



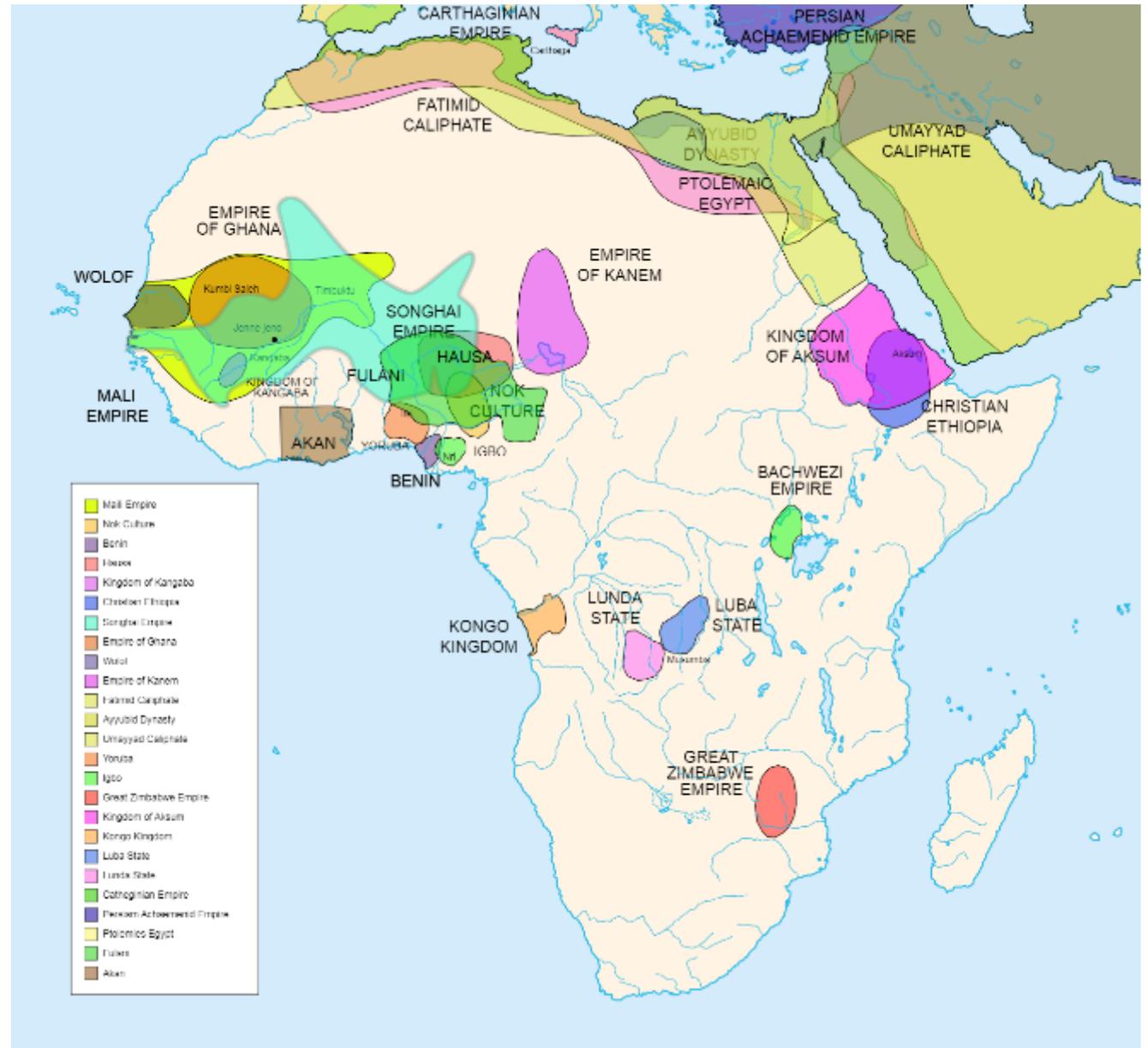
# Visualizing Dominance

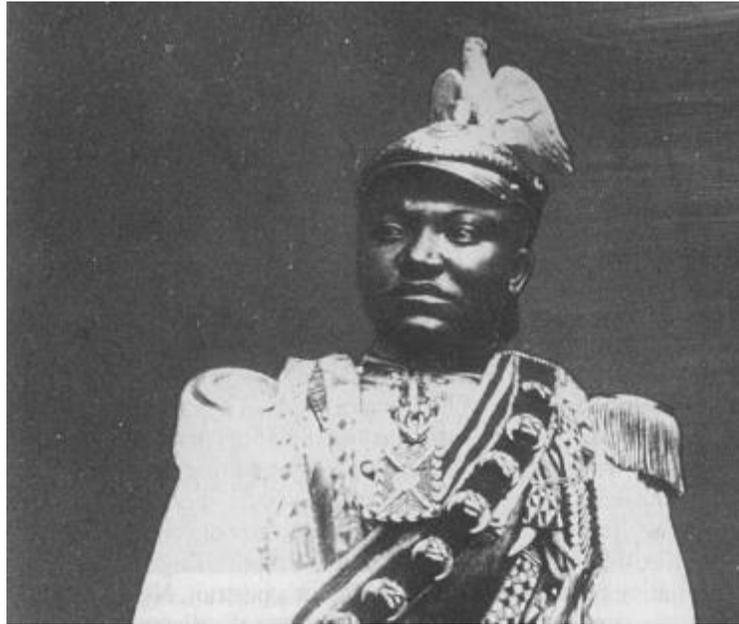
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with Dr. Edwin Johnson

