

Cambridge University Press

0521566002 - Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa

Frederick Cooper

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

Contents

| | |
|---|---------------|
| <i>List of tables and figure</i> | <i>page</i> x |
| <i>Preface</i> | xi |
| <i>List of abbreviations</i> | xvi |
| <i>Map of French and British colonial Africa</i> | xviii |
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| On colonialism and decolonization | 6 |
| On labor, power, and discourse | 12 |
| The argument | 17 |
| Part I: The dangers of expansion and the dilemmas of reform | 21 |
| Introduction | 23 |
| 2 The labor question unposed | 25 |
| Free labor ideology codified | 25 |
| French Africa: grand visions and invisible realities | 31 |
| British Africa: indirect rule and indirect recruitment | 43 |
| Recovery and rethinking in French and British Africa, c. 1935 | 50 |
| 3 Reforming imperialism, 1935–1940 | 57 |
| Disorder and development in the British Empire | 58 |
| The shock from below | 58 |
| The development framework | 65 |
| Socialist colonialism and labor in French Africa | 73 |
| From Gouverneur Providence to Apostolat du Travail: the case of the Ivory Coast | 77 |
| Slaves of the Commandant: the Popular Front and labor for public purpose | 88 |
| Africans as workers: social legislation and the labor movement, 1936–38 | 92 |
| The limits of labor reform: Thiès, September–October 1938 | 104 |
| On reform and the labor question | 107 |
| 4 Forced labor, strike movements, and the idea of development, 1940–1945 | 110 |
| Development and labor conflict in British Africa | 111 |
| Development and the Africans | 111 |
| | vii |

Cambridge University Press

0521566002 - Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa

Frederick Cooper

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

| | | |
|------|--|------------|
| viii | Contents | |
| | An unsettling presence: workers and strikers in wartime British Africa | 124 |
| | Development and coercion in French Africa | 141 |
| | Vichy's visions: corporatism, modernity, and development | 141 |
| | Diligence and discontent in the colonie-providence | 150 |
| | Labor unreformed: the case of Senegal | 153 |
| | The Free French and unfree labor | 156 |
| | Conclusion: posing the labor question | 167 |
| | Part II: Imperial fantasies and colonial crises | 171 |
| | Introduction | 173 |
| 5 | Imperial plans | 176 |
| | The French Union and the contradictions of forced labor | 177 |
| | Brazzaville, January–February 1944 | 177 |
| | The emancipation of colonial workers | 182 |
| | The emancipation of the Inspection du Travail | 196 |
| | Great Britain's Africa: defining the object of development and reform | 202 |
| | Imperialism internationalized: the ILO and standards for social policy | 216 |
| 6 | Crises | 225 |
| | Dakar, December 1945–February 1946 | 227 |
| | Mombasa, January 1947 | 234 |
| | The French West African railways, October 1947–March 1948 | 241 |
| | The Gold Coast, 1948–1951 | 248 |
| | Conclusion: modernity, backwardness, and the colonial state | 261 |
| | Part III: The imagining of a working class | 271 |
| | Introduction | 273 |
| 7 | The systematic approach: the French Code du Travail | 277 |
| | Imperial politics and labor reform | 277 |
| | The great debate, 1947–1952 | 292 |
| | Implementing the code | 305 |
| | Conclusion | 321 |
| 8 | Family wages and industrial relations in British Africa | 323 |
| | Trade unionism and wage-fixing/order and reproduction | 324 |
| | The dilemmas of “stabilization” and “African advancement”: | |
| | Northern Rhodesia | 336 |
| | Colonial development as Manichean drama: Kenya in the Mau Mau era | 348 |
| 9 | Internationalists, intellectuals, and the labor question | 361 |
| | Labor on the international agenda: the ILO and the IALC | 362 |
| | Western intellectuals and modern Africans | 369 |
| | Conclusion: labor and the modernizing state | 383 |

Cambridge University Press

0521566002 - Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa

Frederick Cooper

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

| | Contents | ix |
|---|----------|------------|
| Part IV: Devolving power and abdicating responsibility | | 387 |
| Introduction | | 389 |
| 10 The burden of declining empire | | 392 |
| A cost-benefit analysis of the British empire | | 392 |
| The costs of assimilationist empire: the opening of a debate | | 401 |
| 11 Delinking colony and metropole: French Africa in the 1950s | | 407 |
| Autonomy and the French West African labor movement | | 408 |
| The Loi Cadre and the renunciation of assimilation | | 424 |
| Conclusion | | 430 |
| 12 Nation, international trade unionism, and race: anglophone Africa in the 1950s | | 432 |
| The ambivalences of responsible trade unionism after colonial rule | | 432 |
| Self-government and the civil service in British Africa | | 443 |
| Conclusion: the social meaning of decolonization | | 451 |
| Conclusion | | 455 |
| 13 The wages of modernity and the price of sovereignty | | 457 |
| The African worker unbound | | 457 |
| Framing the labor question in post-colonial Africa | | 464 |
| The contradictions of universality | | 466 |
| <i>Notes</i> | | 473 |
| <i>Bibliography</i> | | 627 |
| <i>Index</i> | | 657 |