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Week 3: Letter to the King of Portugal (Nzinga Mbemba, 1526)

1. What practical concerns does Afonso convey to the Portuguese ruler? What do these concerns tell you about the Kong Empire as a hierarchy?

In the letter, King Afonso expressed his concern that the presence of Portuguese men and merchants in his kingdom only contributed to harm and injury over benefits. He stated that these Portuguese have violated the laws and threaten the safety and peace of his people. Moreover, he highlighted the majority of his people depopulated because they were abducted and illegally enslaved and exported to other countries. He also informed the kings Manuel I and Joao III, explaining that to prevent further damage, he has imposed the law that the white men who came to trade must notify noblemen and officials. King Afonso urgently demanding that both kings take action to stop the Portuguese merchants stop illegal enslavement.

2. What is Afonso's attitude towards the Portuguese king? What screen image of himself and his Empire does he try to convey to the Portuguese ruler?

King Afonso's attitude toward King Manuel I and Joao III in a respectful manner way. His message conveys that he is the king, and he has the power and authority to protect his people and imposed a law to stop the illegal trade in his kingdom.