

CHAPTER SEVEN

Sub-Saharan Africa



Sub-Saharan Africa



Figure 7-1
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I. THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- ▶ 750 million people
- ▶ Fast-growing economies, rich mineral deposits
 - Neocolonialism: continued flows of wealth out of Africa following the end of colonialism
 - Lowest average per capita income in the world

A. Physical Patterns

▶ Landforms

- Center of Pangaea
 - ▶ Arabian Plate breaking away to the east
- Coastal lowlands surrounding a plateau
 - ▶ Southeast Africa has uplands
- Steep escarpments hinder transportation
 - ▶ Few natural harbors (long, uniform coastlines)

Opening of the Great Rift Valley



Figure 7-4

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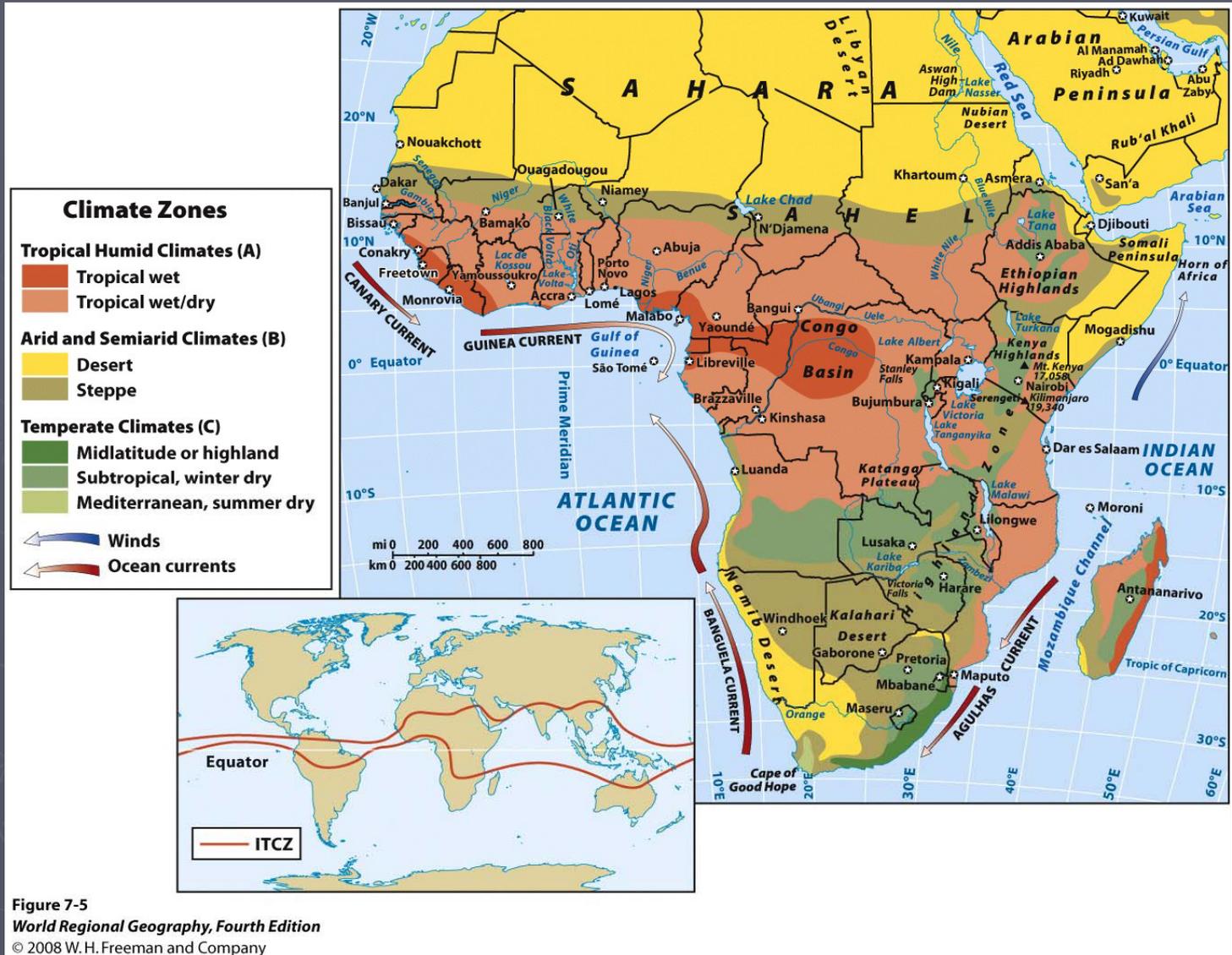
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A. Physical Patterns

