History of West Africa

VOLUME TWO

EDITED BY J. F. ADE AJAYI & MICHAEL CROWDER

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Second Edition

and

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Introduction

J. F. A. AJAYI AND MICHAEL CROWDER

Volume I of the *History of West Africa* covered the period from the earliest times to 1800. Its emphasis was on the theme of state formation and the development of social and political institutions. Outside influences such as the penetration of Islam into the savannah region and of Europeans from the coastal areas played an increasingly important but never predominant role. They were accordingly treated as subsidiary themes.

By contrast, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries covered by this volume, both Islamic and European influences became increasingly dominant in the lives of the peoples of West Africa. By 1800, Islam had become effectively an indigenous religion in West Africa. In the nineteenth century, it became the dynamic force which created a series of major empires spreading in geographical extent over more than half of West Africa. Islamic influences spread even beyond the boundaries of those states and Islam has become the religion of the majority of West Africans.

At the same time, European missionaries, explorers and traders began to penetrate into the West African interior, gathering information, seeking to make converts to Christianity, and establishing outposts of European trade. Soon, there followed European soldiers and administrators who conquered and established colonial empires for Britain, France, Germany and Portugal. Europeans thus became dominant over the whole of West Africa, including the Islamic areas. Many West Africans became Christians. Both the traditional West African and Islamic religions, as well as the cultural and economic systems, came under pressure from European power, ideas and values. Resistance to this pressure has since led to a resurgence and revival of Islamic and traditional cultural and political life in West Africa.

This leading role that Islam and European Christian influences

have played in the history of West Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been the major theme of this volume. Two preliminary chapters discuss the ideologies of the two movements in the early nineteenth century. These are followed by seven regional chapters reviewing developments in the nineteenth century generally and examining the impact of these factors on internal institutions. With the colonial conquest, the traditional historical and even geographical boundaries became less important. In their place, colonial boundaries assumed greater prominence, particularly in the dichotomy between British and French territories. For this reason, the chapters discussing the history of the colonial conquest, patterns of rule, African resistance and resurgence have either attempted to survey the whole of West Africa or have followed the logic of the Anglo-French partition.

This approach is dictated also by the prevailing state of our knowledge, but it is not entirely satisfactory. For example, by taking this approach, continuity in the history of the development of internal institutions traced to the nineteenth century has not been sustained to the present day. Politics in independent West African States have shown the continued vatality and dynamic nature of may of these institutions. Yet the basic research on their developments in the colonial period has only just begun. This neglect makes early twentieth century West African history a less well-known period than the nineteenth. It is our hope that this volume will draw attention to such gaps in our knowledge, and the future editions will be able to cover the internal history of West Africa in the first half of the twentieth century more adequately.

As with Volume I, we have to point out that the chapters in this volume were commissioned in 1965. While some authors were able to respond in good time with their chapters, there have been delays on the part of others, as well as interruptions caused by the Nigerian Civil War, and the need to find alternative contributors rather late in the day. One result is that the chapters by authors who met our initial deadline may not have taken account of the more recent publications in the field. Another is that plans for a chapter on the Niger Delta States and their hinterland in the nineteenth century fell through and we have to await a new edition to fill in this gap. Nevertheless, we believe that these nineteen chapters together give a balanced and coherent picture of the main outlines of West African history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

As in Volume I also, no attempt has been made to standardise the orthography of African names, and we must again express the hope that steps will soon be taken to establish a standard orthography for

African personal and place names. Such a project would be of immense benefit to historians as well as to scholars in disciplines other than history.

Chapter 7 of this volume was originally written in French and we owe the excellent translation to Dr Joan White. We also wish to thank various colleagues for editorial assistance, particularly Professor R. J. Gavin.

Finally, this history could not have been published without the general support of colleagues and the secretarial staffs of the History Departments of the University of Ibadan and of Abdullahi Bayero College of Ahmadu Bello University; the Institutes of African Studies of Fourah Bay College of the University of Sierra Leone and of the University of Ife; and the Centre for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences, Stanford, California. To them, and to the Vice-Chancellors of these Universities and the Director of the Centre, we wish to express our sincere thanks.

J. F. Ade Ajayi, University of Lagos October 1972 Michael Crowder, Abdullahi Bayero College, Ahmadu Bello University

Introduction to the second edition

The first edition of the second volume of *History of West Africa* was published in 1974. Since then a great number of monographs and general studies on the history of West Africa since 1800 have been published. We did not, however, feel that the urgency for a second edition of this volume was as great as that for Volume I, covering the period before 1800 in which much more radical changes to our understanding of the West African past had taken place since its appearance in 1971. This perception of the historiographical advances made in that period of West African history is reflected in the fact that two new editions of Volume I have appeared, the third in 1985 involving the commissioning of new chapters as well as radical

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changes to many of the existing chapters including the commissioning of new authors for some of them.

