

The Kingdom of Mali

ANCIENT AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS [AFN 121]

The Mali Empire

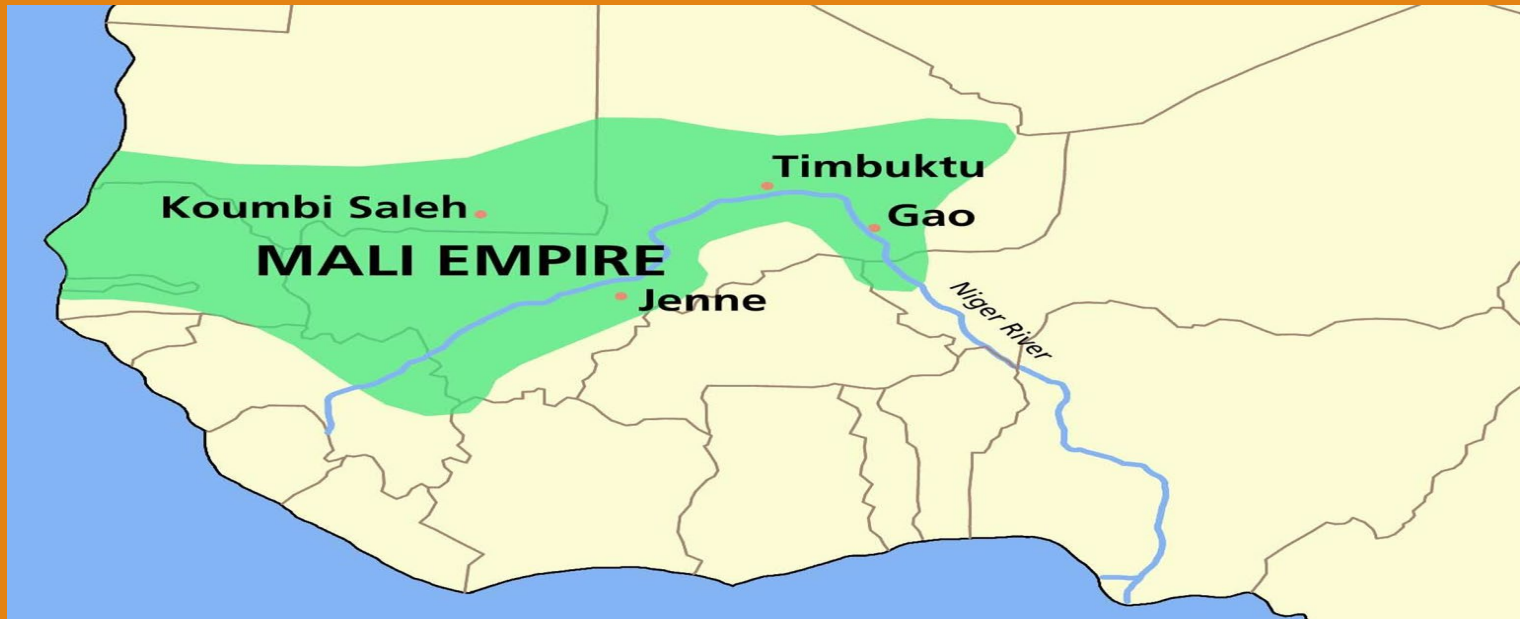
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History



Mali is a Western African Civilization. It is located below the Sahara desert and between the Niger floodplains and west Africa gold mines

Mali reign was from the 13th to 16th century. When the reign of the Ghana empire was weakened and the country divided. Sundiata Ketia, united the tribes of the Manlike people overthrew SoSo, the conquered the Ghana empire. Sundiata paved the way for some of his successor to start to conquering parts of kingdoms that we know as Guinea, Senegal, Niger and Nigeria.

By the peak of the empire in the 1300s it was one of the biggest and wealthiest empires in Africa