► Climate

- Mostly tropical – seasons change more in rainfall than temperature
 - Intertropical Convergence Zone: warm winds rising and dropping rain
 - Shifts north-south seasonally
- Sahel: Southern fringes of Sahara; steppe and savanna grasses

Climate Zones



A. Physical Patterns

▶ Climate

- Problem 1: parasites and insects thrive in warm, wet climates
- Problem 2: water shortage in drier climates
- Problem 3: leaching of minerals in tropical soils
 - ▶ Laterite: sun-baked silt
 - ▶ Shifting cultivation: method of dealing with leaching
- Problem 4: global warming will lead to marginalization of existing land

B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ “The Dark Continent”

- Term historically used to marginalize Africa and make it liable to colonization
- Little education outside of Africa about African history prior to colonization

B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ The Peopling of Africa and Beyond
 - Africa: original home of the human species
 - ▶ Evolved in eastern Africa over 2 million years ago
 - ▶ Migrated as far as the Caucasus
 - Modern humans evolved in Africa and intermingled with existing human populations throughout Eurasia

B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ Early Agriculture, Industry, and Trade in Africa
 - Farming begins 7000 years ago just south of the Sahara
 - ▶ Bantu farmers migrate into Southern Africa, displacing hunter-gatherers
 - Trade networks stretched to Europe, India, China
 - ▶ Iron production began 2500 years ago
 - ▶ Slave trade emerged as a result of tribal conflict
 - ▶ Expanded with arrival of Islam to create Mediterranean and Indian Ocean trade

Great Zimbabwe National Monument



Figure 7-7

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ The European Slave Trade
 - Portuguese organize trans-Atlantic trade
 - ▶ Later adopted by British, Dutch, and French
 - More brutal than earlier trade, slaves treated only as a commodity
 - Europeans controlled coast, required locals to kidnap people and sell them to Europeans
 - ▶ $\frac{1}{4}$ died during trip to Americas
 - ▶ Primary destinations: Caribbean and Brazil
 - ▶ 1600–1865: about 12 million captives taken

