Stateless societies – African societies organized around kinship or other forms of obligation and lacking the concentration of political power and authority associated with states. (Encarta)

“secret societies” – An alternative to formal government where secret groups (societies) of men and women controlled customs and beliefs. They were able to limit the authority of rulers. Especially among peoples who had sharp rivalries between lineages or family groupings, secret societies developed that cut across the lineage divisions. The secret societies incorporated their members after an initiation that might have been based on knowledge, skills, physical tests, an initiation fee, or all of these. (Encarta)

Maghrib - The Arabs referred to North Africa west of Egypt as *al-Maghreb* (“the West” in Arabic). (Encarta)

Ifriqiya – The Arabic term for Eastern North Africa. (Encarta)

Almoravids - Berber dynasty that ruled in Africa and Spain in the 11th and 12th centuries. Between 1053 and 1061, a large part of northwestern Africa was subjugated by the Muslim religious military brotherhood known as the hermits (Arabic *al-murabit*). Leadership of the movement passed in 1061 to Yusuf ibn Tashfin, a Berber chieftain who had previously conquered the region constituting present-day Morocco. In 1062 he assumed the title of king. After enlarging their domain in northwestern Africa, the Almoravids invaded Spain in 1086; during the next four years, they conquered the area between the Tajo (Tagus) and Ebro rivers. In 1147 the dynasty was overthrown by the Almohads, another Muslim reform movement. (Wikipedia)

Almohads - (Arabic *al-muwahhid*, “those who proclaim the unity of God”), Berber Muslim reform movement and dynasty established in North Africa and Spain during the 12th and 13th centuries. The origin of the movement is traced to Muhammad ibn Tumart, an Arab reformer in Morocco who preached moral reform and the doctrine of the unity of divine being. He gathered a large following of Arabs and Berbers and in 1121 was proclaimed Al Mahdi (“The Rightly Guided”). (Wikipedia)

Copts - the major Christian church in Egypt, the name of which points to its national origins. Tradition attributes to the apostle Mark the initial preaching of Christianity in Egypt. (Wikipedia)

Ethiopian Kingdom – A Christian kingdom that developed in the highlands of eastern Africa under the dynasty of King Lalaiabel; retained Christianity in the face of Muslim expansion elsewhere in Africa. (Encarta)

Lalibela - Ethiopia adopted Christianity as a state religion as early as the 4th century. In the 12th century, the king had 11 churches carved out of solid rock in the ancient capital city of Lalibela. Some of these red volcanic rock structures were carved below ground
level and encircled by deep trenches, while others were attached to surrounding rock outcroppings. A network of tunnels and narrow passageways connected them. Wall paintings decorate the interior of the rock-cut Church of St. George at Lalibela; some depict the life of St. George, who is said to have supervised the church’s construction. According to legend, his horse left a hoof print that is still visible in the courtyard of the church. The town was named for the king.

**Sahel** - region in western Africa, serving as a transition zone between the arid Sahara on the north and the wetter tropical areas to the south. A relatively sparse savanna vegetation of grasses and shrubs predominates. Rainfall averages between 102 and 203 mm (4 and 8 in) and falls mostly from June to September. Nomadic herding and limited cultivation of peanuts and millet are possible in most areas. Desertification, whereby soil loses its ability to retain moisture and allows deserts to encroach on arable land, is shrinking the size of the Sahel and causing famine in much of the region. (Wikipedia)

**Kingdom of Ghana** - medieval West African state from which the modern republic of Ghana takes its name. It arose in what is now southeastern Mauritania and southwestern Mali by the 5th century AD, when it was first mentioned by Arabic writers, and was described in some detail by the Spanish Muslim geographer al-Bakri. Ghana's ruling dynasty belonged to the Soninke people, but a number of other peoples in the area were subject to it. Its economy was based on a trade in gold acquired from the south, which was exchanged for products from Muslim North Africa, especially salt. Its capital was at Kumbi Saleh (Koumbi Saleh) in what is now southeastern Mauritania. Ghana's principal enemies were the Muslim Sanhaja Berbers, who, under Almoravid leadership, overran the kingdom in 1076. It later revived but was finally destroyed when one of its former subject peoples, the Susu, captured Kumbi Saleh in 1203. (Wikipedia)

