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Honour in African History

This is the first published account of the role played by ideas of honour in African history from the fourteenth century to the present day. It argues that appreciation of these ideas is essential to an understanding of past and present African behaviour. Before European conquest, many African men cultivated heroic honour, others admired the civic virtues of the patriarchal householder, and women honoured one another for industry, endurance, and devotion to their families. These values both conflicted and blended with Islamic and Christian teachings. Colonial conquest fragmented heroic cultures, but inherited ideas of honour found new expression in regimental loyalty, respectability, professionalism, working-class masculinity, the changing gender relationships of the colonial order, and the nationalist movements that overthrew the old order. Today, the same inherited notions obstruct democracy, inspire resistance to tyranny, and motivate the defence of dignity in the face of AIDS.

JOHN ILIFFE is Professor of African History at Cambridge University and a Fellow of St. John's College. He is the author of many books, including *The African Poor: A History* (Cambridge, 1987) and *Africans: The History of a Continent* (Cambridge, 1995). *The African Poor* was awarded the Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association of the United States.

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FOR
JOHN LONSDALE
COLLEAGUE, FRIEND,
AND SCHOLAR

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Preface

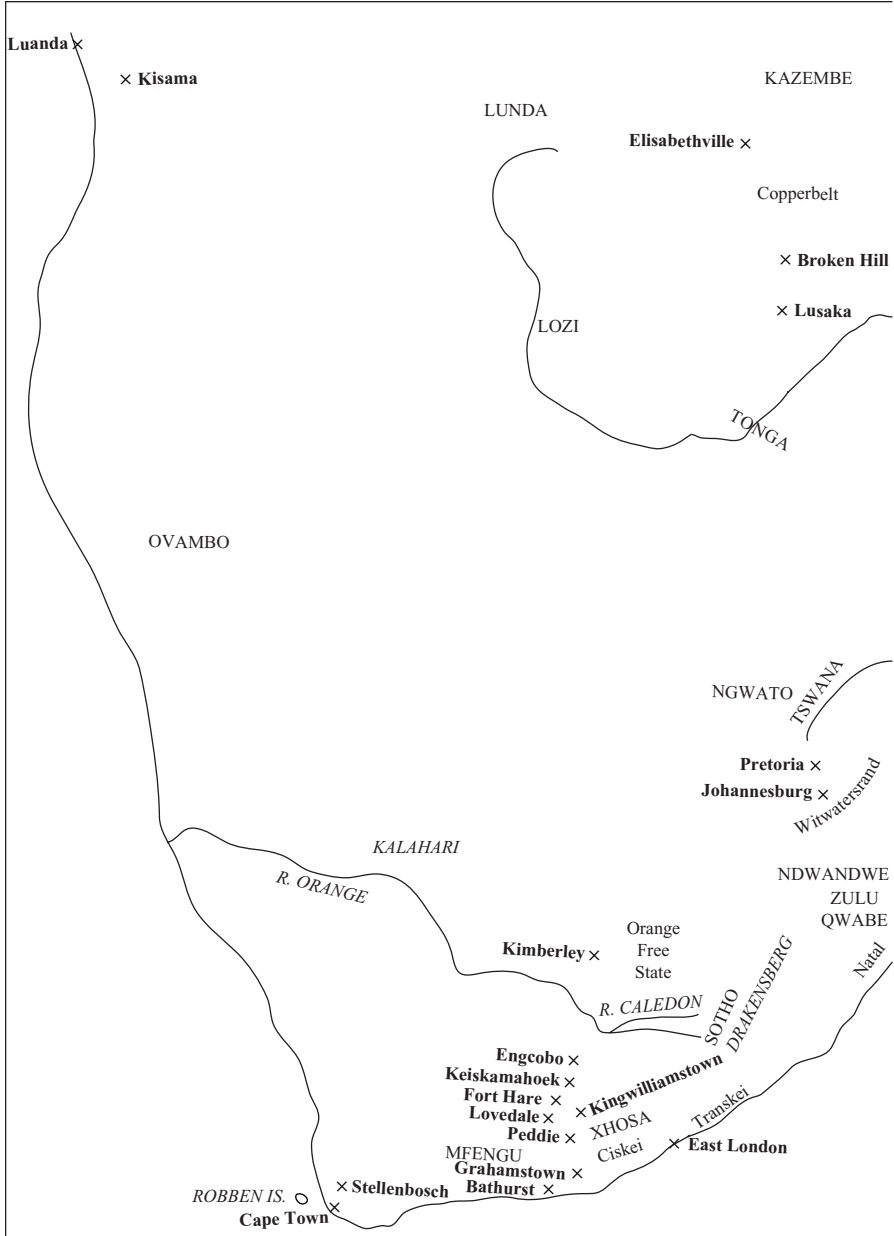
This book draws on forty years of research and study during which I have incurred more debts of gratitude than I can list, but I am especially grateful to Cedric Barnes, Shane Doyle, Sarah Irons, Bill Noblett, John Rowe, Michael Twaddle, and the staff of the Cape Archives Depot, Cape Town.