Slave Trade

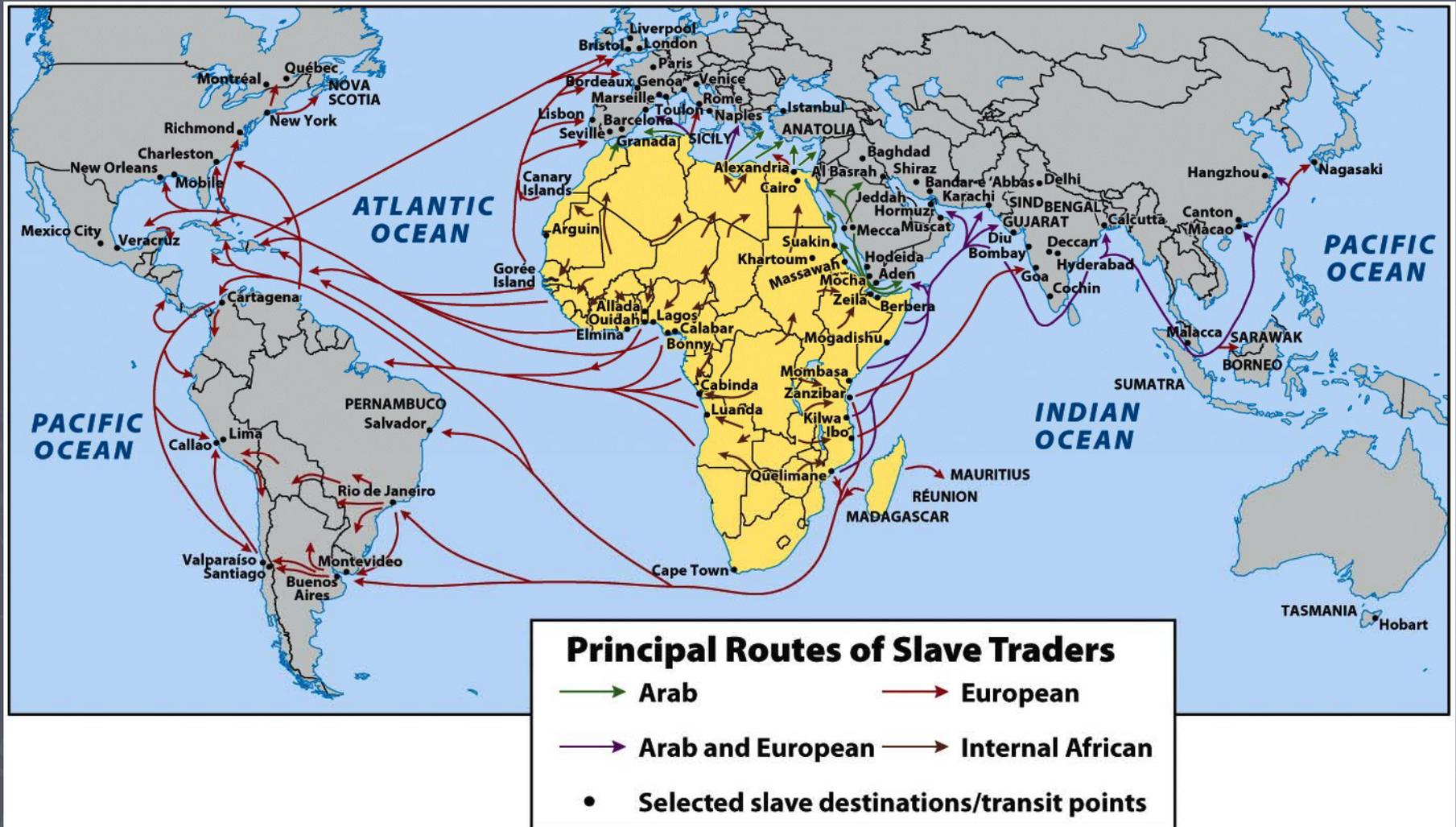


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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ The Scramble to Colonize Africa
 - End of slave trade brought use of African labor in Africa
 - Formal colonization occurs in late 1800s
 - ▶ Europeans exploited fertile agricultural zones, areas of mineral, and places with large populations
 - Africa's borders today largely result from colonial boundaries set up without the consultation of Africans

