Central African Art

Tuesday, September 21

Left: Kongo Kingdom (Democratic Republic of Congo), Guardian figure of a ruler smoking, head averted (tomba, ntadi), 19th century. Steatite.
Map of ethnic groups in West Central Africa
Map of the Kongo Kingdom
Mbanza Kongo (Salvador, Angola), from Olfert Dapper’s *Description of Africa*, 1688.
Yombe peoples (Democratic Republic of Congo), Royal scepter, 19th century. Ivory.
Above & below left: renderings of the Kongo cosmogram.
Above: Photograph of a Bwende funerary mannequin (niombo) during a public ceremony, early 20th century. Right: Bwende (Democratic Republic of Congo), Funerary mannequin (niombo), early 20th century. Cloth, pigment, soil, human remains.

Left: Chokwe people (Angola), Chibinda Ilunga, 19th century. Wood. Right: Buli master (Hemba artist, Democratic Republic of Congo), Chief’s stool supported by a caryatid, 19th century. Wood & mixed media.
Kuba Kingdom (Democratic Republic of Congo), *Wrought iron figure*, 16th century. Iron.
Kuba-Bushoong Kingdom (Democratic Republic of Congo), *Royal portrait figure (ndop)*, late 18th century. Wood.
Clockwise from above right:
Photo of Beyoncé with a Mangbetu coiffure. From the film *Black is King* (2020).