African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania
Between the Village and the World

Drawing on a wide range of oral and written sources, this book tells the story of Tanzania’s socialist experiment: the *ujamaa* villagization initiative of 1967–75. Inaugurated shortly after independence, *ujamaa* (“familyhood” in Swahili) both invoked established socialist themes and departed from the existing global repertoire of development policy, seeking to reorganize the Tanzanian countryside into communal villages to achieve national development. Priya Lal investigates how Tanzanian leaders and rural people creatively envisioned *ujamaa* and documents how villagization unfolded on the ground, without affixing the project to a trajectory of inevitable failure. By forging an empirically rich and conceptually nuanced account of *ujamaa*, *African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania* restores a sense of possibility and process to the early years of African independence, refines prevailing theories of nation building and development, and expands our understanding of the 1960s and 1970s world.

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African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania

Between the Village and the World

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I first began work on this book – in its initial incarnation, as a dissertation proposal – in 2006. The nine years of research and writing that followed have been a true adventure, full of formative challenges, unexpected discoveries, and delightful rewards. As my project matured over the years, so did I, both personally and professionally. Those who have supported my scholarly development have also enriched me as a human being, and vice versa. It is with much gratitude that I acknowledge some of them here.

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