

THE MALI EMPIRE

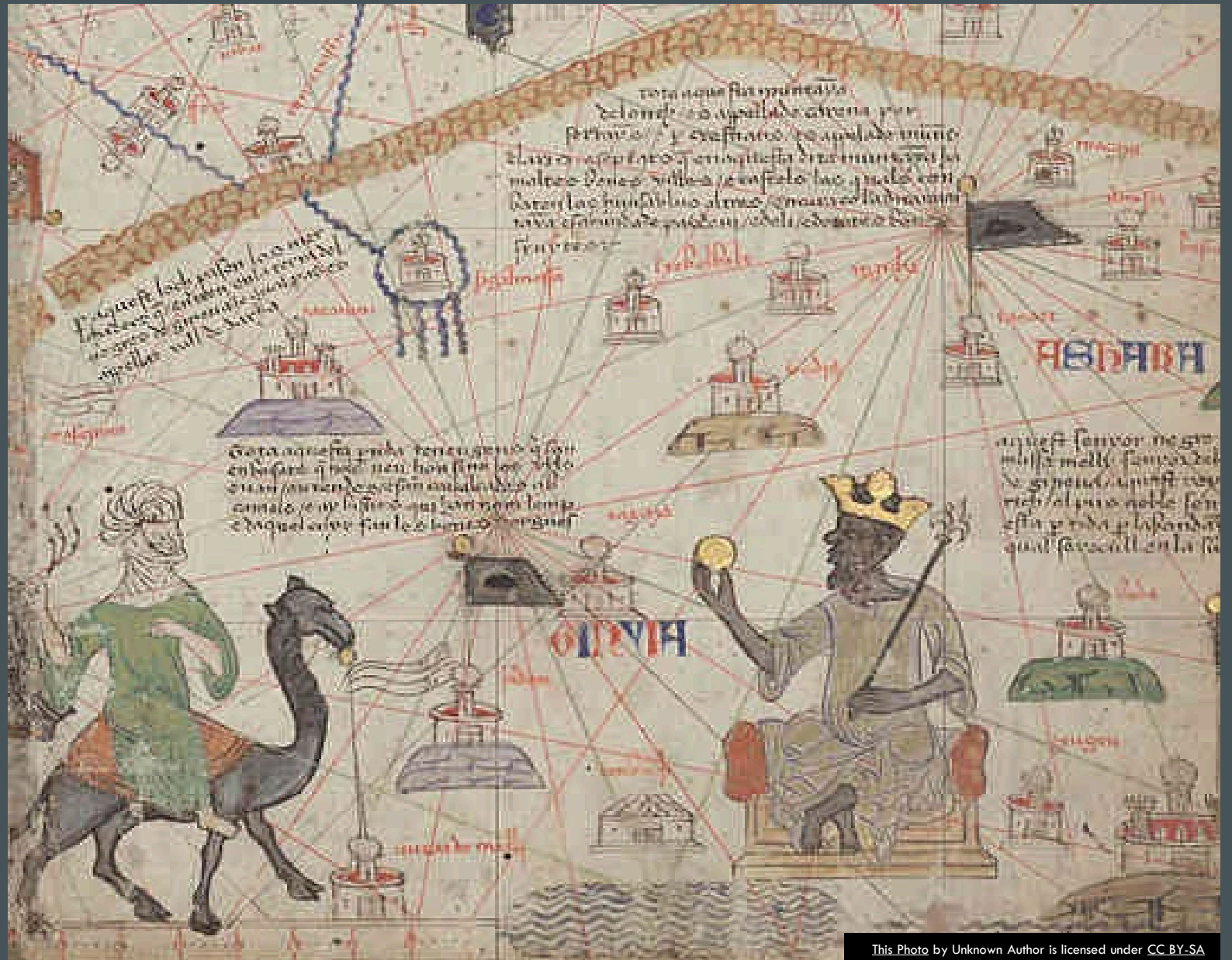


PRESENTED BY AMADOU D.

BMCC - CUNY

AFN 121, FALL 2021

PROF. REMI ALAPO





This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

- ✓ SUNDIATA (SUNJATA) KEITA WAS A WEST AFRICAN POLITICAL LEADER WHO WOULD BECOME THE FOUNDER AND FIRST RULER OF THE MALI EMPIRE IN MEDIEVAL WEST AFRICA. HE FOUNDED THE EMPIRE CIRCA 1235 CE AND RULED UNTIL HIS DEATH IN CIRCA 1255 CE. THE MALI EMPIRE WAS PROSPEROUS UNDER HIS RULE. SUNDIATA WAS ALSO THE GREAT UNCLE OF THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE RULERS OF MALI, MANSA MUSA, WHOSE WELL-DOCUMENTED AND LAVISH PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA IN ARABIA MADE MALI THE MOST FAMOUS AFRICAN EMPIRE IN THE WORLD AT THAT TIME.
- ✓ THE MALINKE KINGDOM, KANGABA, WAS PART OF THE GHANA EMPIRE OF WEST AFRICA. ORAL STORIES ABOUT KEITA SAY THAT HE WAS A SICKLY CHILD OR SUFFERED FROM SOME SORT OF PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT. THIS EXPLAINS WHY, WHEN HIS BROTHERS WERE KILLED BY THE RULERS OF GHANA, HE WAS SPARED. EVENTUALLY, HE BECAME A LOCAL LEADER OF THE KINGDOM OF KANGABA.

