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for his contribution to energizing the African academy.
## Contents

Series Editor’s Foreword xvi
Preface xix
About the Contributors xxi

### Chapter 1 · Contentious Politics and Political Change in Africa:
Introduction 3
*Toyin Falola & Wanjala S. Nasong’o*

- Violence, War, and Political Change 4
- Socioeconomic Change and Development 6
- Social Movements and Identity Politics 9
- The Politics of Revolts and Protests 12

#### Part One

#### Violence, War, and Political Change

### Chapter 2 · The Hobbesian Concept of Self-Defense and Violence in Twenty-First Century Africa: A Critique 17
*Oladele Abiodun Balogun & Moyosore Balogun*

- Introduction 17
- Thomas Hobbes’s Political Philosophy 18
- Thomas Hobbes’s Notion of Self-Defense 22
- Political Violence and Self-Defense: The Hobbesian Ghost in Twenty-First Century Africa 24
- The Logic of Self-Defense in Twenty-First Century Africa 27
- Conclusion 28

### Chapter 3 · The War that Time Forgot: A Historiographical Examination of the Concentration Camps of the Second South African War 31
*Kevin Karaki*

- Introduction 31
- Accounts of the Concentration Camps 32
Contents

Emily Hobhouse: *The Brunt of the War, and Where It Fell* 32
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: *The Great Boer War* 33
Sir Frederick Robert St. John: *The Boers and the War* 35
Nicholas Cull: *Propaganda and Mass Persuasion* 36
Thomas Pakenham: *The Boer War* 37
Conclusion: A Legacy of the Second South African War? 38

Chapter 4 · Objectivity, Ethics, and the Nigerian Media in
Conflict Reportage: The Case for Peace and
Development Journalism 41
Rofiah Olateju Animashaun
Introduction 41
Mass Media and Objectivity: Theoretical Considerations 42
Media Objectivity and the Bombing of Nigerian Media Houses 46
Conflict vs. Peace Journalism 49
The Role of the Mass Media in Development 51
Conclusion 53

Chapter 5 · Chronicling the Nigerian Civil War: A Lexico-Semantic
Analysis of Wole Soyinka’s *Season of Anomy* and
Chimamanda Adichie’s *Half of a Yellow Sun* 55
Juliet Nkane Ekpang
Introduction 55
The Nigerian Civil War, 1967–1970 56
Lexico-Semantic Approach to Literature 56
Analysis of Lexical Choices in *Season of Anomy* 57
Coinages 60
Analysis of Lexical Choices in *Half of a Yellow Sun* 63
Conclusion 67

Part Two
Socioeconomic Change and Development

Chapter 6 · Socioeconomic and Structural-Political Change and
Continuity: Post-Liberation South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique 71
Alexius Amtaika
Introduction 71
Contextualizing the Liberation Struggle: South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique 73
Change and Continuity of Colonial Power Structures 77
Socioeconomic Development and Its Challenges 81
## Contents

Instrumental Models of Change: Relational and Structural Powers  86  
  Production Structure of Power  87  
  Security Structures of Power  91  
  Knowledge Structures  93  
  Conclusion  95  

Chapter 7 · Women’s Movements and Political Transformation in Kenya: A Historical Survey  99  
  *Martha Musalia & Joseph Wasonga*  
  Introduction  99  
  Civil Society: A Broader Theoretical Perspective  101  
  Conceptualizing Women’s Movements  103  
  Historical Survey  105  
  How Women’s Organizations Are Tied to Other Political Entities and Interests  108  
  Conclusion  111  

Chapter 8 · The Politics of Evangelization through Education and Development: Marianist Projects in Kenya  113  
  *Céline A. Jacquemin*  
  Introduction  113  
  Marianist Projects in Kenya  114  
    Project One: Incentives for Marianists to Assist the Needy to be Independent  115  
    Project Two: Ujamaa through Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School  118  
    Project Three: Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School  123  
  Conclusion  128  

Chapter 9 · Emotions, Displacement, and the New Kenyan  131  
  *Brillian Besi Muhonja & Gillianne Obaso*  
  Introduction  131  
  Violence, Emotion, and Identity Formation  133  
  Identity Redefinition  147  
  Conclusion  150  

Chapter 10 · NGO-Government Interactions in South Africa: Possibilities of Cross-Sector Cooperation  153  
  *Vernon Damani Johnson & Kirsten Lorgen-Knapp*  
  Introduction  153  
  Development within the Context of State Capacity and State-Society Relations  154
Case Study: Kurland Village 156
Cross-Sector Dialogue and Input: Integrated Development Planning in Bitou Municipality 158
IDP-LED Experience in Kurland 160
NGO Role in Local Development 162
Community Development Workers and Community Liaison Officers: The Missing Link? 166
Conclusion 168