**Sudanic states** - There were several Sudanic states that emerged in the sub-Saharan savannas. These states typically were governed by a patriarch or council of elders from a specific kinship group, possessed a territorial core from which conquest was launched, and depended on taxes and tribute drawn from subordinate villages or regions. After the tenth century, Islam supported the growth of kingship. Of the numerous Sudanic states, Mali and Songhay were the most important. (http://occawlonline.pearsoned.com/bookbind/pubbooks/stearns_awl/chapter14/objectives/deluxe-content.html)

**Kingdom of Mali** - The Mali Empire or Manding Empire or Manden Kurufa was a West African civilization of the Mandinka from c. 1230 to c. 1600. The empire was founded by Sundiata Keita and became renowned for the wealth of its rulers, especially Mansa Musa I. The Mali Empire had many profound cultural influences on West Africa allowing the spread of its language, laws and customs along the Niger River. The Mali empire extended over an area larger than western Europe and consisted of numerous vassal kingdoms and provinces. (Wikipedia)

**Juula** – Malinke merchants.
Sundiata - (1210?-1260?), founder and ruler of the Mali Empire in West Africa. Sundiata was the son of Nare Maghan, the ruler of Kangaba, a small state located on a tributary of the upper Niger River. Sundiata left Kangaba, but the reason is unknown: he may have gone into voluntary exile to avoid a jealous half brother, or he may have been exiled by Sumanguru Kante, king of the Susu, who killed Sundiata's father and took over his kingdom. Sundiata responded to the requests of his people to return to Kangaba to help them regain independence. He assembled a coalition of Mandinka (also known as Mandingo or Malinke) chiefdoms and in 1235 led them to victory in the Battle of Kirina. According to popular tradition, Sundiata triumphed because he was a stronger magician than his opponent. This victory marked the beginning of the Mali Empire. (Wikipedia)

Griots - the traditional African oral poets and storytellers.

Ibn Batuta - (1304-1369?), Arab traveler and author, whose book Rihlah (Travels) is an important source for the history and geography of the medieval Muslim world. Beginning with his first journey in 1325, a religious pilgrimage to Mecca, he covered some 120,700 km (some 75,000 mi), extending from Spain in the West to China in the East, and from Timbuktu in West Africa to the steppes of Russia. His book includes descriptions of the Byzantine court of Constantinople and the Black Death of Baghdad (1348). (Wikipedia)

Mansa Kankan Musa - The most famous king of Mali was Mansa Musa, who ruled in the early 14th century. His pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 with 500 slaves and some 50,000 ounces of gold to distribute along the way startled the Mediterranean world by its splendor. Mansa Musa brought back with him Muslim scholars and architects to enhance the reputation for learning and culture of cities such as Timbuktu and Goa. When he died, he left an empire extending across the southern Sahara and the grasslands fringing the Niger River. The Arab traveler Ibn Battūta, who visited the empire a few years later, found there a rule of law that might well have been envied in medieval Europe. (Wikipedia)

Ishak al-Sahili - Mansa Kankan Musa’s pilgrimage to Mecca during the fourteenth century became legendary because of the wealth distributed along the way. He returned with an architect, Ishak al-Sahili, who created a distinctive Sudanic architecture using beaten clay. (http://wps.ablongman.com/long_stearns_wcap_4/18/4647/1189812.cw/index.html)

Timbuktu - city, central Mali, on the southern edge of the Sahara, just north of the great bend of the Niger River. It is connected with the Niger by canals and is served by the small river port of Kabara. The city is a regional trade center for salt and other basic commodities. Its few manufactures include cotton textiles, leather goods, and pottery.

