



**"The Decline of the  
Mali Empire: A Journey  
from Riches to Rags."**

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# *Who is Sundiata Kieta?*

- S: Strategic
- U: Unyielding
- N: Noble
- D: Determined
- I: Inspirational
- A: Astute
- T: Tenacious
- A: Accomplished



# *What he is known for....*

- **Founder of the Mali Empire**: Sundiata Keita is widely recognized as the founder and first ruler of the Mali Empire, establishing it around the mid-13th century.
- **Epic of Sundiata**: His life and achievements are chronicled in the "Epic of Sundiata," an oral tradition that recounts his rise to power, overcoming adversity, and the establishment of the Mali Empire.
- **Early Life and Adversity**: Sundiata faced significant challenges in his early life, including being physically disabled. However, he overcame these obstacles and rose to prominence through his intelligence, leadership skills, and determination.
- **Battle of Kirina**: One of the pivotal moments in Sundiata's life was the Battle of Kirina (circa 1235), where he led a coalition of states against the Sosso ruler Soumaoro Kanté. Sundiata emerged victorious, marking the beginning of the Mali Empire's ascendancy.
- **Visionary Leadership**: Sundiata is often praised for his visionary leadership and establishment of a strong administrative system that contributed to the prosperity of the Mali Empire. His rule laid the foundation for the empire's economic and cultural achievements.
- **Legacy**: Sundiata Keita's legacy extends beyond his role as a historical figure; he is celebrated as a hero and symbol of resilience in West African history. His story continues to be an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Mandinka people and the broader West African region.

# Mali Empire expansion

*The Mali Empire, at its height during the 14th century, controlled a vast territory in West Africa. Some of the key regions and cities under the rule of the Mali Empire included:*

*Timbuktu*: A renowned center of trade, scholarship, and culture, Timbuktu was a significant city under Mali's control and played a crucial role in trans-Saharan trade.

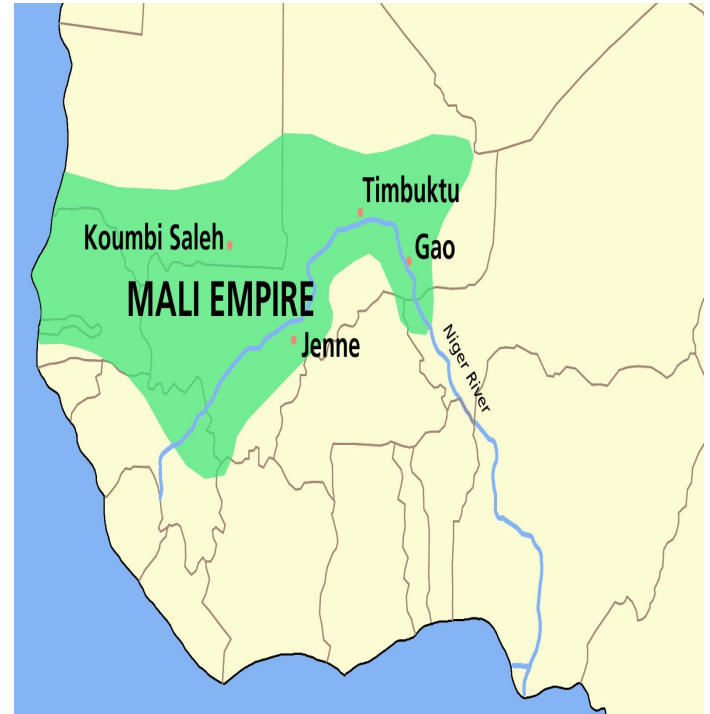
*Gao*: Another important city along the Niger River, Gao served as a major trading and administrative center for the Mali Empire.

*Djenne*: Known for its Great Mosque, Djenne was an influential city in terms of trade, culture, and Islamic scholarship within the Mali Empire.

*Koumbi Saleh*: The capital city of the Ghana Empire, Koumbi Saleh became part of the Mali Empire after Sundiata Keita's victory over the Sosso ruler Sumanguru.

*The Niger River Valley*: The Mali Empire exerted control over significant portions of the Niger River Valley, facilitating trade and agricultural activities.

*Gold and Salt Mines*: The empire controlled the gold mines in the south, particularly in the region of Bure and Bambuk, as well as the salt mines in the north, contributing to its wealth through the trans-Saharan trade routes.



# How did we acquire history?

A griot is a West African storyteller, historian, and oral tradition keeper who preserves and shares the cultural heritage of their community through narrative, music, and poetry. They play a vital role in transmitting the history, values, and wisdom of their people from generation to generation.