Chapter 11 · The Role of the Southern African Development Community in the Political and Economic Crisis in Zimbabwe 171
Kudzai Goto & Malimela Langelihle
Introduction 171
Conceptual Framework: Regionalism 173
Mapping the Political and Economic Crisis in Zimbabwe 175
The Role of SADC in the Zimbabwean Crisis 179
Does SADC Have the Capacity to Deal with the Zimbabwean Crisis? 182
Conclusion 186

Part Three
Social Movements and Identity Politics

Chapter 12 · Some Epistemic, Taxonomic, and Methodological Issues in the Consideration of Social Movements: Niger Delta Militancy and “Boko Haram” in Nigeria 191
P. Okechukwu Eke
Introduction 191
Epistemological Illuminations on the Concept of Social Movements 192
Issues of Theoretical Taxonomy 194
  Regressive or Reactionary Social Movements 194
  Reformist Social Movements 195
  Revolutionary Social Movements 195
  Counter-revolutionary Social Movements 196
Social Movements: Identification, Emergence, and Development 197
The Niger-Delta Militancy and the “Boko Haram” Insurrection in Focus 200
Conclusion 206
Chapter 13 · The Tyranny of Ethno-Religious Identities and Expressions and the Survival of the Nigerian State in the Twenty-First Century

Mike O. Odey

Introduction 209
The Nature and Character of Ethnic-Religious Identities in Nigeria 211
Instances of Ethnic and Religious Identities/Expressions in Nigeria 214
Implications of Ethno-Religious Identities and Expressions for the Survival of Nigeria 218
Conclusion 221

Chapter 14 · Globalization and Socio-Cultural Transformations in Nigeria: Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Prospects

Israel Dantata Sule

Introduction 223
Historical Antecedents of Globalization and its Development 224
Theoretical and Conceptual Framework 227
Globalization and Its Influence on the Nigerian Social-Cultural Milieu 229
Conclusion 236

Chapter 15 · Fragmented Stability: Neoliberalism and the Politics of Belonging in Anglophone Cameroon

Nicholas A. Jackson

Introduction 239
Depoliticized Spectacle and Unstable Governmentality 240
“Politics of Belonging” and Rebirth of La Republique du Cameroun 247
Neoliberalism, French Support, and Patrimonial Re-configuration 251
The Opening and Closing of Political Liberalization 252
Privatization and the Politics of Belonging: Bakweri Land Claims Committee 255
Conclusions: Opening or Closure? 257

Chapter 16 · The Indigene/Settler Dichotomy and Nigeria’s Quest for Nationhood

Ntim Gyakari Esew

Introduction 259
The Colonial Period 260
The Post-Independence Era: Citizenship, Indigeneity, and Settlership in Nigeria 261
The Challenges of Indigene/Settler Dichotomy 264
Obstacles to Nigeria’s Nationhood 265
What Must Be Done? 266
Conclusion 267

Part Four
Politics of Revolts and Protests

Chapter 17 · Youth Revolts in Apartheid South Africa and Contemporary Tunisia: An Appraisal 271
Ntim Gyakari Esew & Agbo Uchechukwu Johnson
Introduction 271
The Youth and Their Revolutionary Character 272
South Africa and the Youth Revolution 274
Youth and Revolution in Tunisia 276
Conclusion 278

Chapter 18 · Expressions of Dissent and Protests: Post-Election Reactions in Nigeria and the Future Conduct of Peaceful Elections 279
Babatunde A. Ojedokun
Introduction 279
The Specter of Contested Electoral Outcomes 281
Causes and Consequences of Election-Related Conflicts 282
Expressions of Dissent and Protests in the Democratic Dispensation Since 1999 284
Election Petitions Arising from Conduct of the 2011 General Elections 293
Conclusion 293

Chapter 19 · Governmentalities of Policing Protests in Military and Democratic Dispensations in Nigeria: A Comparative Analysis of June 12, 1993, and January 2012 297
Gbemisola Abdul-Jelil Animasawun & Yinka Ahmed Aluko
Introduction 297
Governmentality of the African State and Policing of Protests 299
Policing Protests in Postcolonial Africa 304
Hegemony, Counter-Hegemony, and Atunda 307
Performance of June 12, 1993, Protests and the Governmentalities of Their Policing 309
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance of January 2012 Protests and the Governmentalities</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Their Policing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series Editor’s Foreword

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
Preface

This volume focuses on the theme of contentious politics in the political development of Africa. The decade of the 1960s is hailed as the decade of independence in Africa, when most countries gained their political independence from colonial powers. Since then, contentious politics have marked the trajectory of social change and development in many African countries—from the coups and counter-coups of the 1960s and 1970s, through the violent protests occasioned by the Structural Adjustment Programs of the 1980s, and finally to the contestations over democratization and constitutional reengineering of the 1990s and 2000s, pitting the forces of change against the forces of continuity. Many of these contestations have generated war and violence that manifest in identity terms—in the ethnic, religious, and ethno-regional.

