Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880–1995

This new edition of Patrick Manning’s established text includes two new chapters that discuss developments in the region since 1985, emphasising the democratisation movements of the 1980s and 1990s, the Francophone movement, and the crises in Rwanda and Burundi. Focusing on the French-speaking countries in west and central Africa, the book brings out the way in which the precolonial African heritage shaped new societies, in interaction with French and Belgian colonial rules, and with global economic and cultural forces. Three eras of change are described: the transition to colonial rule from 1880 to 1940, the transition to independent states from 1940 to 1985, and the reconfiguration of post-colonial society after 1985. It presents a strong line of interpretation and clear summaries, as well as considerable detail. The first edition of this book has been widely used in courses in African studies and African history.

Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa
1880–1995

PATRICK MANNING
To Pamela and Gina
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Patrick Manning
March 1988

NOTE ON THE SECOND EDITION

This volume extends the first edition by ten years. A new chapter 8 emphasises the democratization movements of the 1980s and 1990s, the Francophone movement, and the crises in Rwanda and Burundi. A new epilogue, chapter 9, addresses urban issues of the 1990s and prospects for the future. I am grateful to Jean-Marie Makang for guidance on these chapters.

In May of 1997 forces loyal to Laurent Kabila drove Mobutu Sese Seko from Zaire and occupied Kinshasa. Kabila declared himself president and announced that the country would again be known as the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this text, meanwhile, I retain the term “Zaire” for the period from 1971 to 1997.

Patrick Manning
August 1998
Map 1  Francophone sub-Saharan Africa in 1995