

# GREAT KINGS

## OF AFRICA



### THE EMPIRE OF MALI

## MANSA MUSA

REIGN START: 1312 A.D.

The tenth king of Mali was Mansa Musa and he came to power in 1312 AD, he is also known as ‘The Lion of Mali’. After Mansa Abubakari II departed for his voyage to the Americas Mansa Musa took his place as the ruler of the Empire of Mali. Mansa Musa was an extremely devout Muslim and embarked on a large program of construction within the empire building universities and mosques in the cities of Gao and Timbuktu. Mansa Musa constructed the ancient centers of learning namely Sankore Madrasah and Djinguereber Mosque in Timbuktu.

### THE EGYPTIAN EMPIRE OF

## PHARAOH AKHENATEN

REIGN START: 1353 B.C.

Pharaoh Akhenaten was the 10th Pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt and the younger son of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye. The wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten was Queen Nefertiti. Prior to the rule of Akhenaten, the Egyptians had been worshipping numerous deities. Akhenaten introduced the worship of the God Aten who first appeared in the 12th Dynasty. The religion that Akhenaten introduced was called ‘Atenism’. Akhenaten raised the status of Aten to the one supreme god and it is thought that the Jewish Prophet Moses was influenced somewhat by this religion.





## THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE OF KING EZANA OF AXUM

REIGN START: 330 A.D.

King Ezana is credited with introducing and converting Ethiopia to the Christian religion. Originally in Axum, the Ethiopians were monotheistic and worshipped 'Waaq' which is the name of God in the Oromo religion which was in operation during the early stages and prior to the establishment of the kingdom. In 330 AD the official state religion was changed to Christianity by King Ezana.

## THE EMPIRE OF BENIN EWURE THE GREAT (ALSO KNOWN AS OBA EWURE)

REIGN START: 1440 A.D.

Oba Ewuare (also known as Ewuare the Great or Ewuare I) was the king of the Benin Empire from 1440 AD until 1473 AD. Eware which means 'the trouble has ceased' created the city of Edo as the capital. Ewuare the Great is considered a state-reformer he consolidated the power of the Oba and created an administrative structure for the Empire. In addition, he travel throughout western Africa and greatly expanded the empire taking over significant territory.

