- Great internal diversity within the animist traditions
  - Interaction between religious tradition
    - Conflict in Nigeria
    - South Sudan separated from the country of Sudan in 2011
    - Religion is not typically the cause of overt conflict
- European Colonization
  - The disease factor
  - The scramble for Africa
  - Berlin Conference
  - Anglo-Zulu Wars
- Decolonization and Independence
  - 1957 beginnings of decolonization
  - Mid-1960s virtually the entire region had achieved independence
  - Organization of African Unity 1963 renamed African Union (AU) in 2002
  - Southern Africa's independence battles
    - The end of apartheid
- Enduring Political Conflict
  - The tyranny of the map
    - Tribalism vs. the state
  - Refugees
  - Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
  - Ethnic conflicts
  - Secessionist movements
- Roots of African Poverty
  - Historical and institutional factors rather than environmental circumstances
  - Slave trade
  - Colonization
  - Failed development
  - Corruption
    - Kleptocracy
- Economic difference within Africa
  - South Africa
  - Oil and mineral producers
  - The leaders of ECOWAS
  - Life for the region's poorest
- Measuring Social Development
  - Child mortality and life expectancy
  - Meeting educational needs
    - Millennium Development Goals
- Women and Development
  - Development issues: African women in the workforce
- Summary