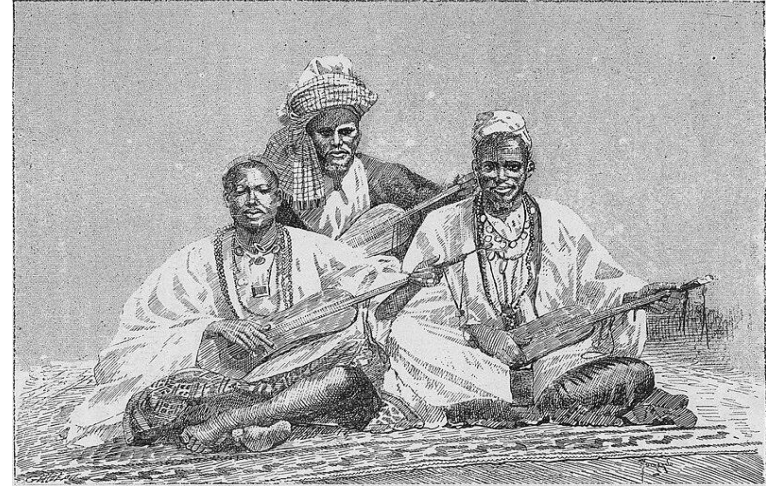
Acquiring African history has been challenging for several reasons, including:

**Oral Tradition:** Much of African history was transmitted orally through storytelling, songs, and verbal traditions, rather than in written form. This made it more susceptible to loss or distortion over time.

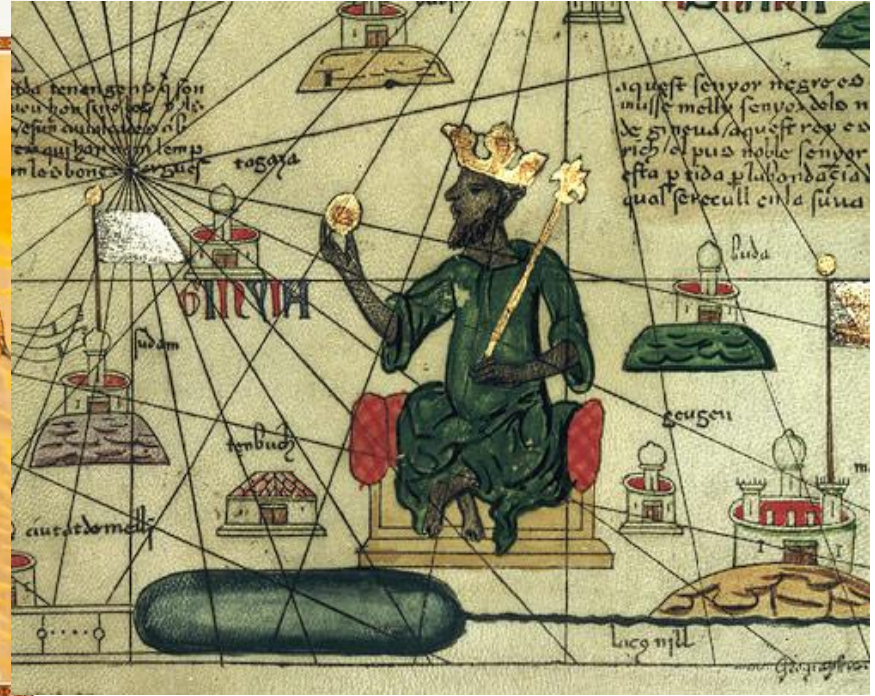
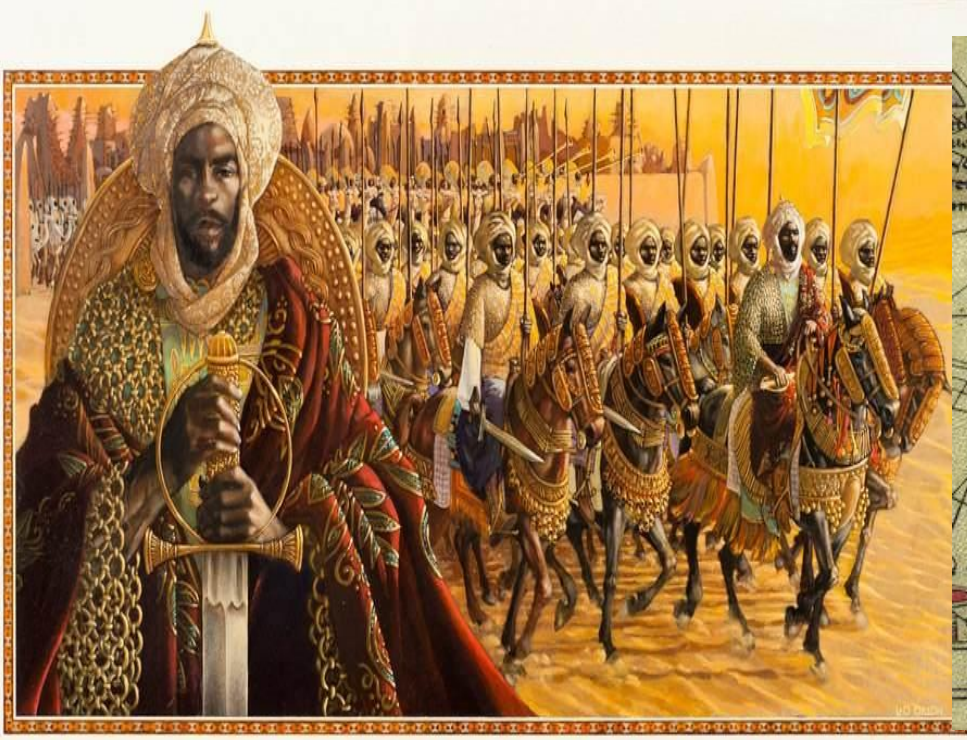
**Colonial Disruptions:** The colonial period in Africa led to the disruption and often deliberate erasure of indigenous histories and cultural practices. European colonial powers frequently imposed their own narratives and marginalized local perspectives.

