



1914



1939

- BELGIAN
- BRITISH
- FRENCH
- GERMAN
- ITALIAN
- PORTUGUESE
- SOUTH AFRICAN
- SPANISH
- INDEPENDENT

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* All names and boundaries are current.

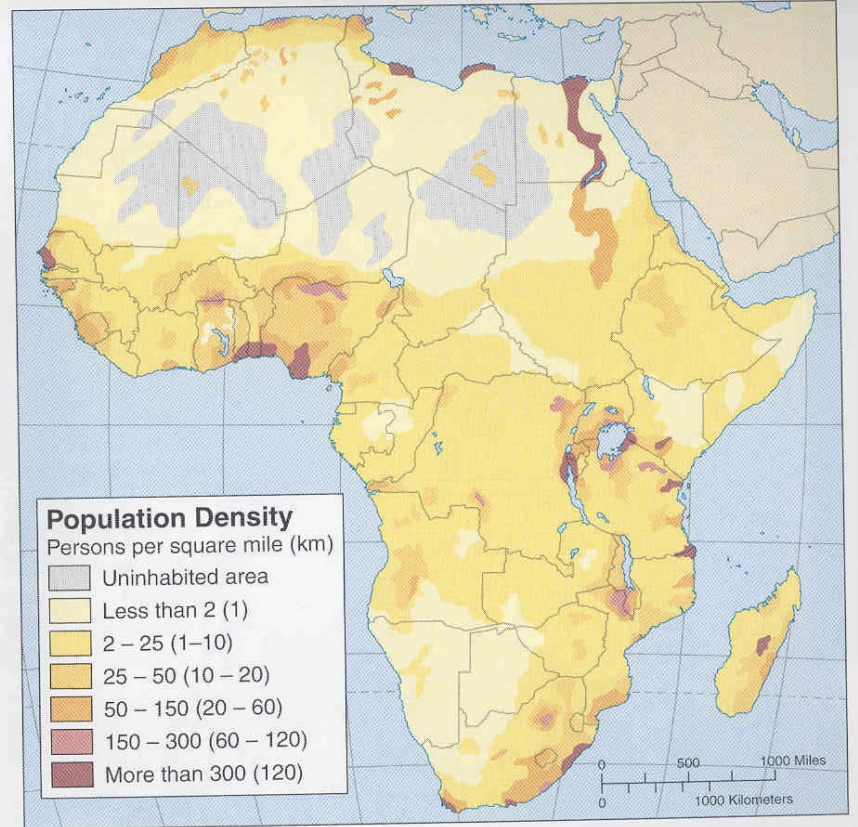
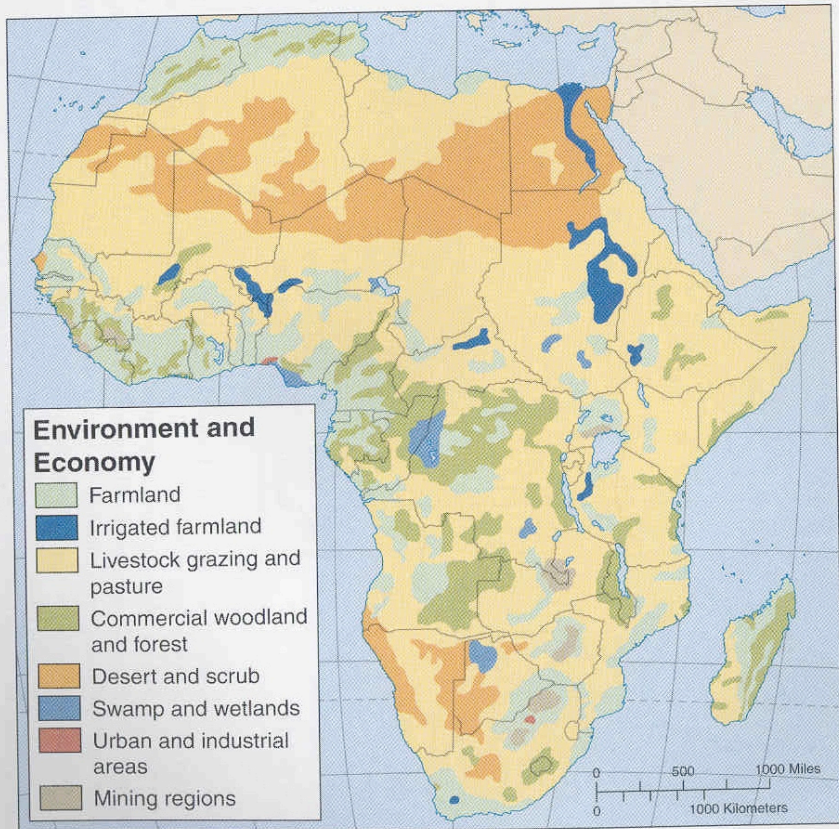
Independent states

