

The richest man in history is often considered to be Mansa Musa, the ruler of the eastern Mali Empire. He reigned during the early 14th century, from 1312 to 1337, and left his mark on world history due to the magnitude of his wealth.

The Era of Greatness Mansa Musa's reign coincided with a period when the Mali Empire was one of the world's leading producers of gold. The emperor, who held leading positions in finance, culture, and education in Africa, acquired most of his wealth through gold mining and trade routes. At the time, the Mali Empire controlled over 50% of the world's gold reserves.

Pilgrimage and Impact In 1324, Mansa Musa undertook a historic pilgrimage to Mecca. This journey is recognized as the wealthiest pilgrimage in world history. By distributing gold in passing cities, he caused significant economic changes. Musa's generosity showcased the wealth and cultural values of the Mali Empire to the world.

Legacy and Enduring Influence Mansa Musa not only displayed his wealth but also focused on developing culture and education. During his time, Timbuktu became a hub of knowledge and culture through its schools and collections of books, reflecting Musa's diplomacy and intellect.

Although the exact figures of Mansa Musa's wealth are unknown, historians estimate it to be beyond measure. He remains not only the wealthiest person in history but also a figure of immense cultural and economic influence.