To capture the broad spectrum of the forces at play in the contentious dynamics of social change and development in Africa, the volume is divided into four parts. The first part focuses on the theme of violence, war, and political change. Part Two grapples with the dynamics of socioeconomic change and development. Part Three of the volume deals with social movements and identity politics, while Part Four focuses on the politics of revolts and protests. The chapters constituting these four parts of the volume are written by both seasoned and young and upcoming scholars, academics, and practitioners from multiple disciplinary perspectives comprising the humanities and social sciences. The volume is thus rich in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary frameworks.

It is our sincere hope that readers will find the volume particularly insightful on account of the multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks employed, as well as the breadth of the issues covered, and the scope of case studies focused on. The volume’s contents should prove invaluable to scholars, analysts, and policymakers in the realm of Africa’s socioeconomic and political development. Students of African politics, history, sociology, development, and Africana studies in general will definitely find something of value in the pages of this volume.
As editors of the volume, we owe a great debt of gratitude to a number of individuals whose contributions, commitment, and assistance were instrumental in finalizing this volume. First, we would like to thank the contributors to the volume, most especially for their principled patience throughout the process of peer review, revision, and editing of the volume. Second, we sincerely thank the organizers of the 2013 Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin for planning and diligently executing a most successful conference that congregated a broad spectrum of scholars and researchers from across the globe to exchange their ideas, research findings, and experiences in a most vibrant atmosphere. Lady Jane Acquah and Ryan Groves deserve special commendation for their efforts, dedication, and organizational ability. Finally, we express our gratitude to the publishers, Carolina Academic Press, for their diligence in getting this volume out.

Toyin Falola, The University of Texas at Austin
Wanjala S. Nasong’o, Rhodes College, Memphis
About the Contributors

Yinka Ahmed Aluko is a doctoral student at the Centre for Peace & Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, where he obtained his master’s degree. His areas of research are state-civil society relations, security administration, protest policing, and communal conflicts. He was the security advisor to the Kwara State government from 2003 to 2013.

Alexius Amtaika, Ph.D., teaches political theory and governance in the Department of Political Studies and Governance at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. He is a former recipient of the University of Michigan African Presidential Research Fellowship (2008–2009). He was a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2008–2009) and the University of Texas at Austin (2011). He has been a visiting professor at Khon Kaen University, Thailand, since 2010. He is the founder of the International Association for Local Government and the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of African & Asian Local Government Studies* published by the College of Local Administration, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. He is also a research fellow at Helen Suzman Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gbemisola Animasawun, Ph.D., is a lecturer at the Centre for Peace & Strategic Studies of the University of Ilorin, a 2014 Social Science Research Council African Peace-Building Network Post-Doctoral grantee, and Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for French Research in Africa. He was a fellow of the Department of African-American & African Studies at Harvard University and the Kofi Annan International Peace-Keeping Centre, Ghana, in 2014. His areas of research include peace processes, autochthony and fault line conflicts, neopatrimonialism and electoral violence, radical Islamism, and protests and popular revolts. He has published in peer-reviewed local and international journals and contributed chapters to edited volumes.

Rofiah Olateju Animashaun is a doctoral student in peace and conflict studies with special focus on media and cultural studies at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Moyosore Balogun is based at Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria.
Oladele Abiodun Balogun is a professor of philosophy and currently the chair of the Department of Philosophy at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State, Nigeria. He is the national vice chairperson of the Nigerian Philosophical Association. His research interests concern African philosophy, philosophy of education, social philosophy, epistemology, and philosophy of law.

P. Okechukwu Eke earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology/anthropology and postgraduate studies in criminology at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Since 2009, he has been teaching at the Department of Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

Juliet Nkane Ekpang is a lecturer and Ph.D. student in the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Calabar, Nigeria. She obtained her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the same university. Ekpang has several publications and has presented papers at conferences in Nigeria and abroad.

Ntim Gyakari Esew, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, Kaduna State University, Nigeria, and author of *The Military and Democratization in Africa: A Critical Analysis of Transition to Civil Rule in Nigeria and Ghana (1960–2000)*. He is a member of the Nigerian Political Science Association.

