CONTENTS

PREFACE xvii

Chapter 1: The Physical Environment 1
    WILLIAM YAW OSEI AND SAMUEL ARYEETEY-ATTOH

    Introduction 1
    Physical Landscapes 2
        The Plateau Continent 3
        The Rift Valley System 4
        Coastlines 7
        Continental Shelf 8
        Rivers 9
        Drainage Basins 9
    Climate 10
        Pressure Systems and Wind Movement 10
        Latitudinal Effect 14
        Maritime Effect versus Continentality 15
        Ocean Currents 15
        Altitude 16
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climatic Classifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation Types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savanna Grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahel Shrubland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert and Semidesert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean (Cape and Karoo and Shrubland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afro-Montane Vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Chapter 2: Human-Environmental Impacts: Forest Degradation and Desertification

WILLIAM YAW OSEI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation Trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes of Deforestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel-Wood Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of Forest Degradation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Strategies to Deforestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desertification in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Desertification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Coverage of Dry Lands in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes of Desertification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies to Combat Desertification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3: Historical Background of Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and Constraints
IAN E. A. YEBOAH

Introduction
Indigenous Heritage of Sub-Saharan Africa
Sub-Saharan Africa: Cradle of Man
The Era of Ancient Civilization
Iron, Islam, and Medieval Civilizations
Bantu Migrations in Sub-Saharan Africa
The Era of Modern Kingdoms
Implications of the Indigenous Heritage of Sub-Saharan Africa
The Islamic Influence in Sub-Saharan Africa
The Spread of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa
Islam and the Indigenous Heritage
Islam and the Western Heritage
The Western Influence in Sub-Saharan Africa
The Period of Initial Contact
The Enslavement of Sub-Saharan Africans to the Americas
The Age of Land Exploration in Sub-Saharan Africa
The Colonial Period, 1884 to the 1960s
The Economic and Cultural Impacts of Colonialism
The Political and Social Impacts of Colonialism
Independence from the West
Conclusion
Key Terms
Discussion Questions
References

Chapter 4: Culture, Conflict, and Change in Sub-Saharan Africa
JOSEPH RANSFORD OPPONG

Introduction
Cultural Geography
Culture Change
Obstacles to Cultural Diffusion
Elements of African Culture
Religion in Sub-Saharan Africa
Christianity
Islam
Traditional Religions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family and Kinship Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger-Kordofanian Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilo-Saharan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoisan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afro-Asiatic (Semitic-Hamitic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Private Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adornment, Dress Forms, and Symbolism in African Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonialism and Diffusion of Non-African Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic and Cultural Conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia's Clan Warfare: What Went Wrong in East Africa's Only Nation-State?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia: Ethnic Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan: Religious and Ethnic Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernization and Cultural Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernization and the Aged in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values and Expectations in African Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 5: Population Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa 120

SAMUEL ARYEETEY-ATTOH

Introduction 120
General Population Trends 120
Population Density and Distribution 121
The Dynamics of Population Change 126
Fertility Levels and Trends 127
Causes of High Fertility 128
Cultural Determinants of Fertility 129
Mortality Levels 131
Africa and the Demographic Transition 132
Age Composition and Dependency Burdens 133
International Migration and Refugee Issues 135
International Migration Trends 135
Refugee Migration 137
Government Policy and Family Planning 140
Chapter 6: Medical Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

JOSEPH RANSFORD OPPONG

Introduction 147
Disease Ecology of Sub-Saharan Africa 148
Disease Terminology 149
Endemic Diseases of Sub-Saharan Africa 150
Malaria 150
Trypanosomiasis 150
Yellow Fever 151
Schistosomiasis 151
River Blindness 152
Guinea Worm (Dracunculiasis) 153
AIDS, the African Catastrophe 153
Ebola 155
Sanitation and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa 157
The Health-Care System 159
Spatial Imbalance in Health Services 162
The Rainy Season Accessibility Problem 164
Health Facility Locational Strategies and Location-Allocation Models 164
Bypassing and Utilization of Health Facilities 169
Technology and Health Care 170
Drugs, Fake Drugs, and Health Care in Africa: Killers or Curers? 170
African Traditional Medicine: Dangerous, Anachronistic, or a Panacea? 171
Colonialism and Traditional African Medicine 172
Strengths and Weaknesses of Traditional Medicine and Biomedicine 174
Economic Crisis and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa 175
The Bamako Initiative and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa 177
Conclusion 177
Key Terms 178
Discussion Questions 178
References 179
Chapter 7: Urban Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa
SAMUEL ARYEETEY-ATTOH

