



The Value of Disorder

Despite being central to the development of Saharan regional connectivity, northern Chad has been closed to researchers since the late 1960s and thus remains virtually unknown to scholarship. Based on long-term fieldwork, *The Value of Disorder* is an original and in-depth account of the area and its Tubu majority inhabitants. Julien Brachet and Judith Scheele examine trans-border connectivity and trade; civil war and rebellion; wealth creation and dispersal; labour and gender relations; and aspirations to moral autonomy in northern Chad from an internal point of view – a point of view that in turn participates in a dynamic process of regional interdependence. Vividly ethnographic, the book gives precedence to local categories of value, while asking broader questions about the nature of non-state regional political organisation, questions that inform current political developments in the Sahara more widely and have the potential to challenge key concepts in Saharan studies and the social sciences.

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The Value of Disorder

Autonomy, Prosperity, and Plunder
in the Chadian Sahara

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Arabic words are transliterated following the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, with diacritics omitted. Dazaga and Tedaga words adopt the spelling proposed by Charles Le Cœur (1950) and the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Glossary

<i>arba</i> (Tubu)	camel mark
‘ <i>askar</i> (Arabic)	soldier
<i>aza</i> , singular <i>eze</i> (Tubu)	blacksmith and praise-singer
<i>azûma</i> (Tubu)	fund-raising party
<i>bādiya</i> (Arabic)	wilderness
<i>bilād al-sība</i> (Arabic)	land of dissidence
<i>bilād al-sūdān</i> (Arabic)	land of the blacks
<i>boubou</i> (French)	ankle-length shirt for men
<i>bunduk jāb-ha</i> (Arabic)	‘brought by the guns’: returnees from Libya
<i>canton</i> (French)	smallest administrative unit in Chad
<i>chef de canton</i> (French)	leader and representative of a <i>canton</i>
<i>député</i> (French)	delegate to the Chadian national parliament
<i>derdé</i> (Tubu)	traditional ‘chief’
<i>diya</i> (Arabic)	blood money
Fazzānī (Arabic)	inhabitant of Fazzān in southern Libya
<i>griot</i> (French)	blacksmith and praise-singer
<i>haddād</i> (Arabic)	blacksmith
<i>ikhwān</i> , singular <i>akh</i> (Arabic)	brother, member of a Sufi order
<i>khalīfa</i> (Arabic)	representative, here head of a <i>zāwiya</i>
<i>koro</i>	measurement for dry goods (dates, cereals)
<i>métis</i> (French)	child of one European and one African parent

<i>mustaghriq al-dhimma</i> (Arabic)	‘forfeited of his own goods’: beyond the law
<i>nawāzil</i> (Arabic)	legal responsa
<i>qādī</i> (Arabic)	judge
<i>radda</i> (Arabic)	compensation
Sanūsiyya	Sufi order, primarily based in Libya
<i>shadūf</i> (Arabic)	well with counterpoise lift
<i>sharī’a</i> (Arabic)	Islamic law
<i>sous-préfet</i> (French)	administrator subordinate to the prefect
<i>tirailleur</i> (French)	indigenous soldier in French colonial army
<i>yele</i> (Tubu)	clan
<i>zakāt</i> (Arabic)	religious tax
<i>zarība</i> , plural <i>zarā’ib</i> (Arabic)	fortified military or slave- raiding camp
<i>zāwiya</i> , plural <i>zawāyā</i> (Arabic)	religious stronghold

Abbreviations

AEF	French Equatorial Africa
ANL	Armée nationale de libération
ASECNA	Agence pour la sécurité de la navigation aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar
BET	Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti
BNF	Bureau national de fret
CAR	Central African Republic
CCFAN	Conseil de commandement des forces armées du nord
CCMSR	Conseil de commandement militaire pour le salut de la république
CDR	Conseil démocratique révolutionnaire
COM/RM	Commandant de la région militaire
CTT	Coopérative des transporteurs tchadiens
DDS	Direction de la documentation et de la sécurité
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFT	Éléments français au Tchad
FACT	Front pour l'alternance et la concorde au Tchad
FAN	Forces armées du Nord
FANT	Forces armées nationales tchadiennes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAP	Forces armées populaires
FAT	Forces armées tchadiennes
F CFA	Franc de la communauté financière africaine (1,000 F CFA = €1.52)
Frolinat	Front de libération nationale du Tchad

GUNT	Gouvernement d'union national de transition
INSEED	Institut national de la statistique, des Études Économiques et démographiques
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MATUH	Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire, de l'urbanisme et de l'habitat
MDJT	Mouvement pour la démocratie et la justice au Tchad
MINUSCA	Mission multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique
MINUSMA	Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation au Mali
MISCA	Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique sous conduite africaine
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task-Force
MPS	Mouvement patriotique du Salut
MRA	Mission pour la réforme administrative
OCRS	Organisation commune des régions sahariennes
ONC	Office national des céréales
ONDR	Office national de développement rural
ORSTOM	Office de la recherche scientifique et technique outre-mer
PPT	Parti progressiste tchadien
RFI	Radio France internationale
TAT	Tunisienne automobile transport
UFDD	Union des forces pour la démocratie et le développement
UNIR	Union nationale pour l'indépendance et la révolution
WFP	World Food Program