

PREFACE

This book is a linear descendant of a Cambridge PhD thesis originally completed in 1975. This was in turn based on fieldwork carried out in 1969–70 in Ghana and 1971–3 in Nigeria, financed by a Hayter Studentship from the Department of Education and Science, and a Smuts Studentship from the University of Cambridge. I am grateful to these bodies, and also to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, and the University of Kent at Canterbury, for periods of study leave which enabled me both to write the original thesis and to recast it in its present form. The time which has elapsed since I first went into the field is all too long, but in a sense I found myself writing history rather than anthropology as soon as the Yoruba left Ghana part-way through my fieldwork, and I still feel that the experiences of the Yoruba in Ghana touch on issues such as migrant entrepreneurship and the relations between market traders and the state in the Third World which remain relevant today.

For help in Ghana, I would like to thank Malcolm McLeod, C.B. Gbeck, Tisiip Gandaa, Niara Sudarkasa, the Nigerian High Commission, officials of the Nigerian Community, the Yoruba Ilu Pejo, and the various Yoruba town and religious organisations in Tamale, together with the staff of the Tamale markets, the Tamale branch of the National Archives of Ghana, the staff of the Tamale Grade II Court, and the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. In Nigeria, I would like to thank Rev. 'Dele Adeleru, Rev. and Mrs Whirley, Rev. and Mrs Sherrick, the Baptist and UMS Missions, the late Professor F.O. Okediji, Leslie Green, Vincent Milone and officials of the former Western State Ministry of Economic Planning and Reconstruction. Ganiyu Gbademasi, Lasisi Lawal, Razaki Braimah, Joseph Olugboye, Moses Iyanda, Felicia Sangotowo, Yekini Yusuf, Jimoh Balogun, Joshua Afolabi and 'Dayo Ayinla acted at various times as friends, informants and interpreters both in Ghana and Nigeria, and without their enthusiasm and help I would have got nowhere. For advice and help at various stages of writing, I am indebted to Keith Hart, Polly Hill, Ibrahim Tahir, Enid Schildkrout, my supervisor Jack Goody, and to the series editors John Peel and David Parkin for their continued assurance that this material was worth publishing, despite my endless ability to procrastinate and find other things to do with my life. Sections of some chapters were included in earlier versions in books published by Cambridge University Press, the International African Institute and the University of California Press, and I am grateful to these publishers for permission to reuse this material. I am also grateful to Cambridge University

Press for allowing me to reproduce two photographs originally published in *The Yoruba Today*. As in these previous publications, the names of the main protagonists in this account have been changed.

The two largest debts remain. The first is to my landlord in both Ghana and Nigeria, Alhaji Braimah Pakoyi, who was a constant source of friendship and encouragement in both Tamale and Igbetti, and who provided me with many of my most important insights into the nature of Yoruba migration and community structure. The second is to Carla, who abandoned the relative comfort of a life killing tame cockroaches in a Cambridge laboratory for the relative discomfort of a life killing wild cockroaches in the field. She played a vital role in helping collect much of the data on the women traders, and the study owes everything to the rapport which she was able to establish with our friends in Ghana and Nigeria. This is her book as much as it is mine.

Jerry Eades
Tokyo, 1993