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# Globalization and the African Experience

Edited by

**Emmanuel M. Mbah**

and

**Steven J. Salm**

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*To Albertina Sisulu and  
freedom fighters everywhere*





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# Series Editor's Preface

The *Carolina Academic Press African World Series*, inaugurated in 2010, offers significant new works in the field of African and Black World studies. The series provides scholarly and educational texts that can serve both as reference works and as readers in college classes.

Studies in the series are anchored in the existing humanistic and the social scientific traditions. Their goal, however, is the identification and elaboration of the strategic place of Africa and its Diaspora in a shifting global world. More specifically, the studies will address gaps and larger needs in the developing scholarship on Africa and the Black World.

The series intends to fill gaps in areas such as African politics, history, law, religion, culture, sociology, literature, philosophy, visual arts, art history, geography, language, health, and social welfare. Given the complex nature of Africa and its Diaspora, and the constantly shifting perspectives prompted by globalization, the series also meets a vital need for scholarship connecting knowledge with events and practices. Reflecting the fact that life in Africa continues to change, especially in the political arena, the series explores issues emanating from racial and ethnic identities, particularly those connected with the ongoing mobilization of ethnic minorities for inclusion and representation.

Toyin Falola  
University of Texas at Austin





# Acknowledgments

This book was originally conceived in the mind of Emmanuel but it began to take shape during a discussion we had in a van on an early morning trip to the airport in Austin, Texas. We had both dealt with issues of globalization in our research and in the classroom, and we had just wrapped up a dynamic three-day conference full of ideas and now had the energy to push them forward. Authors responded to our call for papers and the project continued to mature. Along the way, babies, books, more babies, and academic duties served as speed bumps on the road but also kept us focused and pointed in the right direction. What you see before you today is the culmination of those efforts. No fruit is ever complete before its time and this one is now ripe for the picking.

We hope that this book does more than simply provide another chapter in the growing library on globalization in Africa. The term globalization has been buzzing around academic and media circles for more than two decades now, yet the more we read the less we seem to know. Perhaps, the following chapters will only add to this confusion but we look forward to the questions that arise and trust that they will add new ideas to the discussion. These chapters not only shine light on the larger subject of globalization but they draw evidence from individual experiences and research areas throughout the continent of Africa to provide new and unique perspectives on significant issues.

This volume owes its greatest thanks to the contributors who not only produced insightful and provocative chapters but who remained most patient while the publishing process moved forward. For them, we hope that this volume meets their expectations and we look forward to collaborative projects in the near future. To CUNY Staten Island and Xavier University of Louisiana, institutions that provided us with the space and resources to bring this to fruition, we express our thanks. Steve owes the utmost gratitude to his best friend and spouse, Susan Ranheim, and his two young sons, Sebastian and Dominic, who continue to provide new insights into life, love and happiness each and every new day. Emmanuel would like to thank his wife Ndah Njohjam, his two chil-

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Emmanuel M. Mbah and Steven J. Salm  
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June 2011

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