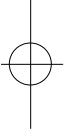
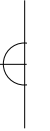
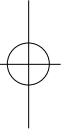
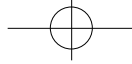
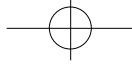


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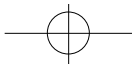
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AFRICAN HISTORY BEFORE 1885

Edited by

Toyin Falola

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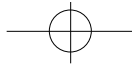
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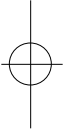
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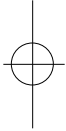
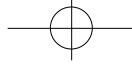
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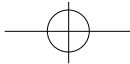
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Bisola Omolola, and Oloruntoyin Omoyeni





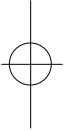


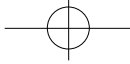
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Preface and Acknowledgments

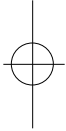
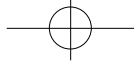
This text is intended to introduce Africa to college students and the general public. It presents in a simplified manner different aspects of African history. The book does not generalize about the continent; rather it reconstructs the history of many societies at different historical periods. Aspects of cultures and key institutions of society are presented in a companion volume titled *African Cultures and Societies Before 1885*. Both books meet the requirements of history and culture courses in most schools, and address those issues of interest to the general public. The choice of topics is dictated both by relevance and by the need to satisfy classroom requirements.

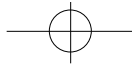
The book is divided into five parts. The first describes the geography of the continent and the role of the environment in its history. The second chapter is about how the continent has been studied and presented in books and the media by scholars and writers. In part B, there are two chapters on the early period of African history. Here, the place of archaeology looms large. Part C takes each region in turn, describing many of the great kingdoms and outstanding events. Part D looks at the history of the nineteenth century, a period much closer in time to the present era. The book ends with a section on the contacts between Africa and Europe, a relationship that redefined the history of Africa after 1885.

A section overview introduces each part, with a summary of the main issues and ideas. The review questions at the end of every chapter test both broad and specific knowledge.

The choice of the contributors is primarily based on their competence as teachers in explaining history to college students and beginners, and their skill in synthesizing a large body of data and ideas. The relevance and comprehensibility of the chapters have been tested by anonymous undergraduate students in two schools. I am grateful to all the contributors, students, and readers. I received valuable support from many students and scholars who offered excellent suggestions for the book's title, organization, and contents. In preparing for the press, valuable support from Steven Salm and Saheed Adejumbi ensured the completion of the project. Without the indefatigable assistance of Steven Salm, this project would have taken a much longer time to complete. Joel Tishken, my loyal friend, checked all the illustrations and suggested new ones. Dr. Ann O'Hear copy-edited the manuscript.

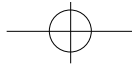
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The University of Texas at Austin



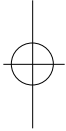


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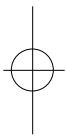




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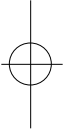
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Notes on the Authors

Saheed A. Adejumobi holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in history and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. He has contributed to other publications on Africa. His interests include ethnicity, nationalism, and African diasporic cultural politics.

Julius Adekunle holds a Ph.D. from Dalhousie University, Canada. He has been a college teacher of history since the 1970s, and has written many essays on different aspects of precolonial Africa. He is preparing for press *A History of West Africa*.

Funso Afolayan holds a Ph.D. in African history from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. In addition to research publications in Europe, Africa and the United States, he is co-author of *Yoruba Sacred Kingship: A Power Unto the Gods* (1996). He has held a number of research and teaching positions, at Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, at Amherst College, and in the Department of History and African and Afro-American Studies Program of Washington University in St. Louis. He currently teaches African and World History at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. He is completing a joint study with Toyin Falola on *The Yoruba in the Nineteenth Century*.

William C. Barnett graduated from Yale University in 1988 with a B.A. in History. He taught United States, African, Latin American, and World History at Brewster Academy in New Hampshire for three years. He earned an M.A. in History in 1990 from the University of Texas at Austin and he is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Barnett's speciality is environmental history, and he has written on a variety of regions.

Jeremiah Dibua, Ph.D., teaches African history at Morgan State University. He has taught in two Nigerian colleges—Edo State University, Ekpoma and University of Benin, Benin City—and the North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. His area of specialization is African history. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and contributed chapters to books. Dr. Dibua has been teaching African history for over twelve years.

Toyin Falola, Ph.D., has been teaching since the 1970s in different countries. Author of many books and articles, editor of journals and a monograph series, he is a professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. Falola has participated in the drafting of history syllabi for two countries and has contributed to numerous texts on African history.

Joseph Inikori is professor of history at the University of Rochester, New York. Born in Nigeria, he took his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Ibadan, and he has taught at that university and at Ahmadu Bello University. He has been a Fellow at the London School of Economics and the University



of Birmingham. Among his many publications on slavery and the slave trade are *Forced Migration: The Impact of the Export Slave Trade on African Societies* (1982), *The Chaining of a Continent: Export Demand for Captives and the History of Africa South of the Sahara 1450–1870* (1992), and *The Atlantic Slave Trade: Effects on Economies, Societies, and Peoples in Africa, the Americas, and Europe* (1992).

Patrick U. Mbajekwe, an experienced teacher, holds M.A. from the University of Lagos, and he is currently a doctoral student at Emory University.

Chidiebere Nwaubani is with the History Department, University of Colorado at Boulder; he was previously a faculty member at Imo State University, Okigwe, Nigeria. His degrees are from the Universities of Ilorin, Ibadan, and Toronto. A recipient of many academic awards and distinctions, he was a Visiting Fellow of the British Academy in summer 1997. He has published in several journals on subjects including the philosophy of history, history of the Igbo, British decolonization in Africa, and the political economy of contemporary Africa. He is currently revising his Ph.D. for publication, to be titled, “The United States and Decolonization in West Africa, 1950–1960.”

Adebayo Oyebo teaches in the Department of History, Tennessee State University, Nashville. Formerly he was a lecturer in African history at Ogun State University, Nigeria. He obtained his Ph.D. in history from Temple University where he was a Fulbright scholar. He has contributed chapters to books on African history and has published articles in learned journals, including the *Journal of Black Studies and African Economic History*. He is the co-editor of *Africa After the Cold War: Changing Perspectives on Security* (1998). In addition to teaching, Oyebo is also a poet.

Joel Tishken holds an M.A. in history, and he is currently working on his Ph.D. program in World History at the University of Texas at Austin. Tishken has acquired experience as a teacher at the college level. He has contributed to other publications and written reviews for *African Economic History*.

Jacqueline Woodfork has worked for many years as an administrator in the United States and Africa. After completing her M.A. degree she has embarked upon a Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is researching aspects of French imperialism in Africa.