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By B. A. Ogot

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In North Africa, we see the Ottomans conquer Egypt. South of the Sahara, some of the larger, older states collapse, and new power bases emerge. Traditional religions continue to coexist with both Christianity (suffering setbacks) and Islam (in the ascendancy). Along the coast, particularly of West Africa, Europeans establish a trading network which, with the development of New World plantation agriculture, becomes the focus of the international slave trade. The immediate consequences of this trade for Africa are explored, and it is argued that the long-term global consequences include the foundation of the present world-economy with all its built-in inequalities.

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"The overall aim of The UNESCO General History of Africa may be said to be the Africanisation of African history through a scientific account of the ideas, civilization, societies, and traditions of the continent's peoples." -- *Chinweizu, South*

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