Notes

- **The Land of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**
  - SSA lies to the south of or “under” Saharan Africa (SA).
  - 70% of the people of Africa live in this region.
  - Three physical zones in SSA:
    - Grasslands called savannas in the north
    - Rainforests in the central areas
    - Grasslands and deserts in the south.
  - Two major rivers in SSA:
    - Congo
    - Niger
Notes

- Great Rift Valley (GRV)
  - Runs from Ethiopia in the north to Mozambique in the south.
  - Ever-widening crack in the earth.
  - Most mountains in SSA there (e.g., Mount Kilimanjaro).
  - Most of the large lakes of Africa found there (e.g., Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyasa).
- SSA is rich in mineral resources like oil, diamonds, and uranium.
- SSA is rich in wildlife resources, which are under threat.
A Brief History of SSA

- SSA was cut off for centuries from Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia.
- Arab traders crossed the Sahara starting around AD 1000, bringing Islam to the region.
- Great African kingdoms sprang up in SSA because of this trade (Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Benin, Great Zimbabwe, and the Kingdom of the Kongo).
- Europeans arrived starting around 1400.
Europeans exploited SSA for slaves from c. 1400 to c. 1880. The Africans themselves helped with this trade.

Slave trade caused damage to people and economy of SSA.

European powers (EP) took over Africa in the 1800s.
- Carved it up between the EP without regard for the people of Africa.
- They took raw material resources out of SSA.
- Used it as a market to sell manufactured goods.
- Turned SSA into a “slave continent.”

Europe could not hang onto Africa after the ruin caused by the World Wars (1914-1945).
Notes

- European policies had left SSA very poor by the time they left in the 1960s.
- United States (USA) and Soviet Union (USSR) used region as a battlefield during the Cold War (1947-1991).
- SSA suffers from war, poverty and disease because of its history.
Notes

- **The People of SSA**
  - Poorest region on earth ($2,500 per capita GDP compared to U.S. $48,000).
  - Many hundreds of cultures live together here; hundreds can coexist in a single nation.

- **Languages**
  - Hundreds of native languages spoken here.
  - European languages (mostly French and English) used for government and business.
Notes

- Religions
  - 30% Islamic; 50% Christian; 15% traditional African religions; 2.5% other religions; 2.5% no religion.
- Diversity in population and poverty lead to conflict.
  - Intertribal conflicts
  - Civil war
  - Religious conflicts
  - Genocide (In 1994, the Hutus killed 1,000,000 Tutsis in Rwanda.)
Notes

- Government
  - Often weak and corrupt.
  - Rule by violence and bribery common.
  - Discourages economic development in the region.
  - Contributes to poverty of the region.
Notes

- Post-Apartheid South Africa (SoAf)
  - SoAf is one of the wealthiest nations in SSA.
  - 10% white, 90% black or mixed race.
  - From 1948 to 1990 ruled by apartheid, a system which separated blacks from whites.
  - Whites given great economic opportunity, wealth.
  - Blacks treated poorly and lived in poverty.
Decades later, whites still control SoAf’s economy.
Blacks still have little economic opportunity and often live in extreme poverty.
Problem weighs down SoAf economy and keep it from growing.
Causes high crime rates and problems with national health, especially the AIDS epidemic.
The AIDS Epidemic in SSA

- Nearly 20% of the adult population (15-49) is infected in nations like Lesotho, Swaziland, and SoAf.
- Drugs to control the disease are available, but too expensive for poverty-stricken Africa with limited medical care facilities.
- Killing off people in their prime working and child-bearing years.
- Life expectancy dropping in the region.
- Millions of children are being orphaned to the disease.
May have severe consequences for the economy of SSA.