The Islamic revolutions of the 19th century changed the political map of West Africa. Uthman dan Fodio, a Muslim Fulani scholar, led a successful revolt against the Hausa ruler of Goib in 1804. The whole of Hausaland was conquered (1804–10) by his flag bearers who became emirs (rulers) of the Hausa states which now became part of a Fulani empire, called the Sokoto Caliphate. Inspired by events in Hausaland, Ahmad Lobbo, another Fulani, set up a reformed Muslim state in Macina on the upper Niger. In Kauem-Borno, al-Kanemi reformed Islam along Fulani lines, defended Borno against Fulani attack, and expanded his country’s boundaries. In the far west, Al Hajj Umar, a Tokolor, also influenced by Sokoto, created a great Islamic empire from Futa Jalon to Timbuktu. South of the Tokolor Empire of Umar was the Mandinka Empire of the great gold and cattle trader, Samori Toure, created between 1870–85. To the east of Samori was the expanding Dyula commercial empire of Kong.

Asante expanded in all directions under Osei Bonsu, (1821–24) but from 1826 Asante steadily declined under pressure from Britain at the Gold Coast, where the Fante organised themselves into a short-lived Confederation (1868–71).

Dahomey expanded into the western slave coast states of Ouidah and Porto Novo at the expense of Oyo, which under Fulani pressure broke up after 1817. Ilorin became an emirate under Sokoto. The rest of Yorubaland broke up into warring city-states; the most powerful were Ibadan, which came to dominate most of Yorubaland (1860–93), and the Egbas Confederacy around Abeokuta. The wars in Dahomey and Yorubaland were fought to control the new palm oil trade, which also came to dominate the economies of Benin, the Niger Delta city states from Ebrohimi to Opobo, Calabar, and the Igbo communities.

European imperialism also changed West Africa’s political map, as the French expanded in Senegal from 1854 to control the new groundnut trade, and Britain extended her control in Sierra Leone and the Gambia (freed slave settlements), at the Gold Coast in 1873 (trade rivalry with Asante) and Lagos in 1861 (to stop the slave trade).

Liberia developed as an independent state after 1847 and became a major exporter of coffee, sugar, palm oil and camwood.

The economy of West Africa in the 19th century became much more dependent on trade with Europeans at the coast. The main imports were metal goods, textiles, spirits (gin and rum) and salt. Samori developed a new trade route to Freetown in order to buy guns there. West Africa’s exports were mainly palm oil (from the 1830s) and groundnut oil (from the 1850s) to serve the needs of industrialising Europe and North America. Asante’s coastal gold trade remained important. So did the Atlantic slave trade for a long time after abolition by Britain in 1808 (see Map 16). The trans-Saharian trade became much less important though it did not seriously decline until after 1875.

Internal trade was dominated by items such as kola nuts, horses, cattle, cotton cloth, foodstuffs, salt, local iron goods, and slaves. The most prominent African traders in the grasslands were the Dyula who operated between the upper Niger and Asante and the Hausa who traded as far afield as Yorubaland and Asante in the West and Borno and Adamawa in the east. The cities of Jenne, Kano and Kumasi were the main hubs of major trade routes.

### Key to map

- Tropical rain forest boundary (between grasslands and forest)
- Desert boundary (between desert and grasslands)
- Areas occupied by colonial powers
- Main trade routes

### Main items of trade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Cattle, and hides and skins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ce</td>
<td>Cotton cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cd</td>
<td>Camwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ce</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga</td>
<td>Groundnuts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Guide to the key:

1. **Kola nuts**
   - These were the main item of trade northwards from the coastal forest and the southern grasslands. Their production and trade was so widespread that they cannot be marked on the map in particular places.
2. **Horses**
   - The horse trade was universal in the grasslands and cannot be marked in particular places.
3. **Cattle and cotton cloth**
   - Trade in these items was widespread. Only the main areas of production have been shown.
4. **Other goods**
   - Production and trading of foodstuffs, salt and local iron goods and trading of ivory and slaves was so widespread that they cannot be marked in particular places.