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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Kush** | **Aksum** | **Ghana** | **Mali** | **Songhai** | **Kongo** | **Shona** |
| **Time**  | 2000 BC-350 AD | 0-400 | 300-1200 | 1230-1430 | 1300-1591 | 1300-1800 | 1000-1500 |
| **Location** | Nubia, present-day Egypt and Sudan | Southeast of Kush, present-day Ethiopia and Eritrea | West Africa, Between the Senegal and Niger Rivers | West Africa, along the Niger River | West Africa, along the Niger River | Central Africa by the Congo River | Southeast Africa, present-day Zimbabwe and Mozambique |
| **Leaders** | Queen Shanakhdakheto |  | Tunka Manin | SundiataMansa Musa | Sunni AliAskia the Great |  |  |
| **Items Traded** | GoldPotteryIron toolsSlavesivory |  | GoldSalt | GoldSalt | GoldSalt | Animal skinsShellsSlavesIvory | Gold |
| **Accomp-lishments** |  | Conquered the Kush |  | Books and knowledge |  | Established trades routes to east and west Africa | Great ZimbabweLarge trading center |
| **Why Decline** | Aksum took over |  | Invasion by Almoravids and Overgrazing | Tuareg took over  | Morocco took over | Weakened by Europeans | Gold trade declined |