Colonial Borders, 1914

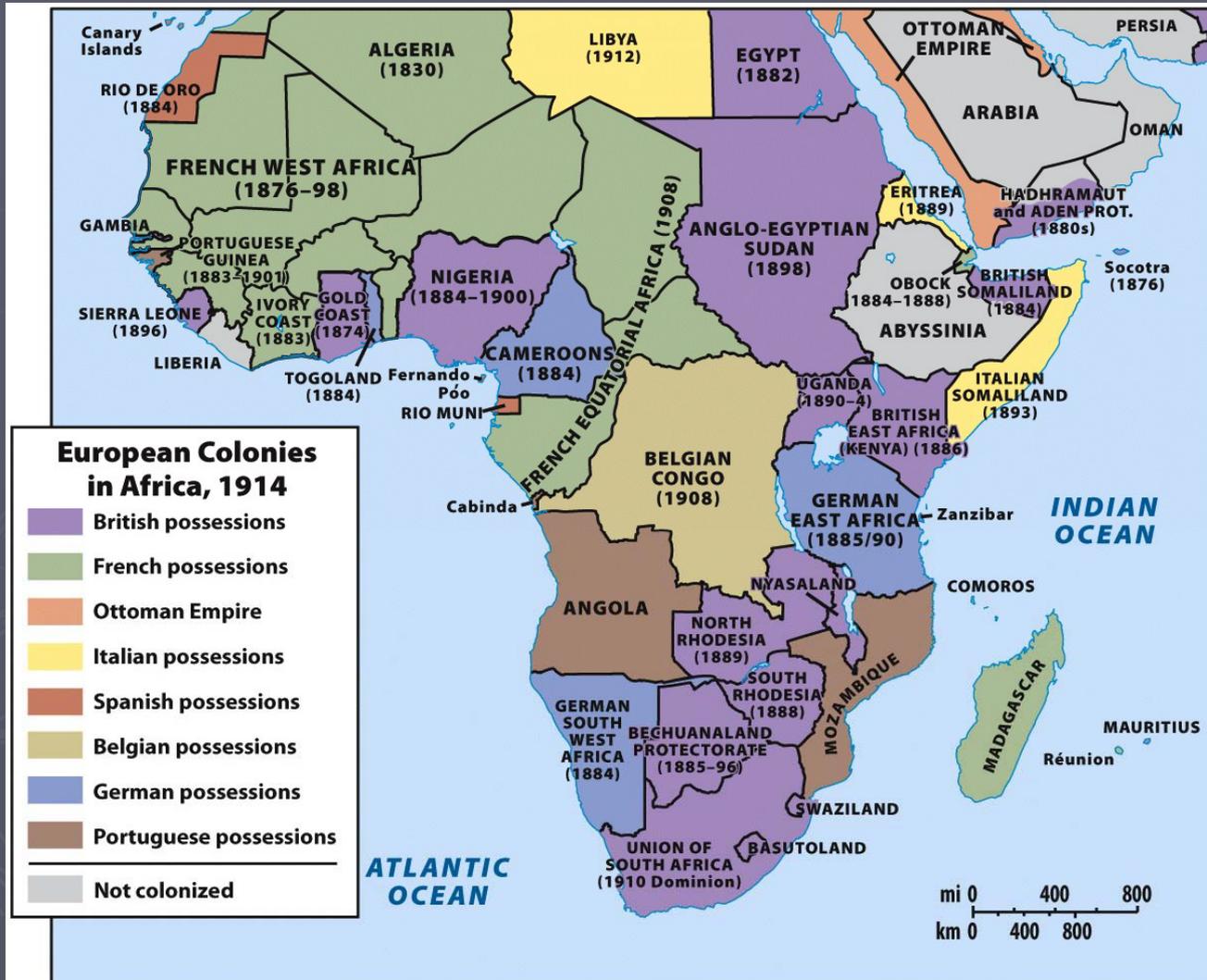


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B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ The Scramble to Colonize Africa
 - Basic geographic patterns:
 - ▶ Europeans lived in high densities only in places with lots of resources or a comfortable climate
 - ▶ Africans remained in possession of only the worst land, but were forced to grow cash crops
 - ▶ Places with few resources served as labor pools for large projects
 - Main goals of colonization
 - ▶ Extract resources
 - ▶ Create markets
 - ▶ Keep administrative costs to a minimum

B. Human Patterns Over Time

- ▶ The Colonization of South Africa
 - Dutch occupation pushed KhoiKhoi off land
 - British invade to take control of resources
 - ▶ Dutch move north, enslave Africans
 - British occupy all the territory, South Africa created in 1910
 - ▶ Apartheid created to maintain racial segregation
 - ▶ Black Africans 80% of the population
 - ▶ Resistance began in 1912; Apartheid ended in 1994

Apartheid



Figure 7-11

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B. Human Patterns Over Time

▶ The Aftermath of Independence

- Formal colonization in Africa relatively short
 - ▶ Roughly, 1880s–1960s
- Most postcolonial governments were authoritarian, anti-democratic
 - ▶ Recent growth of pro-democracy movements
 - ▶ 23 of 47 countries are currently democracies
- Neocolonial dependence on former colonizers
 - ▶ Rapidly growing poverty

C. Population Patterns

- ▶ Misperception: Sub-Saharan Africa is densely populated
- ▶ Geographic fact: Sub-Saharan Africa is unevenly, but generally sparsely, populated
 - However, some countries are very high density (Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria)
 - Other countries have over 3% population growth (Chad, Liberia, Mali, Niger)