There is a history of kingdoms and empires throughout the continent of Africa

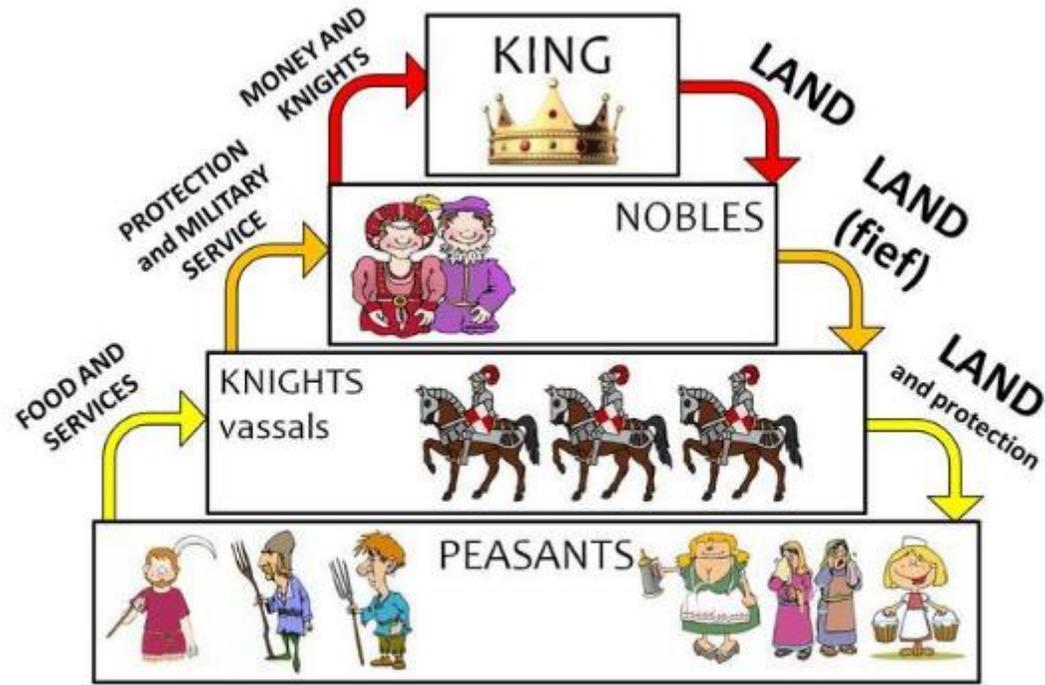
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There is much mystique  
associated with African kingdoms