France
Belgium

Germany
Portugal

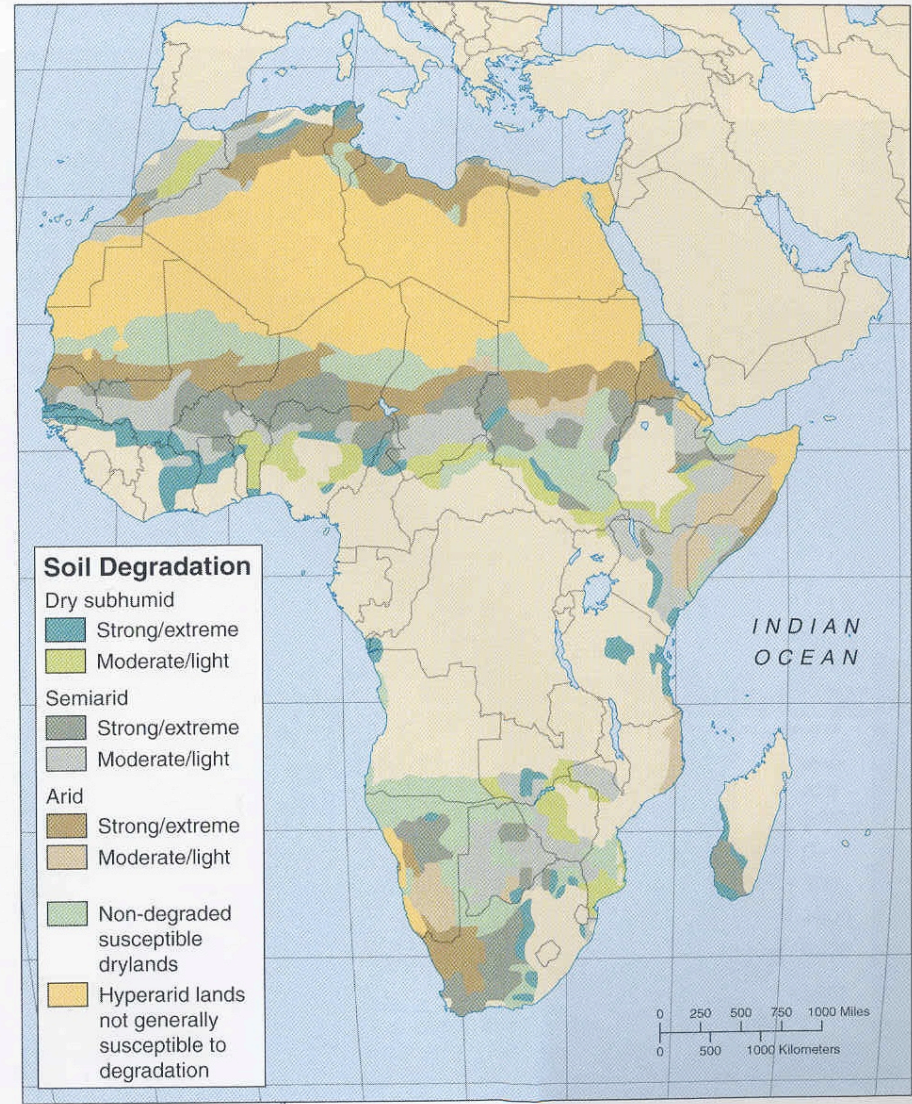
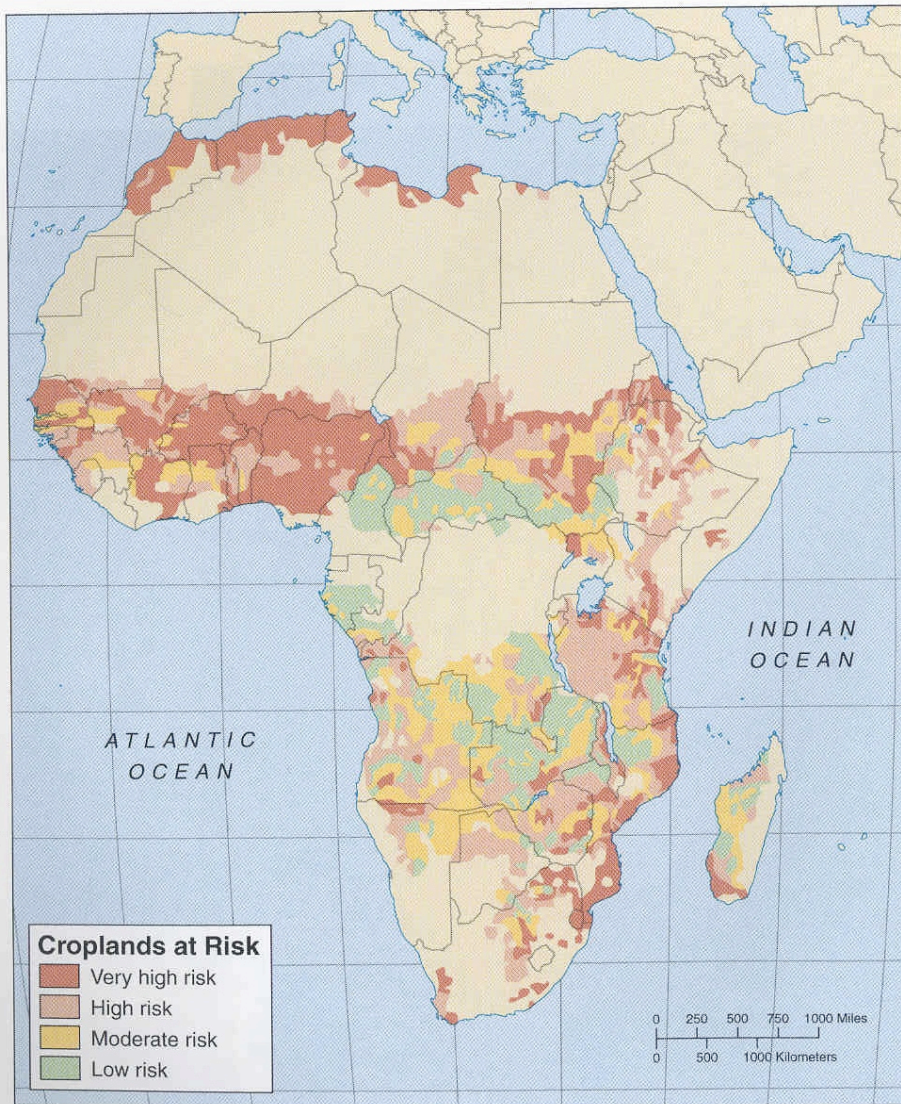
Italy
Spain

