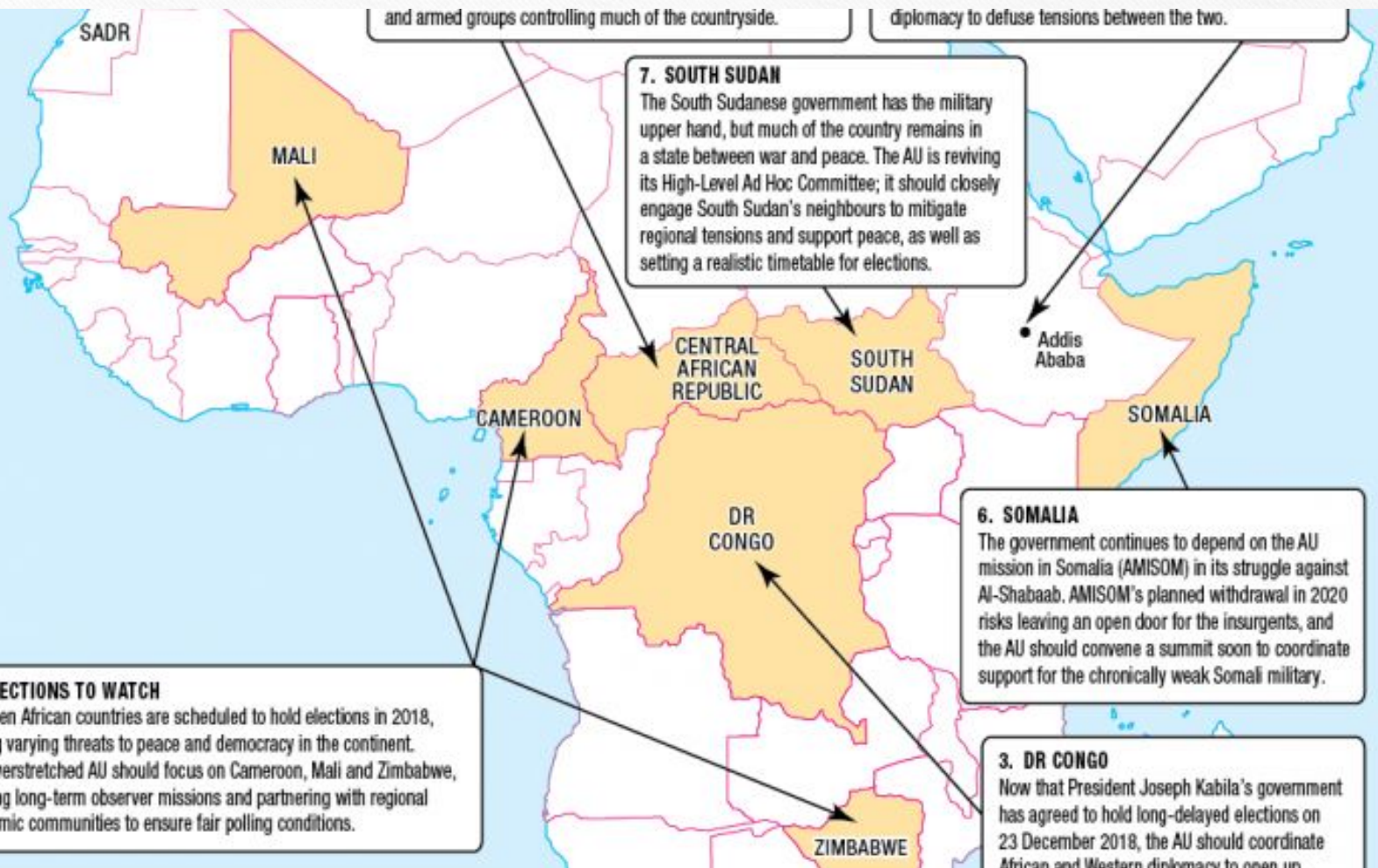
The government continues to depend on the AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in its struggle against Al-Shabaab. AMISOM's planned withdrawal in 2020 risks leaving an open door for the insurgents, and the AU should convene a summit soon to coordinate support for the chronically weak Somali military.

3. DR CONGO

Now that President Joseph Kabila's government has agreed to hold long-delayed elections on 23 December 2018, the AU should coordinate African and Western diplomacy to open up

4. ELECTIONS TO WATCH

Eighteen African countries are scheduled to hold elections in 2018, posing varying threats to peace and democracy in the continent. The overstretched AU should focus on Cameroon, Mali and Zimbabwe, sending long-term observer missions and partnering with regional economic communities to ensure fair polling conditions.



Grazie, Thank you



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