At the same time as we prepared the third edition of the first volume of the History of West Africa we made plans for a revised edition of the second volume. New authors were commissioned for some chapters, while some authors of existing chapters were invited to make radical revisions to their original offerings. It is difficult enough to organise a first edition of a multi-authored volume, and it has been our experience in editing both volumes that it is even more difficult to persuade authors to revise existing chapters on schedule. Some authors did not deliver their revisions at all forcing us to retain unrevised chapters, the only alternative to which was to commission new chapters and hold-up publication of those chapters which had met the deadlines we set. Virtue has little reward for contributors to collective enterprises of this kind, as the pace is set by the slowest runner in the race. In addition to delays in receipt of revised chapters, the timing of the publication of the edition was dictated by commercial considerations such as new existing stocks of the fifth reprint of the original edition, and the special problems of the Nigerian market which before the economic crisis created by the fall in world oil prices absorbed more copies of both volumes than any other.

In placing the background of the production of this new edition of Volume II before our readers we are aware of the fact, as A. G. Hopkins has so nicely put it, that editors are 'like waiters: their job is to present the chef's creation to its best advantage while also concealing the secrets of the kitchen from the clientele.'1 We shall continue therefore only by presenting you with the new items on our menu. There are two entirely new chapters, that by A. E. Afigbo on 'Southeastern Nigeria in the Nineteenth Century' and that by Richard Rathbone on 'Independent West Africa.' A number of other chapters, though bearing the same title as their counterpart in the first edition have been so substantially revised or written by different authors as to constitute effectively new chapters. Murray Last has completely revised his chapter on 'Reform in West Africa: the jihād movements of the nineteenth century', while La Ray Denzer has presented a new interpretation of Chapter 2 on the question of the impact of Missionaries and Abolition on West African history. Charles Stewart has made major revisions to R. A. Adeleye's original chapter on the Sokoto Caliphate in the nineteenth century, taking into account the vast amount of literature that has appeared on this subject in the past decade. Jacob Ajayi has updated his 'Aftermath of

¹ A. G. Hopkins 'Big Business in African Studies' Journal of African History 28, 1, 1987.

the fall of Old Oyo' in the light of the equally intensive study of nineteenth century Yorubaland that has taken place since he first wrote it. Edward Reynolds presents a new chapter on Ghana in the nineteenth century, as do Monday Akpan on Liberia and Sierra Leone and Madina Ly Tall and David Robinson on the Western Sudan and the French. Ann McDougall has joined John Flint in a major rewrite of his original chapter, paying much more attention to the internal trade of West Africa before the imposition of Colonial Rule. Much less radical revision has attended the original chapters covering the colonial period. However, Tukur Bello, Chris Harrison and Susan Martin have written a new chapter on the establishment of colonial rule in West Africa while Jide Osuntokun has joined Michael Crowder in a substantial revision of his original chapter on the First World War and West Africa.

The first edition of Volume I was 568 pages in length, the second 648, and the third 742. The first edition of Volume II was 764 pages long, the present edition is nearly 850 pages in length. This raises for the editors two questions. First, if future editions are to be published, will they not on the present evidence grow into volumes of unmanageable length? Second, how far can one go on revising historical enterprises of this kind as though they were the historical equivalent of Gray's Anatomy? Our own feeling is that with our new edition of Volume I published last year, and this edition of Volume II being published early next year, we should rest on what laurels we may have earned in initiating this enterprise in the mid-sixties and concluding it in the mid-eighties. We are particularly grateful to the contributors to both volumes in their several editions, especially those who have been so patient of the delays that have attended their production. We hope that they will remember, as we do, in the words of Tony Hopkins again, that in editorial enterprises such as these 'it is a miracle that anything appeared at all, given the mixture of waywardness, mischance and double booking which occurs whenever more than two or three academics are gathered together with productive purposes in mind.'2

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10 November 1986

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lance, a virtual prisoner, at Sokoto until the end of the 1840s. The truce with Kebbi lasted until 1849. The other area that posed a direct threat to Sokoto as well as to its nearest eastern emirate, Katsina, was that controlled by the Katsina successor principality of Maradi. From 1819, under Sarki Dan Kassawa (1819–31) Maradi persistently attacked Katsina, and aid provided to the emirate by Sokoto and neighbouring emirates proved ineffectual. Like Gobir, the Habe Katsinawa successor towns allied from time to time with their northern, Tuareg neighbours and remained a constant source of harassment to the Sokoto environs.