South Africa
Turkey



Africa's economic landscape is dominated by subsistence, or marginally-commercial agricultural activities and raw material extraction, engaging three-fourths of Africa's workers. Much of this grazing land is very poor desert scrub and bunch grass that is easily impacted by cattle, sheep, and goats. Growing human and livestock populations place enormous stress on this fragile support capacity and the result is desertification: the conversion of even the most minimal of grazing environments to a small quantity of land suitable for crop farming. Although the continent has approximately 20 percent of the world's total land area, the proportion of Africa's arable land is small. The agricultural environment is also uncertain; unpredictable precipitation and poor soils hamper crop agriculture.

Over 900 million people occupy the African continent, approximately one-eighth of the world's population. In general, this population has two chief characteristics: a low level of quality of life and growth rates that are among the world's highest. On a continent beset by poverty, recurrent internal civil and tribal war, and a host of environmental problems, the populations of many African countries are nevertheless increasing at a rate above 3 percent per year. The bulk of the population is concentrated in relatively small areas of the Mediterranean coastal regions of the north, the bulge of West Africa, and the eastern coastal and highland zone stretching from South Africa to Kenya. Where populations in other parts of the world tend to avoid highland locations, in Africa highlands often tend to be the most densely settled regions: moister with better soils, freer of insect pests, and somewhat cooler.



The economy of the African continent is largely agricultural and given an African population of nearly 800 million people, much of the agricultural environment is degraded. Two forms of degradation exist. The first of these is in cropland areas where susceptible tropical soils and high population densities have produced major cropland degradation, largely in the form of loss of fertility. Irrigation and the advent of artificial fertilizer have not helped soils to restore their natural chemical balances after generations of misuse. The second form of degradation is in the dryland areas where livestock grazing rather than cropping is the dominant agricultural form. Populations of domesticated stock that are too large for the carrying capacity of the environment, exacerbated by the view of livestock as wealth and worsened by increasing human populations, have all contributed to the conversion of semi-arid grasslands into desert.

**NORTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN**



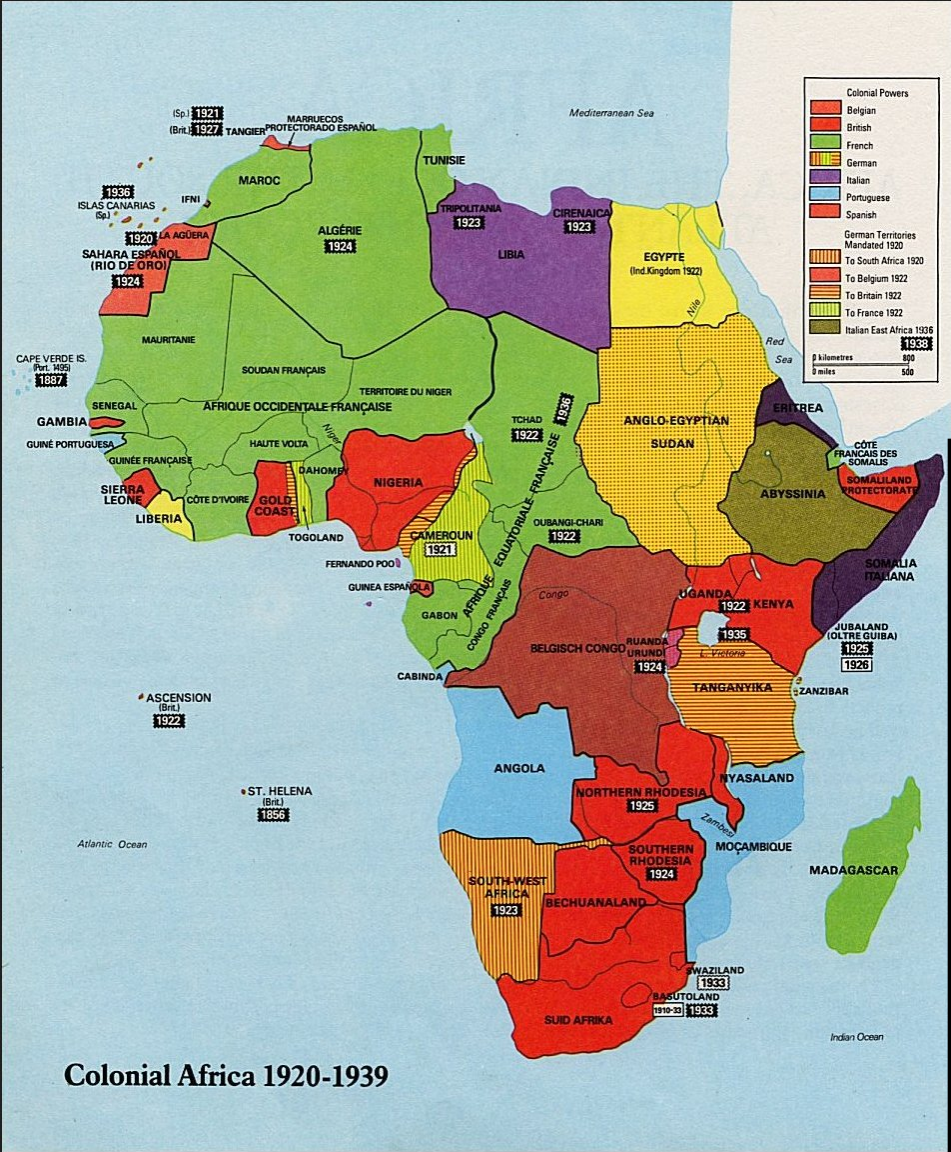
Image belong to mapsnoworld.com

AFRICA

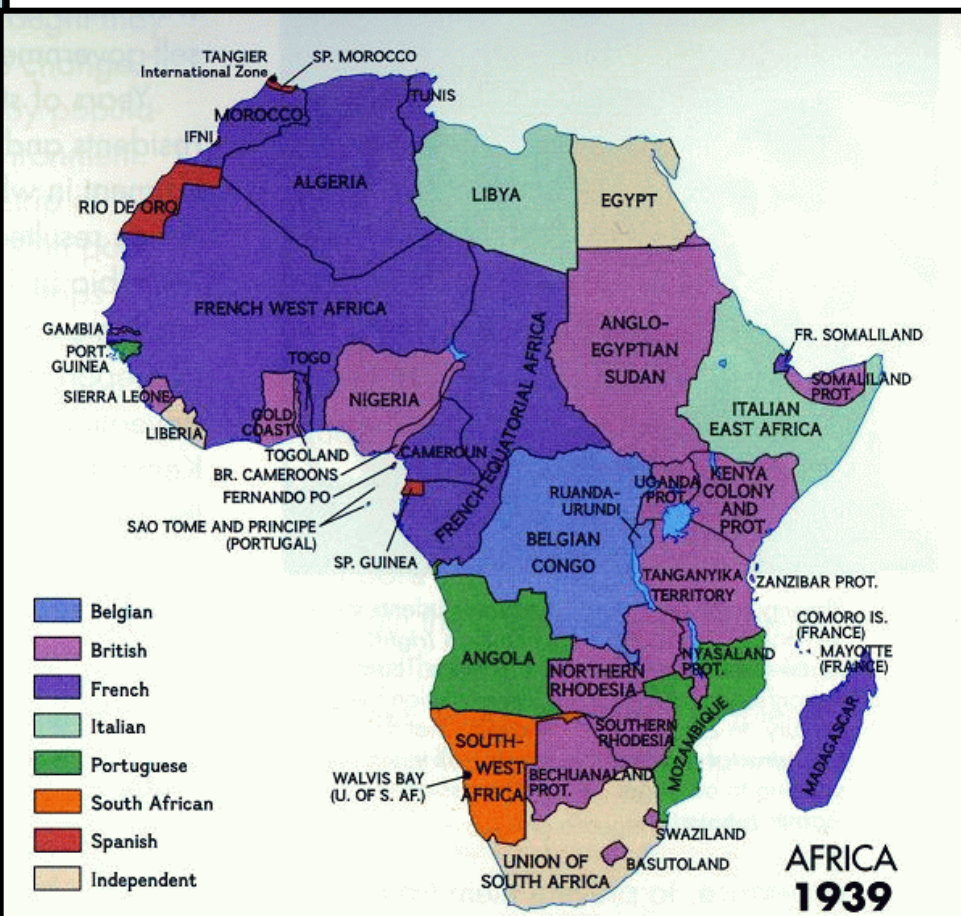
0 50 100 200 300 400 500 600 ML.
 0 50 100 200 400 600 KM.