Population Distribution

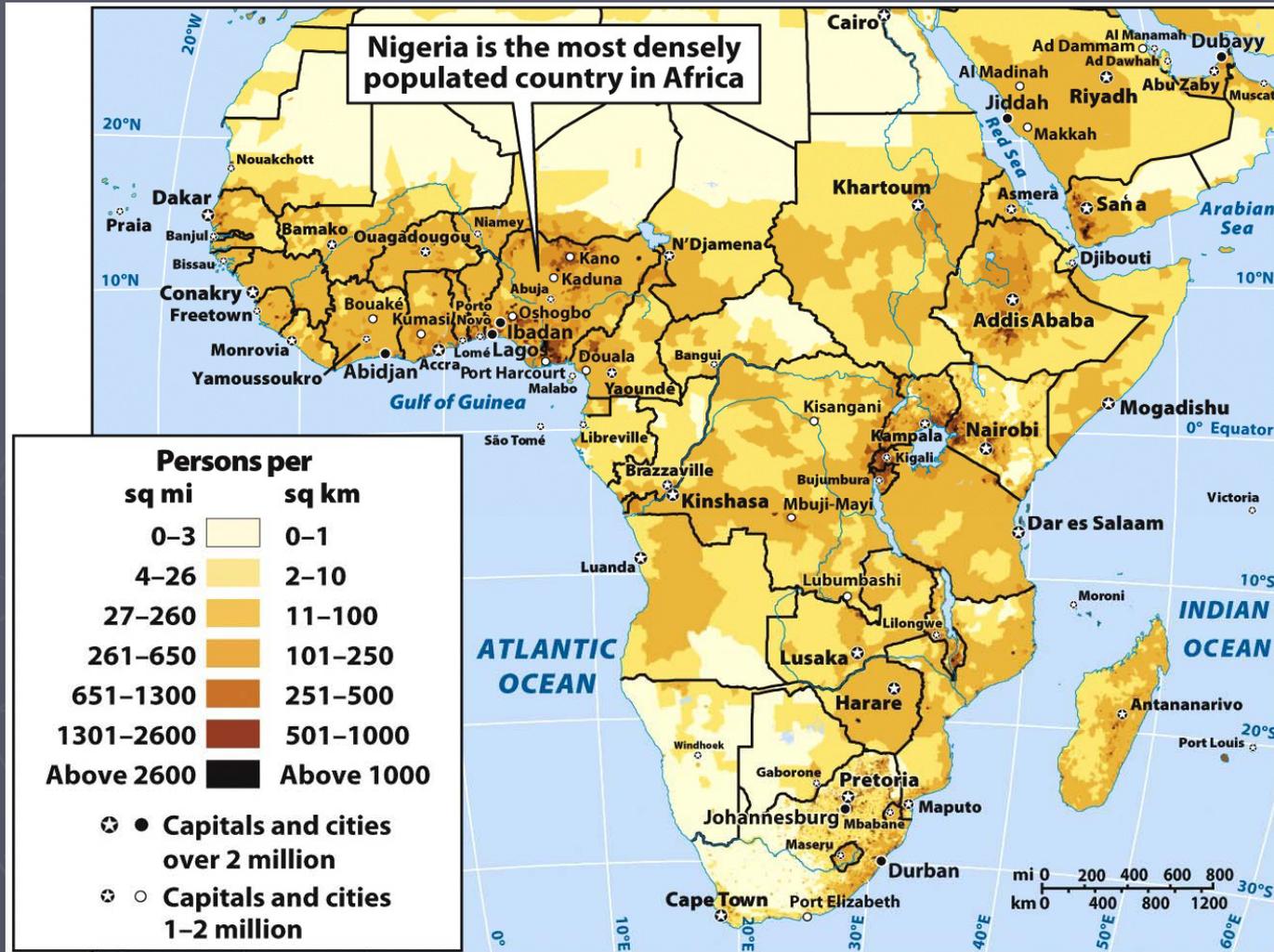


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C. Population Patterns

▶ Africa's Carrying Capacity

- Carrying capacity: maximum number of people that can be supported sustainably
 - ▶ Affected by cultural, social, economic, political, and physical landscapes
- Africa has about 33% of the world's refugees
 - ▶ If you include internal refugees, about half of the world's refugees
 - ▶ Impacts development strategies