INTRO

TRADING AND PROFIT



CAMEL CARAVANS AS THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT

TRADERS MOVED THEIR GOODS ACROSS THE SAHARA IN LARGE GROUPS CALLED CARAVANS. CAMELS WERE THE MAIN MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AND WERE USED TO CARRY GOODS AND PEOPLE. THE CAMEL WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE CARAVAN. WITHOUT THE CAMEL, TRADE ACROSS THE SAHARA WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. CAMELS ARE UNIQUELY ADAPTED TO SURVIVE LONG PERIODS WITHOUT WATER. THEY CAN ALSO SURVIVE LARGE CHANGES IN BODY TEMPERATURE ALLOWING THEM TO WITHSTAND THE HEAT OF THE DAY AND THE COLD OF NIGHT IN THE DESERT.

AGRICULTURE

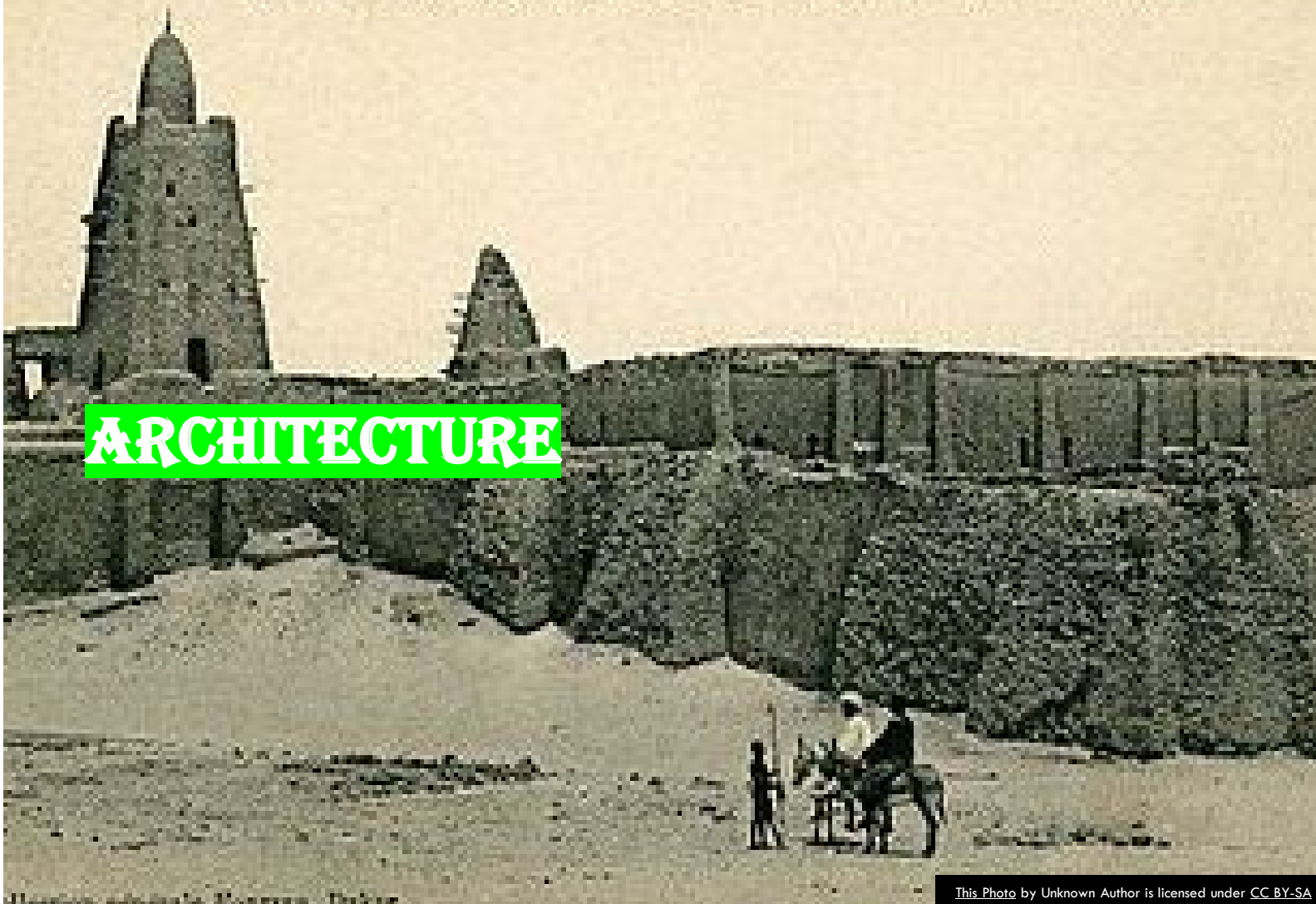
- AN AGRICULTURAL AREA OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IS THE INLAND NIGER DELTA. MILLET, RICE, WHEAT, AND CORN (MAIZE), AS WELL AS YAMS AND CASSAVA (MANIOC), ARE THE MAIN SUBSISTENCE CROPS, WHILE COTTON IS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CROP; PEANUTS (GROUNDNUTS), SUGARCANE, TOBACCO, AND TEA ARE ALSO GROWN FOR MARKET.