Capital - ★ Provincial/Territorial Capital - ●
 Cities over 1,000,000 pop. - ○

RÉUNION St. Denis
 MAURITIUS Port Louis



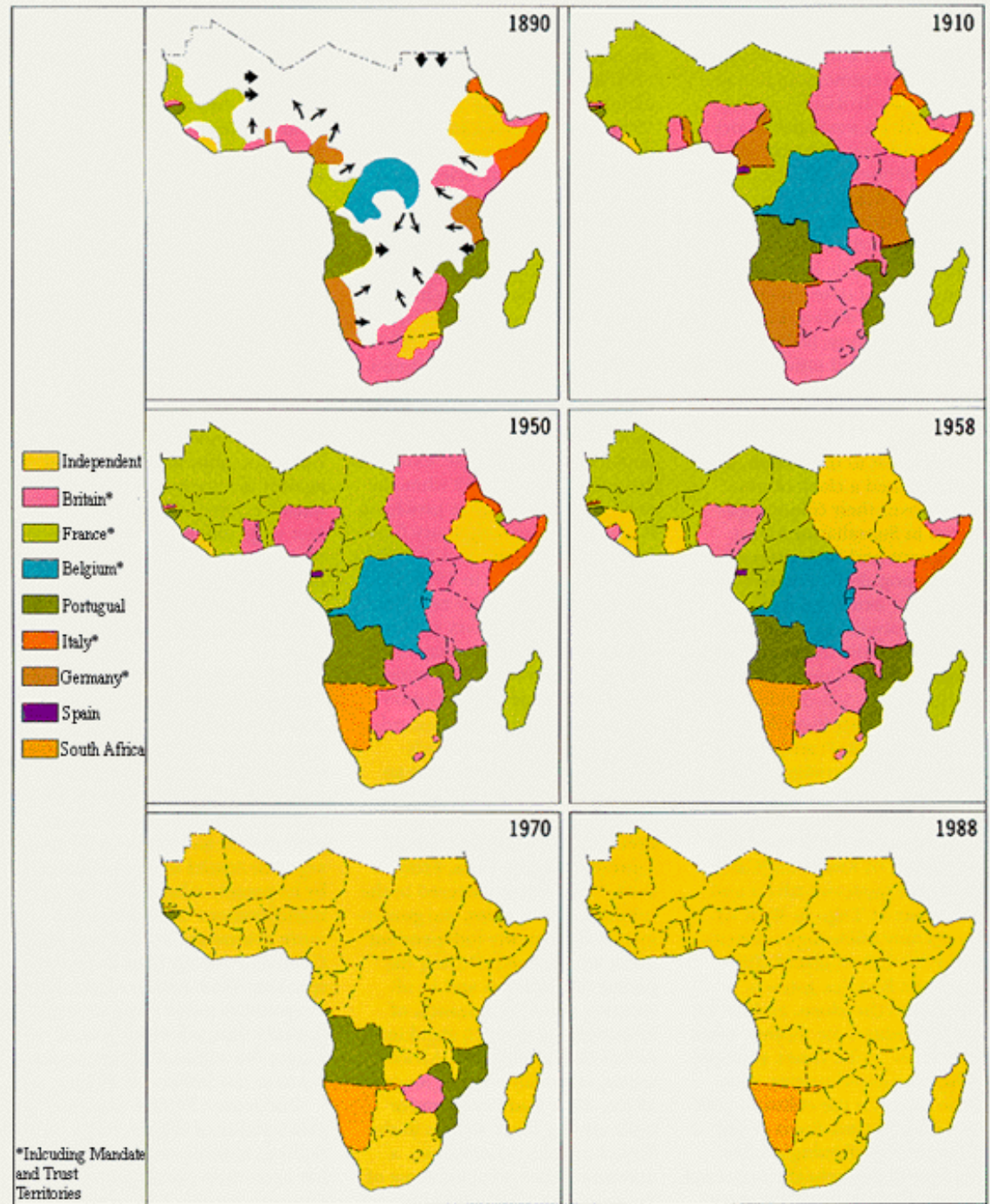
