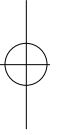
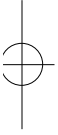


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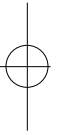
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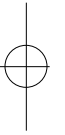
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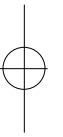
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For Molly Cort and all my friends at the University of Rochester Press



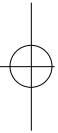


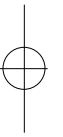
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Preface and Acknowledgments

This text is intended to introduce Africa to college students and the general public. Volume 5 and the preceding ones meet the requirements of history and culture-related courses in most schools. Moreover, all the five volumes in the series address major issues of interest to the general public. The choice of topics is dictated both by relevance and the need to satisfy classroom requirements.

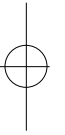
Volume 5 examines the achievements, challenges and problems that face contemporary Africa since the mid-1960s. All African countries deal with the similar issues of economic underdevelopment and political instability. They all seek various answers, and they have recorded varying degrees of success as they attempt to unite their peoples to build strong nations, develop their economies, and stabilize their politics. Failures have equally been recorded in a number of places, although these have not prevented the search for new solutions nor dampened the enthusiasm of Africans in liberating themselves from poverty. The chapters in the volume address the following themes: the attainment of independence, the colonial legacy that limited the achievements of political independence, the politics of Africa's foreign relations, the nature of economy, politics and society, and the ongoing problems in the continent. The volume covers virtually all the major topics and issues that are necessary to understand contemporary Africa.

The choice of the various authors was primarily based on their competence as teachers in the explanation of history to college students and beginners, as well as their skill in synthesizing a large body of data and ideas. Among the notable pedagogical features of this volume are chapter abstracts to orient readers to the objectives and ideas of each chapter, ideas organized into various themes, review questions to help students test their knowledge of the main ideas of the chapter, and suggestions for additional reading materials to facilitate advanced research.

I am grateful to all the contributors, students, and readers who have helped in various ways to make the book readable for a diverse audience. An accomplished editor with the University of Rochester Press made many suggestions regarding style and intelligibility. Sam Saverance prepared the final maps and illustrations. Friends, associates and students gave me access to their photo albums to make selections that have improved the overall presentation of the book. Most of the photographs are from the extensive collections of Dr. Segun Fayemi, a medical doctor and a professional photographer. Two artists, Professor Dele Jegede and Christopher Adejumo, as well as Jeff Rowe of Austin Prints and Tim Colton of Carolina Academic Press were helpful with comments on cover illustrations. Ms.

Lisa Vera of the University of Texas at Austin assisted with typing, and Matthew Heaton proofread the galleys. Finally, I owe an immense gratitude to all the staff of Carolina Academic Press for their dedication and commitment to this project.

Toyin Falola
Frances Higginbothom Nalle Centennial Professor in History
The University of Texas at Austin



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