Timbuktu was formerly a great commercial and international center of Islamic learning. The city was founded in the late 11th century AD by Tuareg nomads. By the early 14th century, when it was incorporated into the ancient empire of Mali, Timbuktu was a leading terminus of trans-Saharan caravans and a distribution point for trade along the upper Niger. After it was conquered by the powerful Songhai Empire in 1468, the city
reached its zenith as a commercial and religious center. It had a population of about 40,000 in the early 16th century. Merchants from northern African cities traded salt and cloth for gold and for black African slaves in the markets of Timbuktu. The school organized at the city's Sankoré mosque was staffed by scholars educated in the leading Islamic academies of the Middle East. (Encarta)

**Songhay Kingdom** - With the decline of Mali, the kingdom of Gao reasserted itself as the major kingdom in the Sahel. The people of Songhay were farmers and fishermen who lived along the Niger River of West Africa. After centuries of resistance, they came were converted to Islam around the 1200s. A Songhay kingdom in the region of Gao had existed since the eleventh century AD, but it had come under the control of Mali in 1325. In the late fourteenth century, Gao reasserted itself with the Sunni dynasty. Songhay would not fully eclipse Mali until the reign of the Sunni king, Sonni Ali, who reigned from 1464-1492.

Sonni Ali aggressively turned the kingdom of Gao into the Songhay empire. Ali based his military on a cavalry and a highly mobile fleet of ships. With this military, he conquered the cities of Timbuktu and Jenné, the major cities of the Mali. The Berbers, who had always played such a crucial role in the downfall of Sahelian kingdoms, were driven from the region.

**Goa** - The ancient Hindu city of Goa lies in ruins. Nearby, the city of Old Goa. The former capital of Goa, was founded about 1440 and conquered by the Portuguese in 1510. It is also nearly abandoned, although it contains several very old buildings, including the cathedral founded by the Portuguese conqueror Afonso de Albuquerque in 1511 and the convent of Saint Francis of Assisi (1517). Bom Jesus, a converted mosque dating from the same period, contains the tomb of the Spanish Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier, who began his missionary work in Goa in 1542. At the height of its prosperity (1575?–1675?), Old Goa had a population of 20,000. By the mid-18th century, disease epidemics caused the Portuguese viceroy to move to Nova Goa (Panaji). From 1962 until May 1987, when it attained statehood, Goa was part of Goa, Damān, and Diu, a union territory of India named for the three districts it comprised. Damān and Diu retain territorial status. (Wikipedia)

**Sunni Ali** - Ali (of Songhai), called Sunni Ali (died 1492), ruler of Songhai (1464-1492), who transformed his small inherited kingdom, centered at Gao (in modern Mali), into the most powerful empire of West Africa; his entire reign was occupied with conquests and punitive expeditions. A superb strategist who made skillful use of both cavalry and river flotillas, he drove the Tuaregs out of Timbuktu in 1468, crippled the resistance of the powerful Mossi and Dogon tribes, and, after a seven-year siege captured Djenné in 1471. At the time of his death, his realm extended some 3218 km (some 2000 mi) along the Niger River.

Although professing Islam, Sunni Ali ruled essentially as an African magician-king and ruthlessly persecuted Muslim scholars, whom he saw as a threat to the African nature of his empire. Administratively, he divided his territory into provinces under trusted
governors and organized the traditional African cults in the service of the state. His fleet patrolled the Niger, keeping trade routes open and securing the peace, and restive tribes were kept in check. He died under mysterious circumstances while returning from a campaign. (Wikipedia)

**Askia Muhammad** - Muhammad (Askia Muhammad), called Askia Muhammad (died 1538), king of Songhai (1493-1528), who ruled the empire at its greatest extent. (Wikipedia)

**Hausa states (cities)** - Between 1000 and 1200 seven Hausa city-states emerged as regional trading powers in the savanna lands west of Bornu in what is now northern Nigeria. These cities were centers of agriculture and manufacturing, and each developed its own specialized manufactured product, such as cotton cloth, dyes, or leather. The most important of these cities were Kano, Katsina, Zaria, and Gobir. In the south, Zaria raided the Benue River valley for captives to sell as slaves, either for internal Hausa use or for sale to Bornu and North Africa in exchange for horses and guns.

