

Acknowledgments

This book developed out of an international conference in Paris in December 2019, exactly one year after the outbreak of a series of major protests in Sudan that are now known as the December Revolution. The vigorous discussions that unfolded in Paris were part of a broader context in which hopes for political change and democracy – stirred by the fall of President ‘Umar al-Bashīr in April 2019 – were still very much alive, before they were seriously challenged by a military counter-coup in October 2021.

We would like to thank all the participants in the conference and the University of Chicago in Paris, which hosted the event. These two volumes are much more than conference proceedings, however: some of the initial participants did not remain on board, while other colleagues joined our adventure later. Our warm thanks go to all the authors and anonymous reviewers in France, Sudan, South Sudan and elsewhere across the globe, whose time and efforts were critical for the successive revisions of the chapters of the book. The editorial team consists of five scholars, some of whom did not know each other very well at the beginning of the process. We have worked hard together for three years, with a deep commitment to the ideas that lie behind this book. We have been extremely lucky to come across each other, and it has been a real dream team to work with.

We are grateful to Cadenza Academic Translations for their accurate translation of three chapters from Arabic into English, to Simon Dix for his careful proofreading work and to Rabea Rittgerodt and Jana Fritsche, who supervised the editorial process at De Gruyter and always answered our questions clearly and punctually. The publication of this book in print and Open Access would not have been possible without the financial support of numerous institutions. We sincerely thank the Institut des Mondes Africains (IMAF) in Paris, the Institut de Recherches et d’Études sur les Mondes Arabes et Musulmans (IREMAM) in Aix-en-Provence, the Institut des Sciences Humaines et Sociales (INSHS) at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Centre d’Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CEDEJ) in Khartoum, the Institut d’Études de l’Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulman (IISMM) at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, Les Afriques dans le Monde (LAM) in Bordeaux, and the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme (MMSH) in Aix-en-Provence. We also thank the various institutions that granted us the right to reproduce pictures and documents. A heartfelt thank goes to some members of the Old Sudanese Photos Facebook group, and in particular to Ceham Abbas, Yass Khogali and Haytham Ahmad for their help in sharing images for the covers of the two volumes as well as information on copyrights. We are grateful to the administrative staff at our research institutes, who had to do the cumbersome

some bureaucratic work required for producing a book such as this. Last but not least, this book owes a great deal to our families, friends, and colleagues around the world, who have remained supportive all along the way. We express our deepest love and gratitude to them.

Elena Vezzadini, Iris Seri-Hersch, Lucie Revilla, Anaël Poussier and Mahassin Abdul Jalil. Paris, Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux and Khartoum, April 2023