**Limited Written Records:** Compared to some other regions, Africa has fewer historical records in written form, especially before the advent of written languages. This limitation makes it challenging to construct a comprehensive historical narrative.

**Diverse Cultures and Languages:** Africa is incredibly diverse, with numerous cultures, languages, and ethnic groups. This diversity makes it difficult to compile a singular, cohesive historical account that accurately represents the continent's rich and varied past.



# Mansa Musa



Mansa Musa's famous journey was a pilgrimage to Mecca known as the Hajj.

# Mansa Musa's Reign and Mali's Peak

**Who is Mansa Musa? He ruled from . Mansa Musa's ascension to power (1307-1337)**

Mansa Musa was the ninth emperor of the Mali Empire, one of the wealthiest and most powerful states in Africa during the 14th century. He is renowned for his extraordinary wealth, largely attributed to the Mali Empire's vast resources, particularly in gold. Mansa Musa is perhaps best known for his grand pilgrimage to Mecca, during which he distributed gold so lavishly that it reportedly caused temporary economic disruptions in the regions he passed through.

# What was the pilgrimage to mecca?

It took place in the early 14th century, and during this pilgrimage, Mansa Musa traveled through various regions, showcasing the wealth of the Mali Empire through generous distribution of gold.

The pilgrimage to Mecca, known as the Hajj, is a central pillar of Islam and is incumbent upon all Muslims who are physically and financially able to undertake the journey. The primary purpose of Mansa Musa's pilgrimage was to fulfill this religious obligation, demonstrating his devotion to Islam. Additionally, Mansa Musa used the pilgrimage as an opportunity to showcase the wealth and prosperity of the Mali Empire by distributing vast amounts of gold along the route, leaving a lasting impression on the regions he visited.





# The great mosque of Timbuktu

Mansa Musa approved the construction of the Great Mosque of Timbuktu as a testament to his deep religious devotion, aiming to create a significant Islamic center within the Mali Empire.

The mosque served not only as a place of worship but also as a hub for intellectual and cultural activities, attracting scholars and contributing to the city's reputation as a center of learning. Additionally, Mansa Musa's support for such architectural endeavors was a demonstration of the empire's wealth and sophistication, showcasing its prosperity and cultural achievements. Ultimately, the approval of the Great Mosque represented a multifaceted commitment to religion, education, cultural development, and the establishment of a lasting legacy for the Mali Empire.



# Malis Wealth Sources

## 1. Involvement in trans-Saharan trade routes

The Trans-Saharan trade route was a historic network of trade routes that traversed the Sahara Desert, connecting sub-Saharan Africa with the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions. This trade network facilitated the exchange of goods, culture, and ideas between North Africa and the civilizations south of the Sahara. The Trans-Saharan trade was instrumental in the economic and cultural development of the societies involved and contributed to the richness of the medieval African kingdoms, such as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. Key commodities traded along this route included gold, salt, ivory, slaves, and various luxury goods.

## 2. Trade in gold, salt, ivory, and slaves

## 3. Cultural exchange and educational contributions



**Shackles**  
These shackles were used to restrain enslaved people from the 17th to the 19th century.

**Small Glass Box**  
This small glass box was used to store and display small artifacts.

**Cup**  
This cup was used for drinking and was made of a material that was common in the region.

**Spoons**  
These spoons were used for eating and were made of a material that was common in the region.

**Copper Bangle**  
This copper bangle was a decorative item worn by enslaved people.



# Factors Contributing to Mali's Economic Decline

*. Leadership changes post-Mansa Musa*

*Shifts in trade routes and markets*

1. Transition to coastal trade
2. Loss of key trading ports

*. Environmental challenges*

1. Impact of droughts and desertification
2. Agricultural decline and food shortages



# Current state of mali

- 1. Overpopulation and limited jobs*
  - 2. Lack of agricultural productivity*
  - 3. Impact of droughts on food supply*
- Healthcare and education deficiencies*



# Unveiling Truths: Decolonizing African History for Factual Narratives

Lets unlearn historic truth together!

Ask me anything!!!!