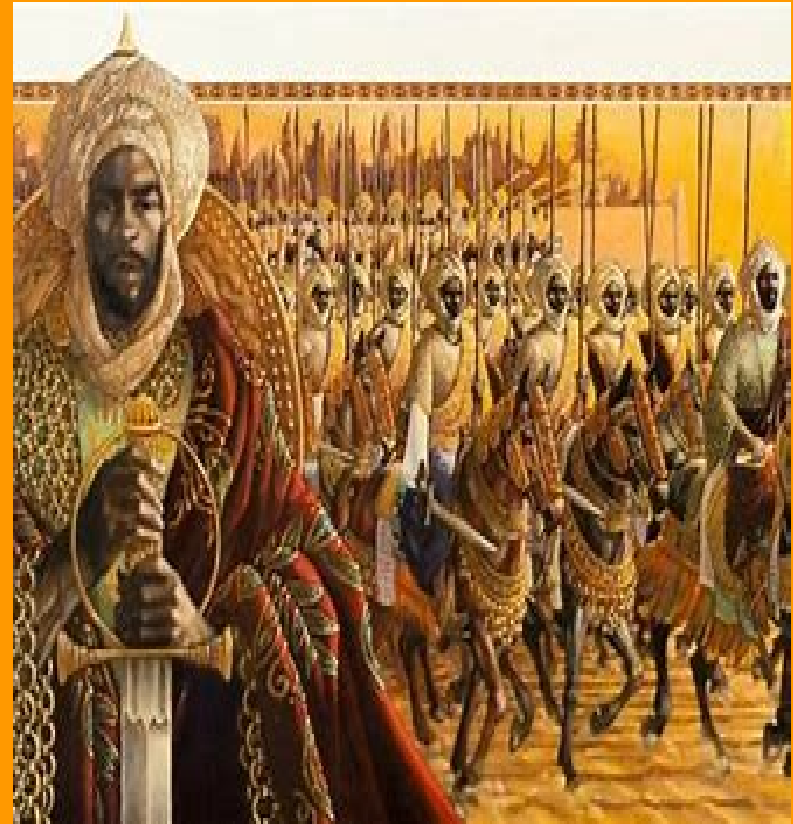
Mali Governence



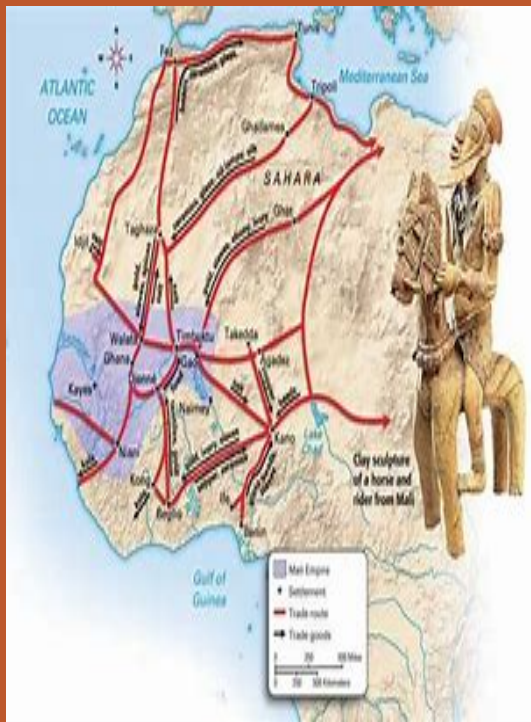
- Sandiata started the success of mali empire with having the imperial army made of many former cheifs of the lands of the Ghana empire conquer vast terriotores such asmperial armies secured the "gold-bearing lands of Bondu and Bambuk to the south, the Diara in the northwest, and pushed along the Niger as far north as Lac Débo."
- He started a government of tribal leaders and arabic merchants.
- The imperial army was a huge part of mali empire reign. The Imperial army is said to have 100,00 men

Mansa Musa

- Mansa Musa started his reign in 1307-1332. He is said to be the emperor that brought Mali to its peak under his leadership.
- he gained reign over lands of middle Niger, he gained into his empire the trading cities of timbuktu and gao. he also imposed his rule on south saharan cities of walata and the north salt mine cities in tagahaza. he empire went as far east as the hausa people and far west as takrur”
- He is known for his pilgrimage to Mecca. On his travel he had a large entourage of thousands of people. He brought a lot of gold even some carried by camels . on his journey he gave away a lot of gold and goods. This attracted the eyes of the europeans.
- On his return from the Mecca he brought back many scholars and architects that build mosque in timbuktu and gao



Trading



- ❖ Mali controlled most of the trans- sharan trade routes.
- ❖ with the trade from the the north and south Mali gained enormous wealth through trade. They tripled the tax on passage of the traded good, they brought goods fr cheap and then they sold the good at double the price, the also had access to their own gold and salt mines.
- ❖ they traded things such as ivory, textiles, horses, cotton,weapons, sugar, kola nuts,millents and even slaves
- ❖ There was trade hubs in Timbutu and Gao

Religion



- in early times in Mali the people of Mande were polytheistic and believed in the spirit of the land.
- Islam grew in Mali due to traders' influence and Sankarā converted to Islam.
- Islam really took over when Mansa Musa came back from his journey with the scholars, government officials and a famous architect named Ishāq Ijāz who built two famous mosques: Djinguereber in Gao and Sankore in Timbuktu.

Art and Culture



The manlike people are famous for telling stories of their elders and ancient cities through story tellers called “griots” accompanied by music this became a ritual.

Figures made from solid and iron beam reinforcements and some made of wood would depict the images of warriors and common people. they were used for everyday purpose and even burial rituals



End of an Empire

Mali lost its power due to civil wars that weakened them and more trade routes coming about they lost the trading power. more kingdoms started to develop. The songhai empire eventually overthrew the Mali empire in the end of 15th century