

22. Africa – Ethnicity

Africa = variety of races, languages and religions => important influence on economic and political affairs.

Main ethnics

White people live mainly in RSA, Zimbabwe (Mugabe's apartheid). Until 1986 in RSA were laws against *miscegenation*.

- *Negroes* = largest racial group, most of the continent south of the Sahara.
- *Bushmen* + *Pygmies* = aboriginal inhabitants living in equatorial forests in Zaire (Congo) basin. Pygmies = 140-150 cm tall, shy hunters and collectors (gatherers).
- *Caucasoid* + *Armenoid people* = N + NE + S Africa

Languages

>800 languages are spoken in Africa.

- Hausa language = Nigeria.
- Bantu-speaking people = from central Africa to all directions (nowadays mainly in S + E Africa)
- Berber-speaking people (African Arabs) = NW Africa (Maghreb)
- Afrikaans-speaking people = mixture of Dutch and German

Society

Basic unit of the society is a *family* (few generations + cousins). Family has strong influence to an individual. Great mixture of *tribes* by marriages between the natives => strong tribalism.

Religion

- ❖ *Christians* (Roman Catholics + Protestants) = mostly in south of 10°N latitude
- ❖ *Muslims* (Islam) = north from 10°N latitude

Traditional ways of life

In more remote areas = people living in the Stone Age => hunting + collecting.

- *Pastoralists* = moving regularly between dry and wet season with their herds (camels, cattle, goats) to find new pastures, mainly in Saharan margins. They sell milk and butterfat to buy some goods they need (cloth, grain).
- *Cultivators*: growing of crops (e.g. bananas and yams – sweet potatoes – in equatorial zone)
 - Savanna cultivators* = millet (subequatorial zone)
 - Oasis cultivators* = peas, beans, melons, figs = need of large amount of water => irrigation by canals (Nile and Niger rivers)
- *Fishing* = coastal areas (e.g. Ghana – sardines) and lakes (Lake Victoria)

Keywords

Negroes, bushmen, pygmies, Bantu/Berber languages, miscegenation, pastoralism, cultivation