Colonial Africa 1920-1939



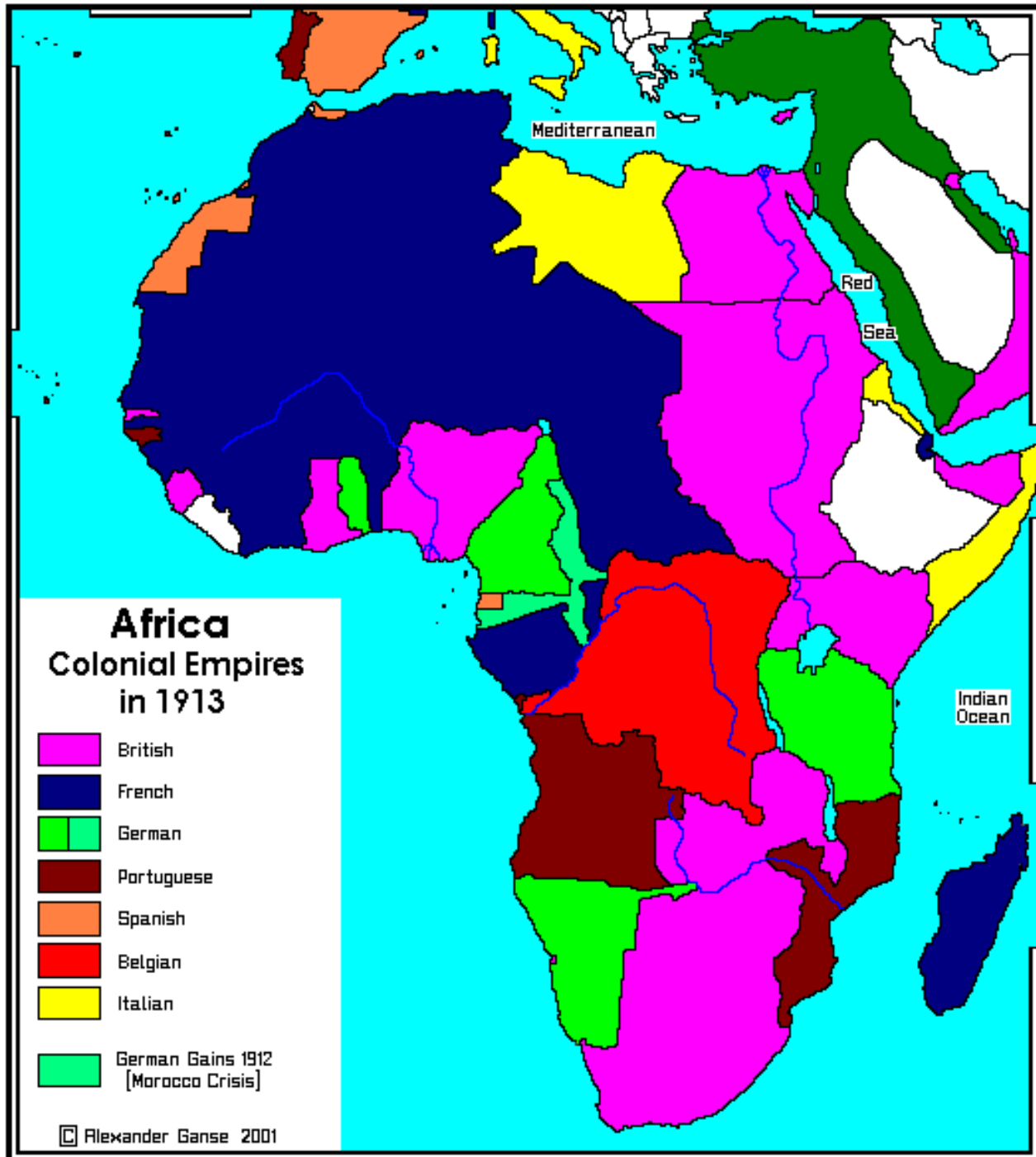
AFRICA 1939

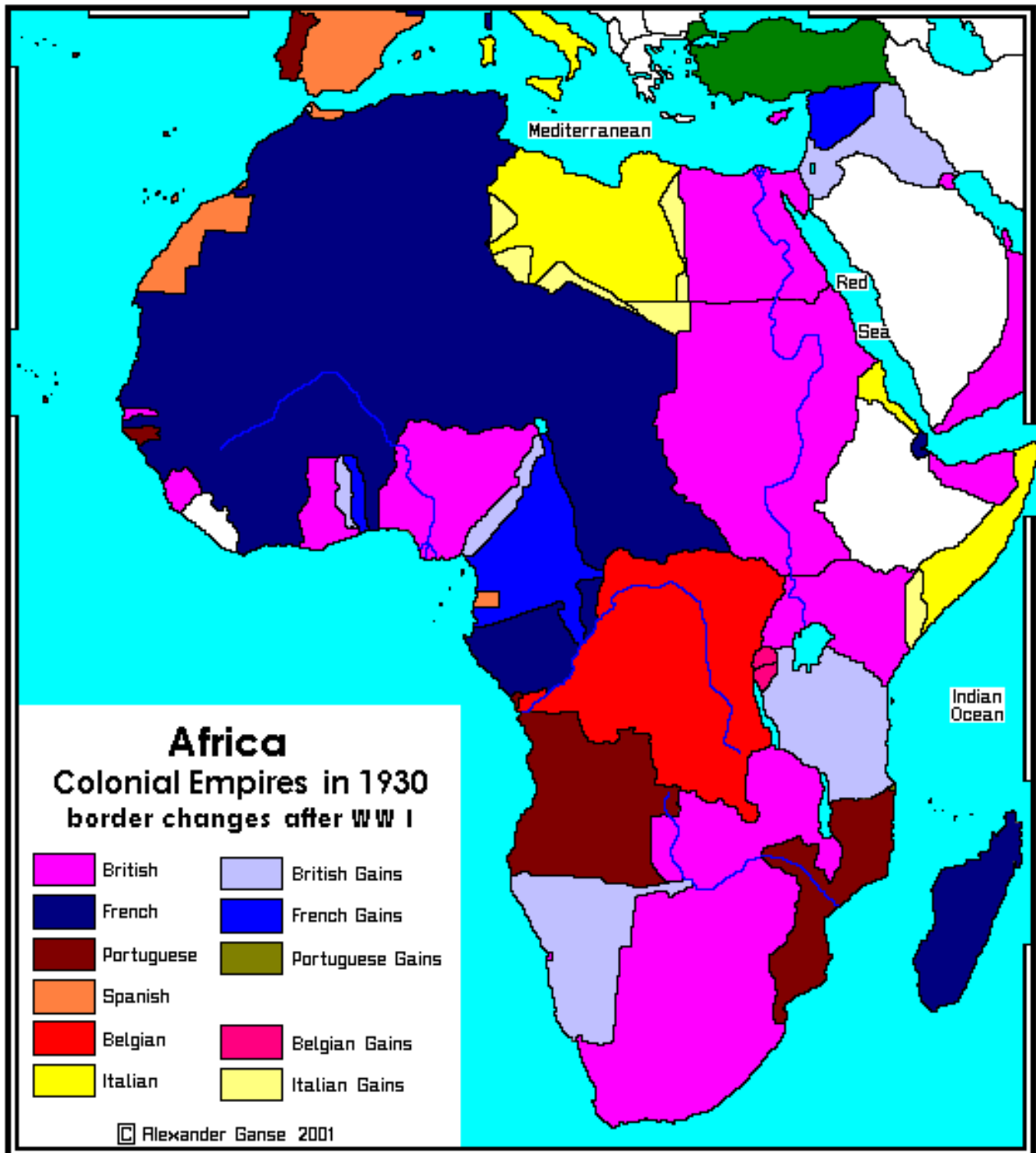