Somali Refugees



Figure 7-14

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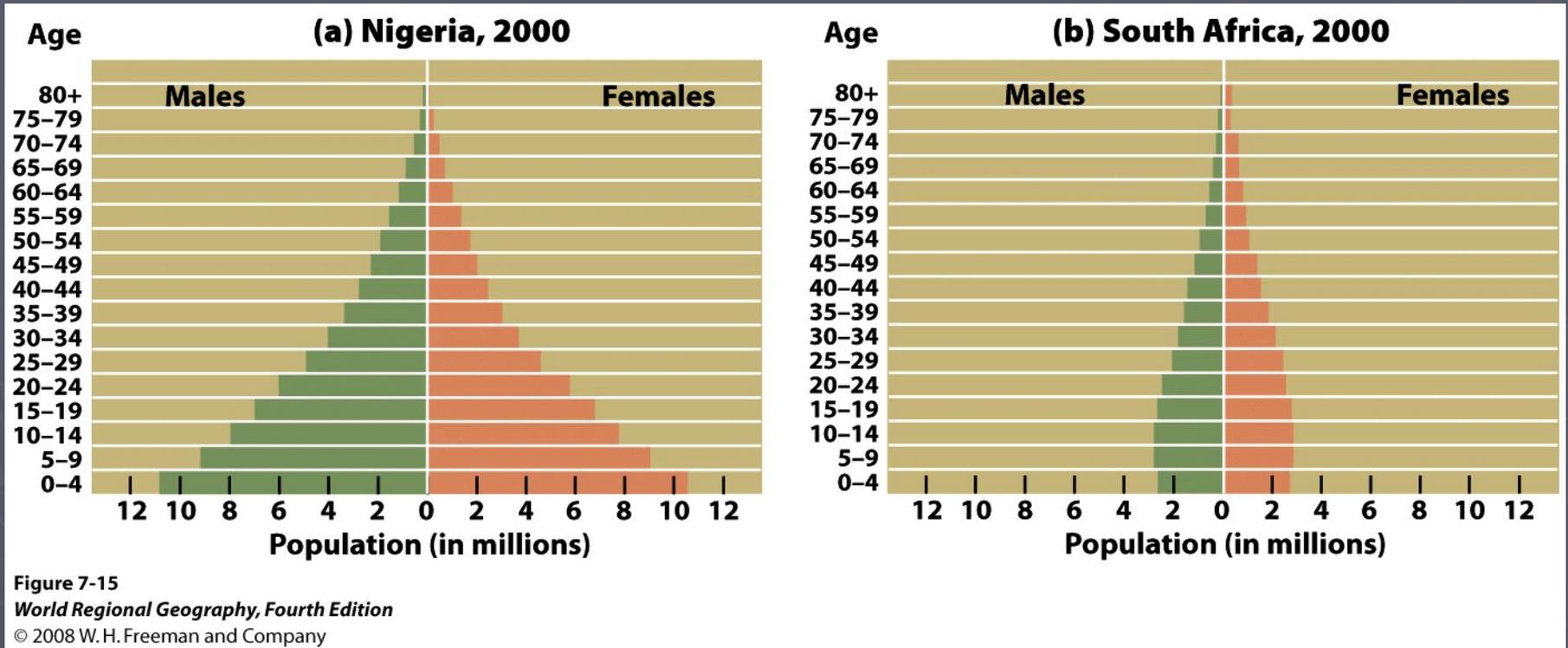
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C. Population Patterns

▶ Population Growth

- Fastest growing population in the world
 - ▶ Has tripled in less than 50 years (~752 million)
- Main threat to human well-being
- Lagging in demographic transition
 - ▶ Children both economic advantage and spiritual link to past and future
 - ▶ Declining fertility rates in most developed countries, where women are empowered
- Low rate of contraception use (half of other world regions)