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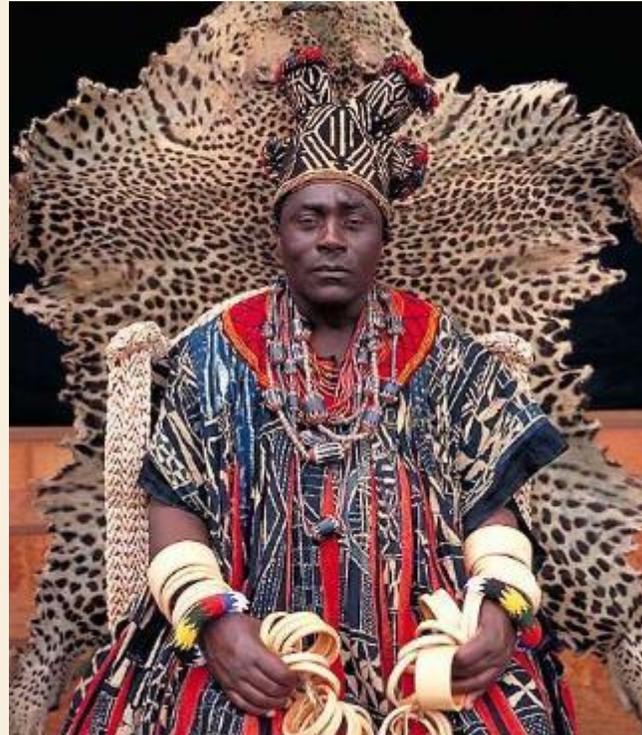