Historically organized into a group of feudal city-states, the Hausa were conquered from the 14th century on by a succession of West African kingdoms—among them, Mali, Songhai, Bornu, and Fulani. (Wikipedia)

**Zanj** – Arabic term for the east African coast.

**East African trading ports** – Sofala - ancient East African seaport and trade center. It was located on the coast of the Indian Ocean, about 40 km (about 20 mi) south of the mouth of the Pungwe River in present-day Mozambique. Sofala became important as the port from which southern African gold was exported by Muslim traders, and for centuries, it was one of the major ports on the Indian Ocean.

Located on a shallow, sandy bay, the port of Sofala rose to importance due to its proximity to the rich gold deposits in the plateaus of present-day Zimbabwe. By the 13th century it held a virtual monopoly over the gold exports of such powerful African states as Great Zimbabwe and Mutapa. (Wikipedia)

**Barawa** - An ancient town on the southern Somali coast. Oral tradition relates that Aw Ali from the interior settled in a forest between arra guduud “the red dunes” and deeho “the white sands.” Aw Ali liked the freshness of the ocean air and called for help from his people in the interior to clear the forest and build several houses for him and his family. Eventually, the settlement, much of which is now under water, grew into a town named Barawa Ban Aw Ali, “Barawa, the open space of Aw Ali.

Barawa was famous for traditional crafts, such as the weaving of the Aliindi or Kikoy cloth, and hats, Kofiya Barawi, worn by dignitaries even today, traditional sandals, shields and belts, furniture, and several types of cooking pots, still locally made including the clay horned stoves seen in the heyban pottery. Barawa had a distinctive style of woodcarving and furniture making, such as the ‘Atiir “wedding bed,” the wambar.
(“wooden leather covered stools”) and the miqmil “Qur’an holder.” Gold and silver necklaces, bracelets and jewelry containers were produced, as were metal trunks, tea/coffee pots, iron beds, spears and arrows. Barawa is also known for its own architectural style. Wider streets and larger windows are common. Barawa, has many two story houses with bridges constructed over the streets so that women or the elderly could visit other houses without down into the street. The town was divided into major quarters each with a main Masjid. Coral was transported by camel carts and burned to make lime for buildings, a wise use of traditional skills that was more economical than using imported cement. 

(http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/indianocean/modules/group5/moham01.html)

**Mogadishu** - city in southeastern Somalia, capital of the country and of Benadir Region, on the Indian Ocean, just north of the equator. Also called Muqdisho, it is the nation’s largest city and chief seaport. Mogadishu was founded about the early 10th century by Arab merchants; by the 12th century it had become a substantial trade center. A long period of decline began in the 16th century, and in 1871 the city came under the control of the sultan of Zanzibar. Italy leased the port in 1892 and in 1905 purchased the city, subsequently making it the capital of Italian Somaliland. Mogadishu became the capital of independent Somalia in 1960. (Wikipedia)

**Zeila** - Its importance as a trading port is further confirmed by al-Idrisi and ibn Said, who describe Zeila as a considerable town, a center of the slave trade. Pankhurst, amongst other writers, thought Marco Polo was referring to Zeila (then the capital of Adal) when he recounts how the Sultan of Aden seized a bishop of Ethiopia traveling through his realm, attempted to convert the man by force, then had him circumcised according to Islamic practice. This outrage provoked the Emperor into raising an army and capturing the Sultan's capital.

The traveller Ibn Battuta visited Zeila in 1329, but was not impressed at the city, writing that it was "the dirtiest, most disagreeable, and most stinking town in the world", which he blamed on the fish and the blood from the camels that they slaughtered in the streets. He claimed to have found the town so revolting that he spent the night aboard ship, despite the rough seas.

