Writing Exercise: Central and East African Cultural History and Modern Voices

Today you will be writing three body paragraphs in support of one of these two theses:

1. As the origin of the human species, Africa can trace its cultural roots back further than any other continent. **Though encounters with the East and the West have affected the continent on social, cultural, and political levels, traditional aspects of African culture continue to thrive.**

This thesis establishes that African cultural roots are the oldest on the planet. In the three body paragraphs you are to *prove* that despite encounters from the East and West, traditional aspects of African culture continue to thrive.

*Or*

1. As the origin of the human species, Africa can trace its cultural roots back further than any other continent. **However, encounters with the East and the West have affected the continent on social, cultural, and political levels, and outside cultural influences have grown to outweigh traditional aspects of African culture.**

This thesis establishes that African cultural roots are the oldest on the planet. In the three body paragraphs you are to *prove* that encounters from the East and West have exerted cultural influence that has grown to outweigh traditional aspects of African culture.

\*Please indicate your support of thesis #1 or thesis #2 by writing the number at the top left-hand corner of the page\*

Paragraph 1: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Paragraph 2: Ethiopia

Paragraph 3: Sudan

\*Be sure to include topic sentences, evidence, and “clinchers” (that interpret the evidence and relate it to the thesis) in each of your paragraphs\*

This assignment is worth 30 points. You may use your notes and you will have the entire class period to work on this assignment.