## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many individuals and institutions contributed to the making of this book, and I am grateful to all of them. I carried out much of the research for this book while based at the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham as a graduate student, during which time I was supported by the School of Historical Studies and the *Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst*. Thanks to the generosity of Tony Kirk-Greene, I was able to continue my research as the Kirk-Greene Junior Research Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, before returning to the Centre of West African Studies as a member of staff. Librarians and academics at Olabisi Onabanjo University (formerly Ogun State University), the University of Ibadan, the National Archives in Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University (formerly the University of Ife) and the Herskovitz Library at Northwestern University provided invaluable support at various times. After detailed and knowledgeable discussions, Graham Norrie improved the book's illustrations and Henry and Louise Buglass produced its maps.

In Remo and Nigeria, my research would have been impossible without the help, patience and forbearance of many people, including Macaulay Adekoya, Sanya Adekoya, Christopher Bähr, Remi Beyioku, Doyin Faniyi, Juwon Opayemi, Josephine Ogazi, Stanley Okafor, Omobolaji Olarinmoye, Oladipo Olubomehin and Esther Virgens. The late Aláyé Odè of Ode Remo, HRH Sunday Olufunso Adeolu, together with his wife Olorì Folasade Adeolu, introduced me to many Remo rulers and chiefs, and I am grateful for his valuable advice and generous hospitality. Sadly, he passed away unexpectedly before this book was published. HRH Dr Adedayo Olusino Adekoya, the Qba Àmérò of Ile-Ife, and Olorì Funmilola Adekoya taught me many songs, proverbs and practices referred to in this book and provided me with a happy home whenever I was based in Remo. Above all, I am grateful to the Yèyé Oòduà of Ile-Ife and Ìyálóde of Remoland, Dr Hannah Awolowo, CON, for her general support of my work and for granting me access to her late husband's files.

I have also benefited from the advice and encouragement of many friends and colleagues in the UK and elsewhere during the time I worked on this book. In particular, I would like to thank Wale Adebanwi, Aderemi Ajala, Sola

Ajibade, Lynne Brydon, Stewart Brown, Josephine Carr, Reginald Cline-Cole, Kate Meagher, Raufu Mustapha, Rita Nnodim, Olukoya Ogen, Ayo Onatola, David Pratten, Keith Shear, Axel Harneit-Sievers, Kate Skinner and Charles Ukeje for their help. The exceptional work of Karin Barber, Paulo de Moraes Farias, Tom McCaskie and J. D.Y. Peel has influenced and shaped my own aspirations, and I am grateful for their generous support during the writing of this book. All of them have read and commented on successive drafts of the manuscript over many years, contributed practical suggestions regarding the organisation of the text and, in Karin Baber's case, improved the translations from the Yoruba. Without them, this book would not exist.

Finally, I thank my family, and in particular my grandmothers Margret Nolte and Gesina Merrem, my aunt Renate Simon and my father Hans-Heinrich Nolte for their support over the past years. It is to my father and to the memory of my late mother that this book is dedicated. My husband Simon Green patiently advised and encouraged me throughout the work on this book. Without our children Anna (Omowunmi), Thomas (Taiwo) and Edward (Kehinde), the book might have been completed much earlier, but, written by a different person, it would have been a different book.