By this time, Zeila was subject to the Walashma dynasty, who also ruled over Ifat. Although later in the 14th century Zeila came under the sway of the rulers of Yemen, by the reign of Sultan Sa'ad ad-Din II the Walashma family had sufficient control of the town for that sultan to take refuge there in 1403 (other sources say 1415) from Emperor Dawit I. The Ethiopian Emperor besieged the sultan there for several days, depriving sultan Sa'ad ad-Din of water, until at last the Ethiopians entered the city and killed the unfortunate ruler. Following his death, the sultan came to be considered a saint, and his tomb was venerated for the next several centuries. (Wikipedia)

**Demographic transition** – Shift to low birth rate, low infant death rate, stable populations; First emerged in Western Europe and U. S. in late 19th century.
**Nok** - The Nok culture, which flourished between 500 BC and AD 200, is the earliest identifiable civilization in Nigeria’s north; the Nok are also the earliest of West Africa’s known ironworkers. (Their real identity unknown, the Nok are named for a village where miners first unearthed their artifacts.) Their famous figurines—finely crafted people and animals in terra-cotta—have influenced centuries of central Nigerian sculpture. Today the art of several central Nigerian peoples continues to reflect Nok style. Archaeological finds in the Jos Plateau indicate that the Nok people lived in the area from 900 BC to AD 200. Iron tools and cast-bronze burial artifacts from the Nok culture provide the earliest evidence of the Iron Age in West Africa. During the 19th century, Fulani chief and Islamic leader Usuman dan Fodio carried out a holy war, called the Fulani Jihad, in the region. Traditional tribal groups retreated to the plateau to avoid incursion by Fulani horsemen. Mining activity, which began in the early 1900s, brought an influx of whites and Nigerians to the plateau, profoundly changing local societies. During the same period the hill farmers expanded into the lower elevations. (Wikipedia)

**Ile-Ife** - city SW Nigeria. Located in a farm region, the city is an important center for marketing and shipping cocoa. According to tradition, Ife is the oldest Yoruba town (founded c.1300). All Yoruba chiefs trace their descent from the first mythological ruler of Ife, Oduduwa, and they regard the reigning **oni** (king) of Ife as their ritual superior. Ife was the most powerful Yoruba kingdom until the late 17th century. (http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Ile+Ife)

**Yoruba** – City-states developed in northern Nigeria c. 1200 C.E.; Ole-Ife featured artistic style possibly related to earlier Nok culture; agricultural societies supported by peasantry and dominated by ruling family and aristocracy. (Encarta)

**Benin** - state of West Africa that flourished from the 15th to the 17th century. Its capital was Benin City, in present-day Nigeria. Founded by the Edo or Bini people in the 12th century, it was ruled by a line of kings (**obas**) who were originally war leaders, but later assumed a more religious character. The extent of the kingdom is uncertain, but it probably controlled most of southern Nigeria in its heyday. (Wikipedia)

**Bantu peoples** - a linguistically related group of people living in equatorial and southern Africa. The Bantu probably originated in what is now Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, migrating downward into southern Africa. Beginning in about 2000 BC and ending about 1000 AD, the Bantu migration was one of the largest in human history. The cause of this movement is uncertain, but many anthropologists believe it was caused by an increase in population, a result of the introduction of new crops, such as the banana (native to south Asia), which allowed for more efficient food production. (Wikipedia)

**Luba peoples** - The early history of what is now the DRC is still largely unknown. The earliest inhabitants of the Congo Basin are believed to have been pygmies. Bantu groups moved into the area from the north and spread east and south beginning about 2,000 years ago. The northern Bantu groups settled in stateless communities in the rain forest. The Nilo-Saharan-speaking groups of the far north formed hierarchical systems with complex
judicial structures. In the southern savanna zone, the Luba, Lunda, and other Bantu
groups set up centralized kingdoms by 1500. (Wikipedia)

**Kongo Kingdom** – Before 1000 Bantu-speaking farmers had developed numerous small
states in the hills and valleys of present-day Angola and in the woodland savanna country
on either side of the lower Congo River. By 1400 a number of these states had merged to
form the kingdom of Kongo with its capital at Mbanza Kongo, south of the Congo River.
The nearby Pool Malebo, a lake formed by a widening in the river, was a major trading
junction of the lower Congo region. By controlling the pool, the kings of Kongo were
able to dominate trade on the river and regional overland trade as well. (Wikipedia)