Feudal Pyramid of Power

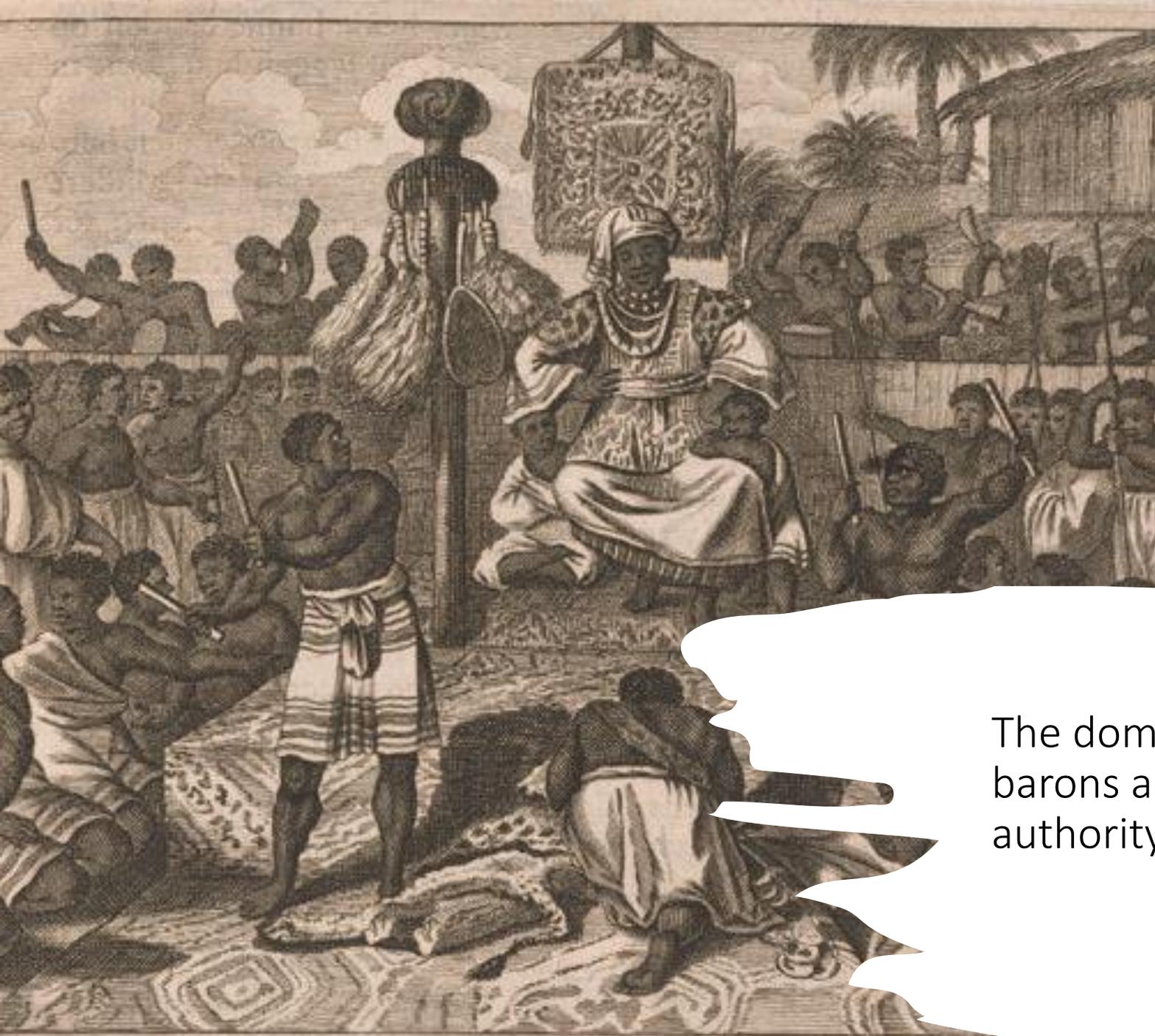


Feudalism as a pyramidal political paradigm

# The fortunes of African kingdoms were determined by many factors



- Executive expertise of the sovereign
- Perceived power and reputation of the sovereign
- Unity within the ruling family
- Loyalty of feudal vassals
- Infrastructural integrity
- Economic dynamism and vigor of the state
- Military capability and doctrine
- Fidelity of the sovereign's subjects
- Diplomatic standing and political clout in relation to foreign states
- Other realpolitikal factors



The dominance of the sovereign over the barons and other nobility, in addition to his authority over his commoner subjects.



The viability of the state is dependent on the perceptions and realities of its strength and integrity.

6186.



Deficiencies can undermine national security and jeopardize the sovereignty of the state.

*The King of Benin just captured, on board H. M. Yacht "Argo". His expression is very solemn, expecting to be condemned to death. Royal Mail steamer "Herkules".*  
Capt. J. Maschmann.



Perception of power  
through the theater of  
the royal court



The Golden Stool and the Asantehene of the Ashanti of Ghana

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# Yoruba kingship

- Ooni of Ile-Ife
- Alapomu of Apomu



Symbolism of  
birds and  
faces



Symbols of divine  
royal descent from  
Odudua

Yoruba palace doors  
representing the  
courtly





*Ikengobo* (Altar to the Right Hand) of the *oba* (king) of the Kingdom of Benin in Nigeria

Perpetuation of dynastic power through the cult of kingship in the Kingdom of Benin in Nigeria





Sultan Ibrahim Njoya and two thrones of the Bamun Kingdom of the Cameroon Grasslands

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The Fon of the  
Kom of  
Cameroon and  
Mbang statues



The royal regalia  
of the king of the  
Kuba in the  
Democratic  
Republic of  
Congo.



# The use of secrecy, separation and architecture as symbols of Shona royal power in Great Zimbabwe of the Mutapa Kingdom