Toyin Falola, Ph.D., is the Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair Professor in the Humanities and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria and a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters.

Kudzai Goto is a graduate student of conflict transformation and peace studies at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Her research interests are particularly around keeping, building, and enforcing peace in conflict torn areas in Africa.

Nicholas A. Jackson, Ph.D., is an independent researcher of international development and social movements, currently examining corporate exploitation, resistance, and neoliberal representations in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. His recent and forthcoming works address neoliberalism as spectacle, the rapid failure of the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development Project, and strategic management of resistance through Corporate Social Responsibility.

Céline A. Jacquemin received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Irvine. She is associate professor of political science and associate dean for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas. Her research focuses on international response to genocide and to patterns of human rights violations.

Agbo Uchechukwu Johnson, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer and the head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Taraba State Uni-
versity, Jalingo, Nigeria. He is currently a senior lecturer with the Federal University, Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria. He is a member of the Nigerian Political Science Association and International Political Science Association.

**Vernon Damani Johnson**, Ph.D., has been a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Western Washington University since 1986. His research focus has been on comparative settler colonial and post-settler colonial states in the global system. He has authored several scholarly articles on issues ranging from revolution in Africa to race and identity in American politics and has authored two books: *The Structural Origins of Revolution in Africa* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2003); and *Walkin’ the Talk: An Introduction to African American Studies* (Prentice-Hall Publishers, 2002), co-edited with Bill Lyne. More recently, he has taken an interest in the role of global citizens (both African and foreign) in community development in Africa.

**Kevin Karaki** received his bachelor’s degree in history from Thomas Edison State College; he received his master’s degree in history from the University of Texas at Tyler. While most of his work focuses on medieval Europe, African studies have also been a passion for him.

**Kirsten Lorgen-Knapp** is currently pursuing an M.A. in U.S. foreign policy and national security at American University’s School of International Service. She received a B.A. in political science from Western Washington University in 2012. As an undergraduate student, she conducted extensive research in South Africa on local economic development.

**Langelihle Malimela** is a lecturer and Ph.D. candidate in international relations at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. His areas of interest include South African foreign policy, diplomacy, and African political economy.

**Brillian Besi Muhonja**, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Africana Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, and Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures at James Madison University, Virginia.

**Martha Musalia**, Ph.D., is a lecturer in gender, women’s and children’s history in the Department of History, Archaeology and Political Studies at Kenyatta University, Kenya. She obtained her doctorate in gender history from Kenyatta University; she also holds an M.A. degree in history and a B.A. in history and sociology, both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She has research interests in the area of youth in African history and peace and conflict studies. She has written a number of book chapters and attended international conferences on children and youth.

**Wanjala S. Nasong’o**, Ph.D., is associate professor and chair of the Department of International Studies at Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee. He has previously taught at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; University of Nairobi,
Kenya; and Kenyatta University, Kenya. Prof. Nasong’o is a recipient of the 2012 Rhodes College’s Clarence Day Award for excellence in research and creative activity.

Gillianne Obaso is a children and women’s rights activist in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mike O. Odey, Ph.D., is a professor of economic history and former head of the Department of History, Benue State University, Makurdi. He obtained his Ph.D., M.A. and B.A. degrees in history, all from the University of Jos, Nigeria. His teaching and research focus includes issues in Nigerian and African development and comparative economic growth, poverty policies/analysis, food security systems, environmental and entrepreneurial studies, and inter-group relations. Professor Odey is editor of the *Journal of Research & Contemporary Issues*. He has authored two books: *The Development of Cash Crop Economy in Nigeria’s Lower Benue Province, 1910–1960* (London: Aboki, 2009) and *Food Crop Production, Hunger, and Rural Poverty in Nigeria’s Benue Area, 1920–1995* (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2010). He is a member of the Council of the Historical Society of Nigeria.

Babatunde A. Ojedokun holds a M.S. degree in political science from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He began his career in election administration in 1989 with the National Electoral Commission, Nigeria. Presently, he is assistant director of research and documentation at the Electoral Institute that was created by INEC in Nigeria. He is a member of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and a certified BRIDGE workshop facilitator. He also undertakes election observation in other countries, most recently in Ghana and Liberia.

Israel Dantata Sule lectures at the Department of Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. His academic interests and contributions cover criminology, social theory, globalization, and development studies.

Joseph O. Wasonga holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; an M.A. degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa; and a B.A. degree in political science from the University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Wasonga is a lecturer in political science, conflict studies, and international relations at Kenyatta University, Kenya. He is also a visiting lecturer at St. Augustine University of Tanzania. His research interests are transitional justice, political sociology, political theory, and international relations.