

Textbook Discussion Questions
Chapter 10: Africa and the International Community

African Geography and Culture

1. How have African political unity and economic development been hindered by geography?
2. Where did Western geographers divide Africa from Asia? What other natural land feature is an important way of dividing the continent?
3. Within the continent, states' political boundaries are often hotly contested. What is the major historical reason for this contestation, according to your textbook?

Africa as Part of World History

1. How has the writing of African history been biased by Western historians?
2. What tools helped make possible the Europeans' colonization of the African continent? What other historical contexts were important to their conquests as well?
3. How did Darwin's natural law of the "survival of the fittest" get applied to ideologies of imperial expansion in Africa in the 19th century?
4. In *Black Man's Burden*, what did author Edmund Morel say was the crime perpetrated against African citizens that was worse than murder?

Challenges to African Political and Economic Development

1. Why is Africa so poor? Discuss some historical, cultural or political explanations. Which explanation (or combination of explanations) do you find most convincing? Why?
2. Define neo-patrimonialism. Contrast the prevailing Western view of that system versus the way that African leaders themselves often define it.
3. How did the Cold War affect African lives?

African State Building and Global Economic Integration

Oil Exporters: Nigeria and Chad

1. According to your textbook, Nigeria has "an adequate agricultural base, a long seacoast, and the largest proven oil reserves in Africa," the eighth largest natural oil supply in the world. Why then has it not been able to create a well-balanced economy? Explain.

Colonial Exploitation, Corrupt Leadership, and Ethnic Conflict: Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan

1. Why has the international community had its eyes on the western province of Sudan known as Darfur in recent years?
2. Who are the Janjaweed?

Contested Borders in the Horn of Africa: Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya

1. What are some of the positive political and economic advances in the Horn in recent years?

Ivory Coast: The Cocoa and Coffee Conundrum

1. The Ivory Coast was hailed by the West as a model of modern economic development, based on its production of commodity exports such as cocoa and coffee. What was the problem with such an economic course of action?

The Curse of Corrupt and Incompetent Rule: Zimbabwe

1. The textbook reports that 80% of the labor force was out of work in Zimbabwe in 2005, and that the country currently possesses the lowest life expectancy in the world. It is run by a dictator, President Robert Mugabe, who stays in power thanks to the support of the military, and thanks to his police forces, which he uses to attack and intimidate opposition leaders. Do you think the United States should intervene to help establish a less authoritarian regime? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

Africa and Globalization: Relations with the United States, Europe, and the “South”

1. What are some of the interests the international community has in Africa? (What are the things the world wants to obtain from Africa? What are the things the world wants to prevent in or from Africa?)
2. Why are some African economists concerned about European efforts to establish new trade networks?
3. Who did the textbook say that African exporters are now beginning to look to for new economic connections? What kinds of new economic connections are being established?

African Prospects

1. What did the textbook list as hopeful signs of Africa’s increased peace and prosperity in the future?
2. Two pan-African coalitions were highlighted in your chapter: OAS and NEPAD. What was the historical situation and purpose of each?