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Reversing Sail

This book examines the global unfolding of the African Diaspora, the migrations and dispersals of people of Africa, from antiquity to the modern period. Their exploits, challenges, and struggles over a wide expanse of time are discussed in ways that link as well as differentiate past and present circumstances. The experiences of Africans in the Old World, in the Mediterranean and Islamic worlds, is followed by their movement into the New, where their plight in lands claimed by Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French, and English colonial powers is analyzed from enslavement through the Cold War. While appropriate mention is made of persons of renown, particular attention is paid to the everyday lives of working class people and their cultural efflorescence. The book also attempts to explain contemporary plights and struggles through the lens of history.

Michael A. Gomez is Professor of History at New York University. He is the author of *Pragmatism in the Age of Jihad: The Precolonial State of Bundu* (Cambridge, 1992) and *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* (1998). He currently serves as Director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD).

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Michael A. Gomez
New York University



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*In memory of the love of my mother,
Mary Williams Gomez, 1936–1999,
the first to make me see
the beauty and suffering of the African Diaspora.*

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