Introduction 182
Historical Evolution of African Cities: Precolonial Cities 182
The Internal Structure of Cities 186
The Internal Structure of Accra, Ghana 191
Current Urbanization Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa 195
Components and Determinants of Urban Growth 199
Gender Migration 200
Urban-Rural Linkages 200
Consequences of Urban Growth 201
Urban Primacy 201
The Urban Informal Sector 202
Housing 206
Land Management 207
Infrastructure Provision, Service Delivery, and Urban Management 208
Water Supply and Sewage Disposal 209
Solid Waste Disposal 210
Public Transportation 211
Solutions to Problems in African Cities 211
Micro-Level Strategies: The Case for Effective Urban Management 211
Macro-Level Strategies: Regional Policies 215
New Towns 215
Growth Poles 216
Intermediate and Small Service Centers 217
Conclusion 217
Key Terms 218
Discussion Questions 218
References 219

Chapter 8: Geography and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
SAMUEL ARYEETEY-ATTOH

Introduction 223
Defining and Measuring Development in Sub-Saharan Africa 224
Economic Dimensions of Development 224
Human and Social Dimensions 228
Geographic Patterns of Dualism 233
International Dualism 233
Core-Peripheral Disparities in African Countries 234
Urban Dualism 237
Rural Dualism 237
## Contents

Theoretical Explanations of Core-Peripheral Disparities 238
   Effect of Colonialism 238
   Economic Theories 239
   Structural-Institutional Theories 243
   Sociopsychological Theories 244

Development Strategies 245
   Growth with Equity 245
   Basic Needs Strategies 246
   Intermediate or Appropriate Technology 247
   Self-Reliance Strategy 247
   Interdependent Development 248
   Regional Integration and Pan Africanism 252
   Structural Adjustment Programs 255
   The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations 257

Conclusion 258

Key Terms 258

Discussion Questions 258

References 259

---

### Chapter 9: Geography and Gender in Sub-Saharan Africa 262

IBIPO JOHNSTON-ANUMONWO

Understanding the Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa from a Gendered Perspective 262
   Geographic Scholarship of Gender in Africa 264

Women and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa 265
   Adverse Effects of Capitalist Development on African Women’s Access to and Use of Productive Resources 265

Agriculture and Rural Environmental Degradation 266
   Human-Induced and Environmental Influences on Agricultural Production 266
   Unequal Allocation of Resources within the Household 268

Demographic Trends and Settlement Patterns: Geographical Contexts 270
   Population, Fertility, and Mortality Trends 270
   Displacement and Migration 272
   Differential Access in Urban Settings 273

Geography and Gender Inequality 274
   Change and Crisis 274

Structural Adjustment Programs and African Women 277

African Women as Agents of Change 278
   Geopolitics and Women’s Initiatives 278
   Women’s Role in Restoring the African Environment 279

Engendering the Geographic Study of Sub-Saharan Africa 279
Chapter 10: Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
GODSON CHINTUWA OBIA

Introduction 286
Farming Systems 287
Traditional Farming Systems 287
Shifting Cultivation 288
Rotational Bush Fallow 291
Permanent Farming 293
Pastoralism 293
Cash-Crop and Commercial Farming 295
Cash-Crop Production 296
Commercial Farming 298
Production Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa 300
Problems of Agricultural Production 308
Rural Infrastructure 308
Institutional Factors 310
Land Degradation 310
Inappropriate Technologies 311
Problems with the Green Revolution 312
Research and Development 313
Governments, International Agencies, and Agricultural Markets 315
Policy Options 316
Upgrading Rural Infrastructure 316
Education 317
Developing Appropriate Technologies 318
Developing Alternative Energy Sources 319
Agro-Based Industries 319
Community-Based Cooperatives 319
Integrated Rural Development 320
Conclusion 321
Key Terms 321
Discussion Questions 322
References 322