The theatre of battle immediately adjacent to Sokoto tends to be highlighted in many of our accounts of Muhammad Bello's years, but, in what may be characterised as the Borno sector of resistance to the emirates, equally hostile forces were also met. Following the early conquests of the iihād in which Borno lost its western marches (out of which the Katagum, Hadejia, Missau and Gombe emirates were carved), relations between Borno and Sokoto continued to be hostile. The attempts of Muhammad al-Amin al-Kanemi to overrun the Caliphate in 1827 after successful exploits in Hadejia and Katagum between 1824 and 1826 are well known. 13 The advance of Borno forces towards Kano early in 1827 was only halted at Garko by a joint army of neighbouring emirates under the leadership of Yacqub of Bauchi, acting on the Caliph's orders. This latter event ended large-scale offensives aimed at territorial expansion by both Borno and Sokoto's emirates, but thereafter the frontier between them was rendered highly unstable and explosive by mutual border raids. Within this same eastern sector, but on the northern frontier, Zinder, capital of Damagaram and one of Borno's vassal states, was the centre for unabated hostility against the Caliphate throughout the century. The targets of Zinder attacks were Daura, Katsina, Kano and Hadejia. Sarkin Zinder Ibrahim b. Sulaiman (c. 1822-41) penetrated south of Kazaure in the early years of his reign and in 1829 he began systematic incursions into Daura. 14 On the Borno-Adamawa frontier war was endemic, with Mandara and Marghi territories the major battle grounds. In 1824, for example, there was a major confrontation between Adamawa and Borno forces. However, Kilba, Song, Holma, Batta, Koncha, Banyo, Tibati, Ngaundere, Chamba and numerous other peoples were integrated into the Adamawa emirate, in turn,

¹³ The British traveller, Hugh Clapperton, passed through Borno and Sokoto during this time, and he and his servant left first-hand accounts of political tensions between the two states; see H. A. S. Johnson, *The Fulani Empire of Sokoto*, Oxford, 1967, pp. 116–22.

¹⁴ On Damagaram, see R. A. Dunbar, 'Damagaram (Zinder, Niger) 1812–1906; the History of a Central Sudanic Kingdom', Ph.D. thesis, 1970; and for Bornu, see Louis Brenner, The Shehus of Kukawa: a History of the al-Kanemi Dynasty in Bornu, London, 1973.

under Modibo Adam b. Al-Hasan. However, these conflicts belong more to the internal history of Adamawa. 15

Adamawa and the eastern emirates held a special significance for Sokoto, as Muhammad Bello wrote in the mid-1820s, for it was expected that the community would migrate to the east at the time the Mahdi appeared. The belief in the imminent appearance of the Mahdi, who would prepare the Muslim community for the end of time, is an undercurrent that ran through much popular and scholarly thought during the century. ¹⁶ At the end of the century it was, indeed, in these eastern territories that Mahdists came to pose a threat to the established emirate authorities.

In the territories under Gwandu control, it is noteworthy that as late as 1830 the Lander brothers described Yauri as a flourishing kingdom disposing of a strong military force which had successfully resisted the power of the jihādists. 17 Yauri was subsequently granted dhimmi status, which provided its protection against further attacks in return for a regular tribute, a move no doubt related to its economic importance astride a major trade route leading from Katsina to Kumasi. Nupe, to the south, had been the locale of Mallam Dendo's preaching on behalf of the Shaikh and the site of at least one major campaign from Sokoto during the second decade of the century, but no effort to establish an emirate there was made until after Dendo's death in 1833. Across the Niger, Ilorin was carved out of territory of the old Oyo kingdom, but it too was not internally consolidated until the reign of cAbd al-Salam (c. 1830-42). Before and during these years the Yoruba chiefdoms into which the old Oyo empire had disintegrated were constant targets of Ilorin attacks. In the course of numerous campaigns Ilorin expanded to Igbomina country and took Ikirun. The power of Edun of Gbogun, considered the most powerful Yoruba general of his day, was completely broken.

Conflicts on the frontiers of the Caliphate were not the only source of tension for the emirates; internally in certain emirates, notably Adamawa, Nupe and, to a lesser degree, Ilorin, a handicap to consolidation lay in internal dissensions between the Muslims that led to armed hostilities. We have noted the conflict in Kano during the early 1820s, above; the founding of the Adamawa emirate was

16 See Muhammad Ahmad Al-Hajj, 'The Mahdist Tradition in Northern Nigeria',

Ph.D. thesis, Ahmadu Bello University, 1973.

¹⁵ See Sa'ad Abubakr, The Lāmibe of Fombina: a Political History of Adamawa 1809–1901, Zaria, 1977; and Martin Njeuma, Fulani Hegemony in Yola (Old Adamawa) 1809–1902, Buea, Cameroon, 1978.

¹⁷ On Gwandu, see S. A. Balogun, 'Gwandu Emirate in the Nineteenth Century with special reference to political relations: 1817–1903', Ph.D. thesis, University of Ibadan, 1970; Yauri is treated in Mahdi Adamu, 'A Hausa Government in Decline; Yawuri in the Nineteenth Century', M. A. thesis, Ahmadu Bello University, 1968.