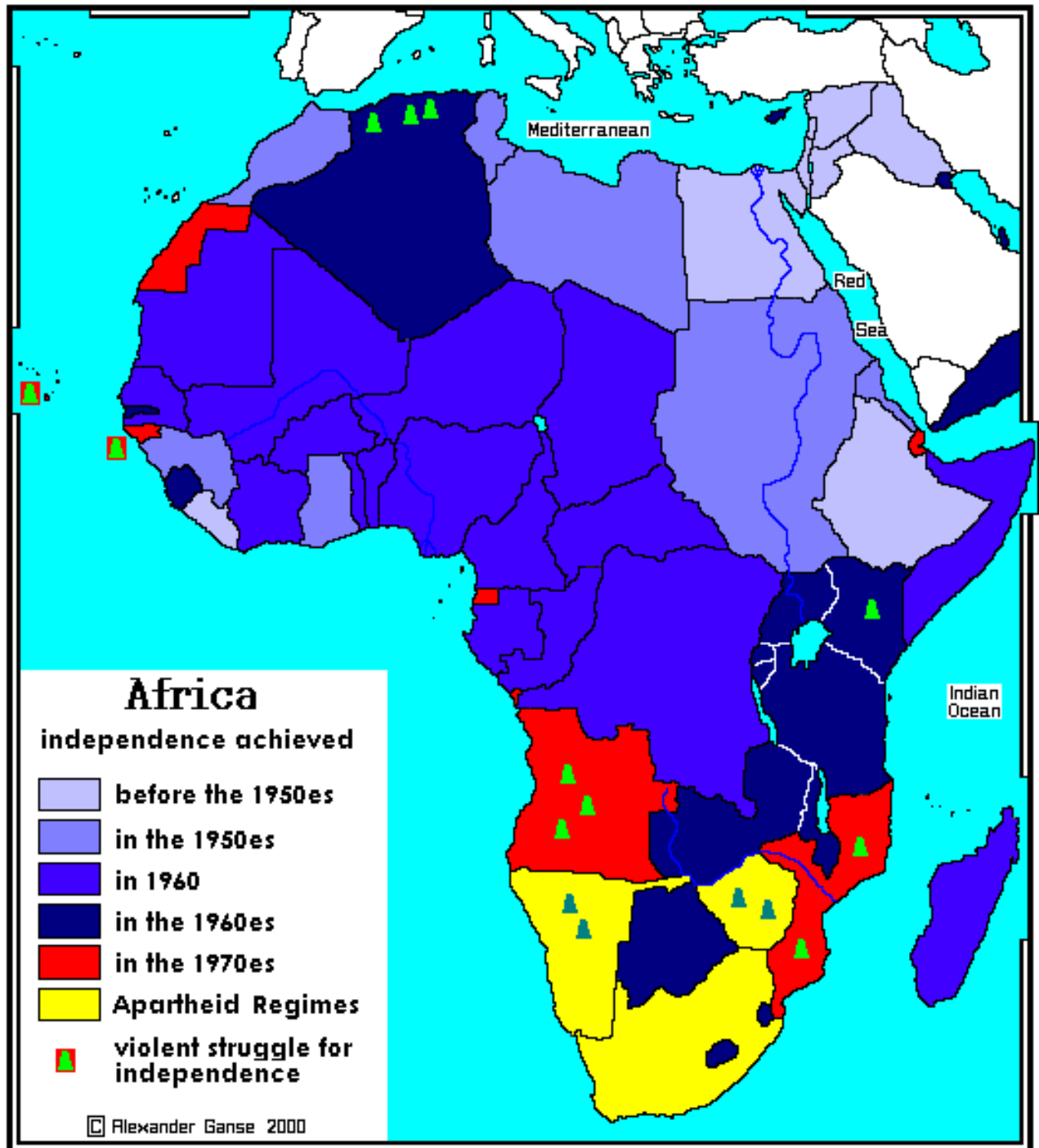
COLONIZATION AND LIBERATION

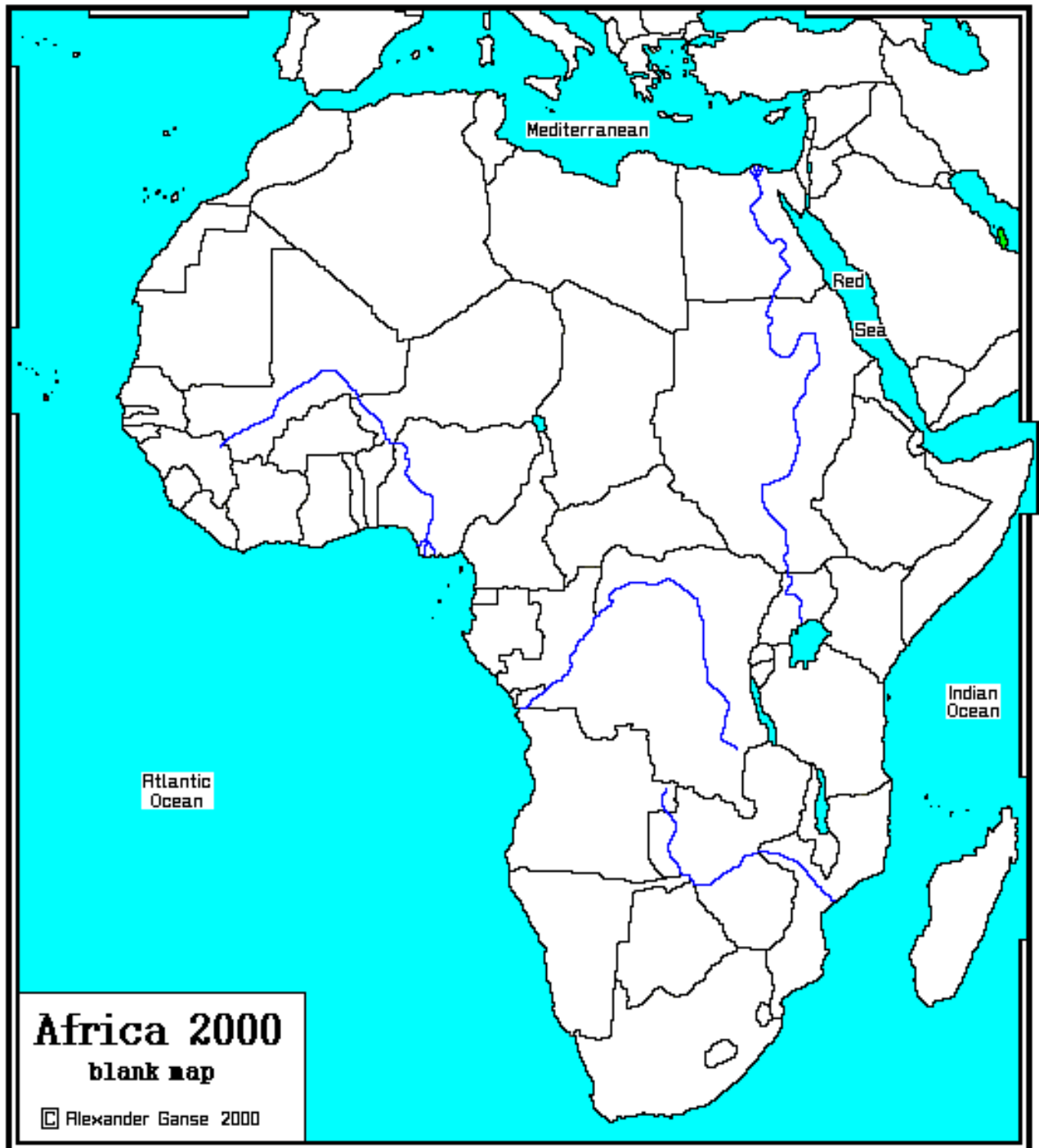


*Including Mandate and Trust Territories









Mediterranean

Red
Sea

Atlantic
Ocean

Indian
Ocean

Africa 2000
blank map

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