Population Pyramids



C. Population Patterns

▶ Population and Public Health

- Troubled by infectious diseases
 - ▶ Schistosomiasis, sleeping sickness, malaria, river blindness, cholera, HIV/AIDS
 - ▶ 50% of all deaths
- Most linked to particular ecological zones
- An African child dies every 30 seconds of malaria
 - ▶ Short supply of medicine goes to Western tourists

Comparison of Cause of Death Statistics

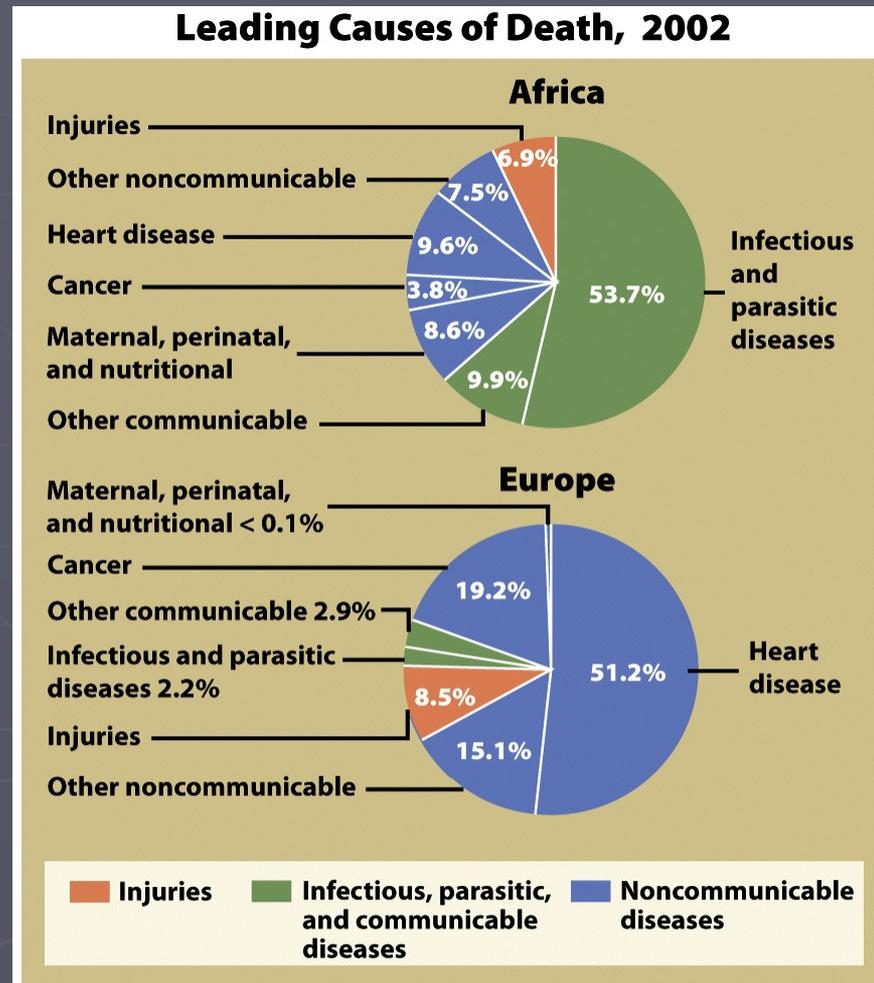


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C. Population Patterns

▶ HIV/AIDS in Africa

- 24.5 million HIV-infected people
 - ▶ 63% of the worldwide total
 - ▶ 6.1% of adults are infected
 - ▶ Highest in Southern Africa
- Bias towards women
 - ▶ 4/5 of the world's HIV-infected women are in sub-Saharan Africa
 - ▶ Results from inability of wives to refuse their husbands who visit sex workers
 - ▶ Similar inability to insist on condoms

C. Population Patterns

▶ HIV/AIDS in Africa

- Education key to reducing infection rates
 - ▶ Successes in Uganda and Senegal
 - ▶ Poor government effort in late 1990s South Africa
- Treatment too expensive for most Africans
 - ▶ \$10,000 per year per patient
- Patent-busting in Cuba and India has helped
 - ▶ \$365 per year per patient
 - ▶ Still too expensive for most
- 11% of AIDS patients in sub-Saharan Africa have access to antiretroviral drugs