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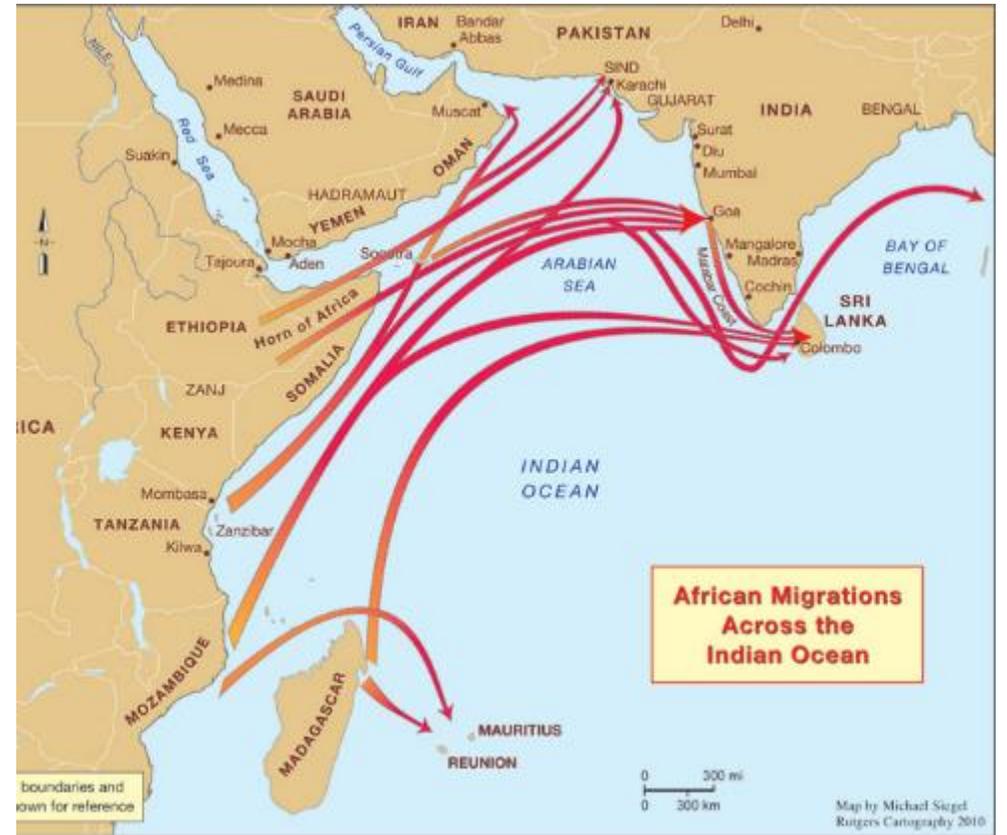
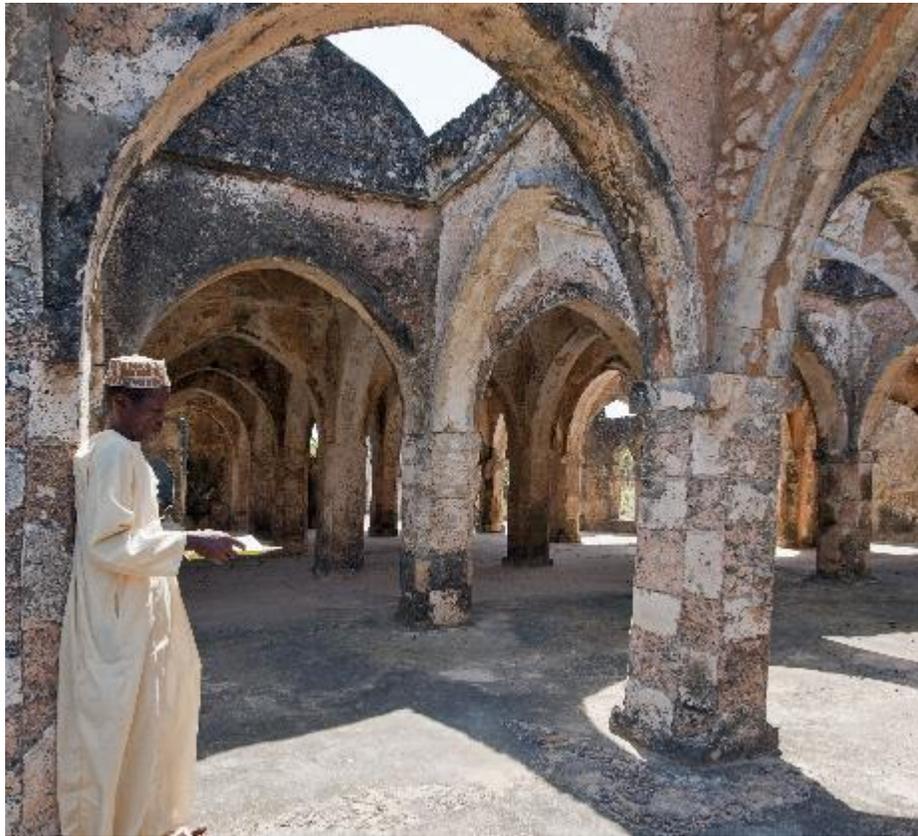


Part of a larger series of complexes that stored wealth in the form of gold, and cattle



Walled  
passages to  
seats of  
power and  
wealth

Tied to a larger network of global trade in Arabia and the Indian Ocean generating great wealth for Shona kings.





Any Questions?