## **Acknowledgements**

The research for this book was completed with the financial support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, without which this project would not have happened.

My archival research in Khartoum, which forms the backbone of this book, was facilitated in particular by the support of SUDAAK (Sudanese Association for Archiving Knowledge). My thanks go especially to Badreldin el Hag Musa, Fawzia Galaledin and Muhammad al-Hassan Muhammad Abdu. Their help with arranging access to archives and visas was absolutely invaluable, and their friendship was a great support in Khartoum. Thanks also to the staff of the National Records Office in Khartoum, especially Directors Taj al-Din, Muhammad Azraq, Awatif, and, in the search room, Khalida al-Shareif and Ahmed Muhammad Adam Hanafi. I was allowed wide access to the rich historical documentation available at the NRO, contrary to preconceived expectations.

I would like to thank the National Archives in London; the Rhodes House Library in Oxford; and, above all, the staff of the Sudan Archive in Durham, especially Jane Hogan. Jane is one of the great treasures of Durham, as anyone who has worked in the Sudan Archive will testify. I am grateful to Chris Orton of the cartography unit in the geography department at Durham for drawing the map. The publishers of the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* gave permission to reproduce in Chapter 2, material previously published in that journal (www. tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03086534.2014.894706).

Durham University's department of History provided a consistently supportive and increasingly inspiring base for my research. The list of debts I have incurred at that institution are difficult to summarize but friends and colleagues who have contributed to this work and my wider academic life in one way or another include Zoe Cormack, David Craig, Poppy Cullen, John Donaldson, Jo Fox, Robin Frame, Adrian Green, Matt Greenhall, Sarah Hackett, Matthew Johnson, Anna Jones, Tamador Khalid-Abdalla, Nicki Kindersley, James Koranyi, Chris Prior, Peter Tenant and Philip Williamson. I was lucky enough to begin research on Sudanese history at the same time as W. J. Berridge, who was a great colleague both in Durham and Khartoum. Without the encouragement and support of Richard Reid I would

never have begun this project. More recently at Liverpool John Moores University, James Crossland, Katherine Harbord, Matt Hill and Nick White have all provided intellectual input into this work, and the History department has been a supportive and collegial environment in which to complete the book.

I have also incurred many personal and intellectual debts in the wider fields of Sudanese and African studies: some of my creditors include Joshua Craze, Lotje de Vries, Vincent Hiribarren, Miles Larmer, Laura Mann, Paul Nugent, Aidan Russell, Øystein Rolandsen, Jonathan Saha, Iris Seri-Hirsch, Aidan Stonehouse, Mareike Schomerus, Dmitri van den Bersselaar, Hannah Whittaker, Alden Young and members of ABORNE (African Borderlands Research Network). Teaching on the Rift Valley Institute's Sudans course in 2013 was an invaluable experience and made a considerable impact on the final form of this book's arguments. Baz LeCocq was a truly constructive critic of my work, and again contributed greatly to the finished arguments of this book. Douglas Johnson has been a generous supporter and careful reader of this work, and I am very grateful to him. At James Currey, Jaqueline Mitchell has been a supportive and patient editor. The peer reviewer for James Currey also provided a very useful detailed critique of this work.

There are two people who have had a truly profound impact on my academic life, and who I have been privileged enough to call at various times supervisors, colleagues and friends. Cherry Leonardi supervised my research with a degree of creative and critical engagement which went far beyond what could reasonably be hoped for. She has been a constant source of sound advice and friendship over many years, and her influence on this book will (I hope) be obvious to anyone familiar with her own work. Justin Willis has been a meticulous critical reader of this work in its multiple incarnations. He also ignited my enthusiasm for Sudanese and African history as an undergraduate back in 2001, and has been a never-failing support ever since. Both Cherry and Justin have been figures of true intellectual and professional inspiration for me over a long period, and this work would have been impossible without them. The limits and weaknesses that remain in this book are, however, entirely my own.

Finally, my family have been the bedrock of support on which this book was based. My mother and father, Eunice and Alan, my parents-in-law Miro and Janka, and my wife, Vanja, have always been consistent in their support of me and my work. My parents have encouraged me in all areas of life to live well – and shown how to do this. Vanja's patience with my absences (physical and mental) and her active engagement with and belief in this work have been of profound value. Without her, this would never have happened. Finally, our daughter Mila arrived in 2013 and has ever since provided a source of wonderment that has kept me firmly tethered to my rich life beyond work.