HIV/AIDS

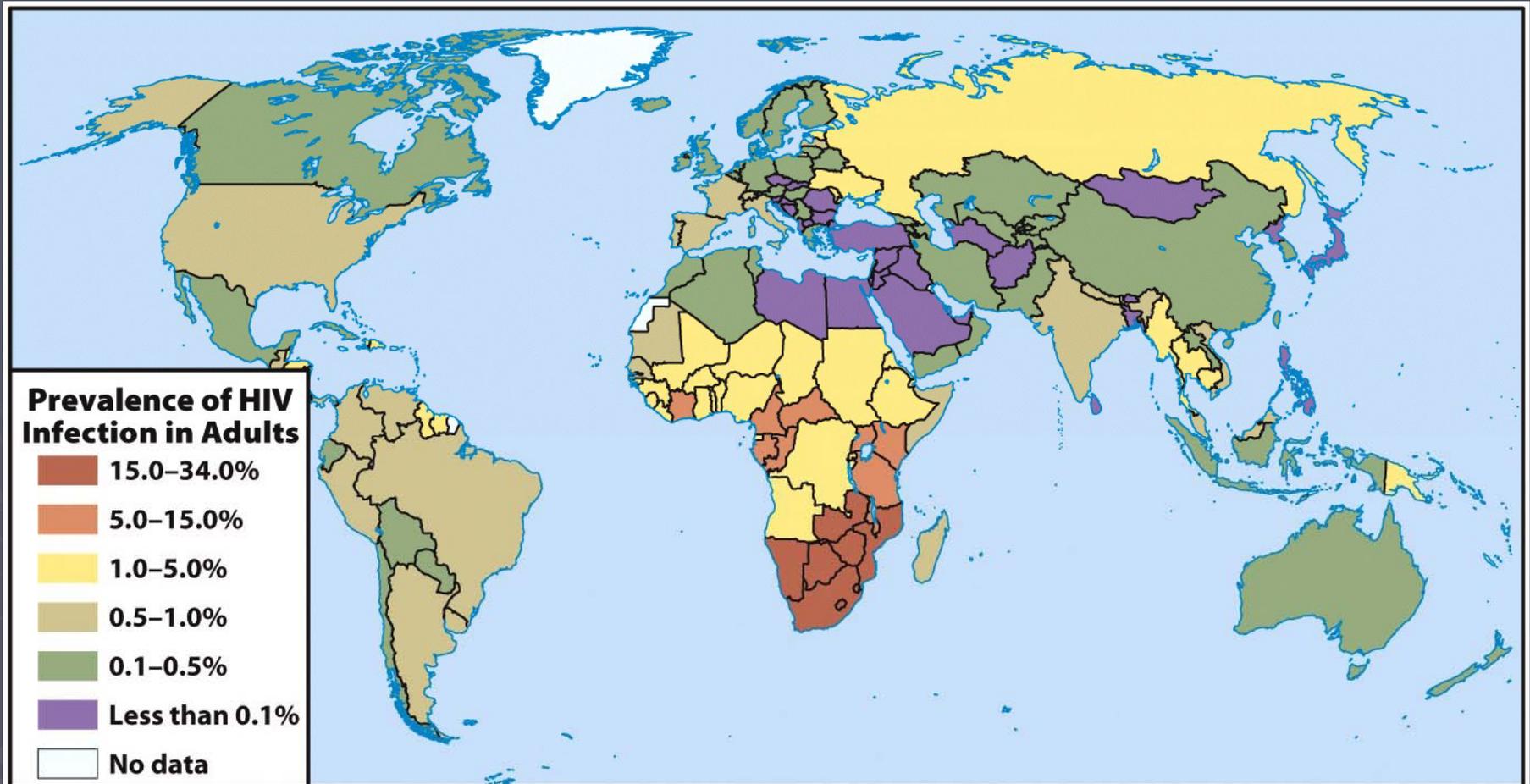


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