

Converging Identities

Blackness in the Modern African Diaspora

Edited by

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For the African Slaves:

*They were Black Heroes,
The First African Diaspora, and
The Pioneers of Blackness Outside Africa*

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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
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Acknowledgments

The editors of *Converging Identities* conceived the idea of a collaborative work with scholars in the field of African Diaspora and the response to our call for papers was impressive. The contributors to this volume showed tremendous interest not only in the subject, but also in the anthology. The editors appreciate the contributors whose efforts and insightful analyses have significantly strengthened the understanding of the various aspects of the African Diaspora. The book is interdisciplinary in approach and the ideas are well articulated. The names of the contributors appear atop the individual chapters and in the biography page. We thank the contributors also for their patience during the long period of editing and publishing this book.

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Julius O. Adekunle and Hettie V. Williams
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