**“Zimbabwe”** - country in southern Africa, named after the famous 14th-century stone-
built city of Great Zimbabwe, located in the southeast. The country is renowned for the
Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River and for its bountiful wildlife. Zimbabwe’s
population is divided into two main ethnic and linguistic groups, the Ndebele and the
Shona, the former mostly inhabiting the southwest. (Wikipedia)

**Great Zimbabwe** - historic city in southern Africa that was established in the 11th
century AD and flourished for about 300 years beginning in the 12th century. At its
height the city dominated much of the present-day country of Zimbabwe. By the end of
the 15th century the city had fallen into disuse and was largely abandoned. The stone
ruins of Great Zimbabwe are located on a hilltop near the modern town of Masvingo in
southeastern Zimbabwe. (Wikipedia)

**Mwene Mutapa** - Shona-speaking kingdom of Karanga people of the 1400s to 1600s in
what is now Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Mwene Mutapa is Shona for “Ravager of the
Lands,” and was also the title held by the dynasty of kings who ruled the territory, which
lay between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. Their domain was often called the empire
of the Mwene Mutapa, or simply Mutapa, and is associated with the historical site known
as Zimbabwe, in the southeastern part of modern Zimbabwe. The Mutapa state is often
linked to the impressive stone ruins that dot Zimbabwe, notably at the historic city of
Great Zimbabwe. Mutapa’s rulers enjoyed great wealth from gold mining in the kingdom
and trading with other peoples. (Wikipedia)

**Week 8: Chapter 8: Part 2: Questions**

1. What do the authors describe as the "common elements" in African societies?

Language and beliefs were common elements. Many languages were based off of Bantu
and Animism, the belief in natural forces being personified/portrayed as gods, was
widespread. Focus on lineage and clans, while serving importance in religion can also
been seen as a common thread amongst all African regions.

2. How did Islam originally enter Africa?

Muslim armies on a jihad entered Africa by way of Egypt in the 7th century.
3. What were the Sudanic states and how were they organized?

Mali and Songhai (or Songhay) were the main Sudanic states. They were led by a patriarch or council of elders from a particular family or lineage. Rulers were considered sacred, and were kept separate from their subjects via an elaborate system of rituals. The states had a nucleus of those ethnically related, but would fan out into neighboring lands of those they had conquered. Agriculture and the gold trade (being in the center of the trade routes) allowed for Mali to prosper. Most of the population however lived in villages and worked in agriculture. Songhai developed a mix of traditional African beliefs and Islam. Provincial administrations were established to secure areas gained through conquest.

4. How did Islam and the beliefs of indigenous societies fuse among African peoples?

Rulers used Muslim ideology, however traditions remained distinctly African – particularly in regards to women (many societies remained Matrilineal) Islam established a fixed law and an emphasis on education, yet existing traditions maintained their importance.

5. What was the connection between East Africa and Islam?

Trade is what bonded the two. Swahili became the language and new customs arose which lead to a distinct new culture.

6. Where did cultures in Africa develop that were not impacted by Islam? What was the nature of their organization?

The interior of Africa was not impacted by Islam (those nations not relying on trade.) Most had rather simplistic societies, but several complex states such as Yoruba and Benin formed. These states had an oral tradition and focused on agriculture. City states emerged united by a virtual figurehead as the mostly symbolic ruler’s power was very limited. Art flourished in Benin & Yoruba.

7. Why do the authors spend more time talking about cultures introduced into Africa than indigenous African cultures?

Much of the indigenous stories have been overlooked or lost due to a variety of factors. Because most of African cultures relied on an Oral tradition, the stories and history has been lost. However, as the invaders had a literate society, their reflections were recorded and saved for posterity. Later, European invaders looked upon African societies with a biased view, opting to disregard earlier cultures and traditions in favor of “civilizing” the many African nations. African History was pushed aside in favor of teaching history from the viewpoint of the invaders.