GOVERNMENT

- the emperor of Mali. The mansa had absolute power which was incontestable. He ruled the empire with total authority, passed down by heredity. In fact, nearly every part of Mali society was based on ancestry. Each clan had its own founding ancestor, and most people were required to be whatever their parents were. That means that if your parents were merchants, you would be a merchant. If they were farmers, you would be a farmer. If they were in government, then that was really your only career option.
- The Mali Empire functioned with a complex and centralized system of administration. Where did this come from? Around 1000 CE, the Mali people and rulers largely adopted Islam as their religion. The structures of Islam not only generated a royal obligation to fund education and the arts, but also provided guidance on creating a clearly organized society. Islam was the state religion of the Mali Empire and was crucial in matters of daily administration and government.

372. Afrique Occidentale - MALI — TOMBOUCTOU
Mosquée de Djingiray-ber au sud de la Ville, construite au XI^e siècle par le Mansa



DUE TO ITS PROSPERITY, THE MALI EMPIRE CONSTRUCTED AMBITIOUS ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS. THE STRUCTURES WERE MOSTLY RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND PALACES. MALI WAS A MUSLIM KINGDOM, AND THE MONARCHS ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE MOSQUES TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWING CONGREGATION IN THE CITIES. LARGE PALACES WERE ALSO BUILT FOR THE MIGHTY KINGS.

THE MALI ARCHITECTURE WAS ADAPTED TO THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND WEATHER, AND IT MOSTLY USED LOCAL MATERIALS. THE CONSTRUCTIONS WERE USUALLY MADE OUT OF **MUD BRICKS**, CREATED BY COMBINING THE MUD WITH HUSKS FROM RICE OR OTHER GRAINS. THE BRICKS WERE DRIED IN THE SUN AND USED FOR BUILDING THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WALLS. A FINISH WITH PLASTER MADE FROM EARTH AND WATER WAS THEN APPLIED. MUD BRICK CONSTRUCTION IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS "ADOBE" OR "BANCO."



FROM THE NOMADIC TUAREG, FULANI, BOZO FISHERS, BAMBARA, AND DOGON FARMERS, EACH OF MALI'S DOZENS OF ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE LANGUAGES AND HISTORY, YET GENERALLY INTERACT AMICABLY WITH EACH OTHER. EACH OF THESE HAS PASSED DOWN THEIR OWN TRADITIONS, HISTORY AND OCCUPATIONS OVER THE CENTURIES. MALIAN MUSIC AND LITERATURE HAVE BOTH BEEN HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY LONGTIME ORAL STORYTELLING. TRADITIONAL STORYTELLERS CALLED *GRIOTS* SOFTEN PERFORM AT WEDDINGS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS.

Culture



There are three main religions. Sunni Islam is practiced by more than nine-tenths of the population, traditional religions by most of the rest, and Christianity (primarily Roman Catholicism and Protestantism) by a small number. Islamization dates to the 11th century and has eclipsed traditional religions among the Soninke, Songhai, Moors, Tuareg, and most Fulani. Many of the Gur-speaking peoples, especially the Dogon, as well as some Malinke and Bambara, practice traditional African religions. Even among Muslim and Christian converts, many traditional beliefs persist.

RELIGION



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

MILITARY

- **THE MILITARY HISTORY OF THE MALI EMPIRE IS THAT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE MALI EMPIRE, WHICH DOMINATED WESTERN AFRICA FROM THE MID 13TH TO THE LATE 15TH CENTURY. THE MILITARY CULTURE OF THE EMPIRE'S DRIVING FORCE, MANDINKA PEOPLE, INFLUENCED MANY LATER STATES IN WEST AFRICA INCLUDING BREAK-AWAY POWERS SUCH AS THE SONGHAY AND JOLOF EMPIRES. INSTITUTIONS FROM THE MALI EMPIRE ALSO SURVIVED IN THE 19TH CENTURY ARMY OF SAMORY TURE WHO SAW HIMSELF AS THE HEIR TO OLD MALI'S LEGACY.**

REFERENCES

- National Geographic Society. (2020, August 19). *The mali empire*. National Geographic Society. Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/mali-empire/>.
- *Rise and fall of the Mali Empire - youtube*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SYh___7iso.
- *Ancient Africa- The Empire of Mali, Weebly.com* , <https://empireofmali.weebly.com/economy.html>
- *Mansa Musa, one of the wealthiest people who ... - youtube*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3YJMaL55TM>.