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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 | Sundiata  Mansa Musa | Sunni Ali  Askia the Great |  |  |
| **Items Traded** | Gold  Pottery  Iron tools  Slaves  ivory |  | Gold  Salt | Gold  Salt | Gold  Salt | Animal skins  Shells  Slaves  Ivory | Gold |
| **Accomp-lishments** |  | Conquered the Kush |  | Books and knowledge |  | Established trades routes to east and west Africa | Great Zimbabwe  Large trading center |
| **Why Decline** | Aksum took over |  | Invasion by Almoravids and Overgrazing | Tuareg took over | Morocco took over | Weakened by Europeans | Gold trade declined |