The book is dedicated to John Lonsdale, with whom I have worked closely for almost the whole of my career. How much I have learned from him will appear from the text. How much I owe him for his unfailing enthusiasm and consideration will, I hope, appear from this dedication.

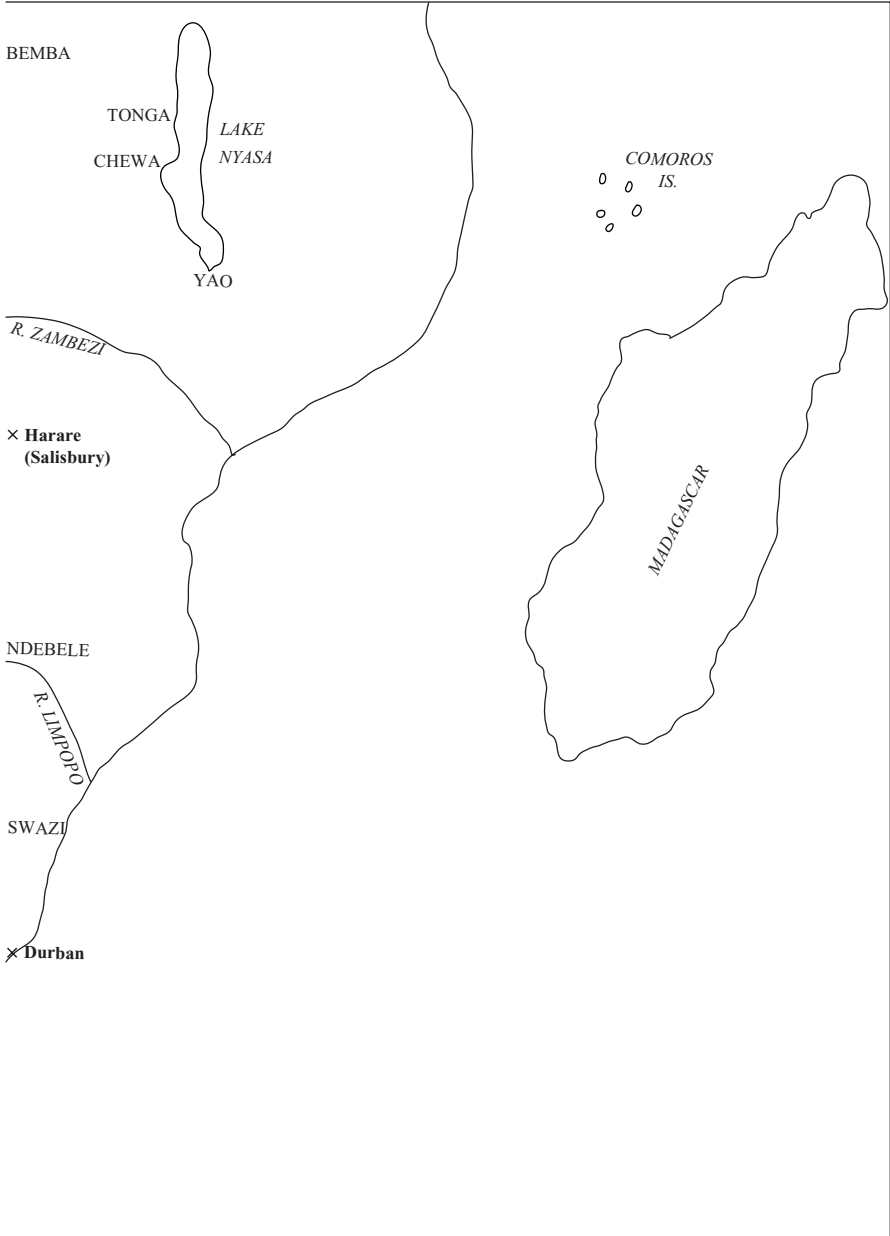
Abbreviations

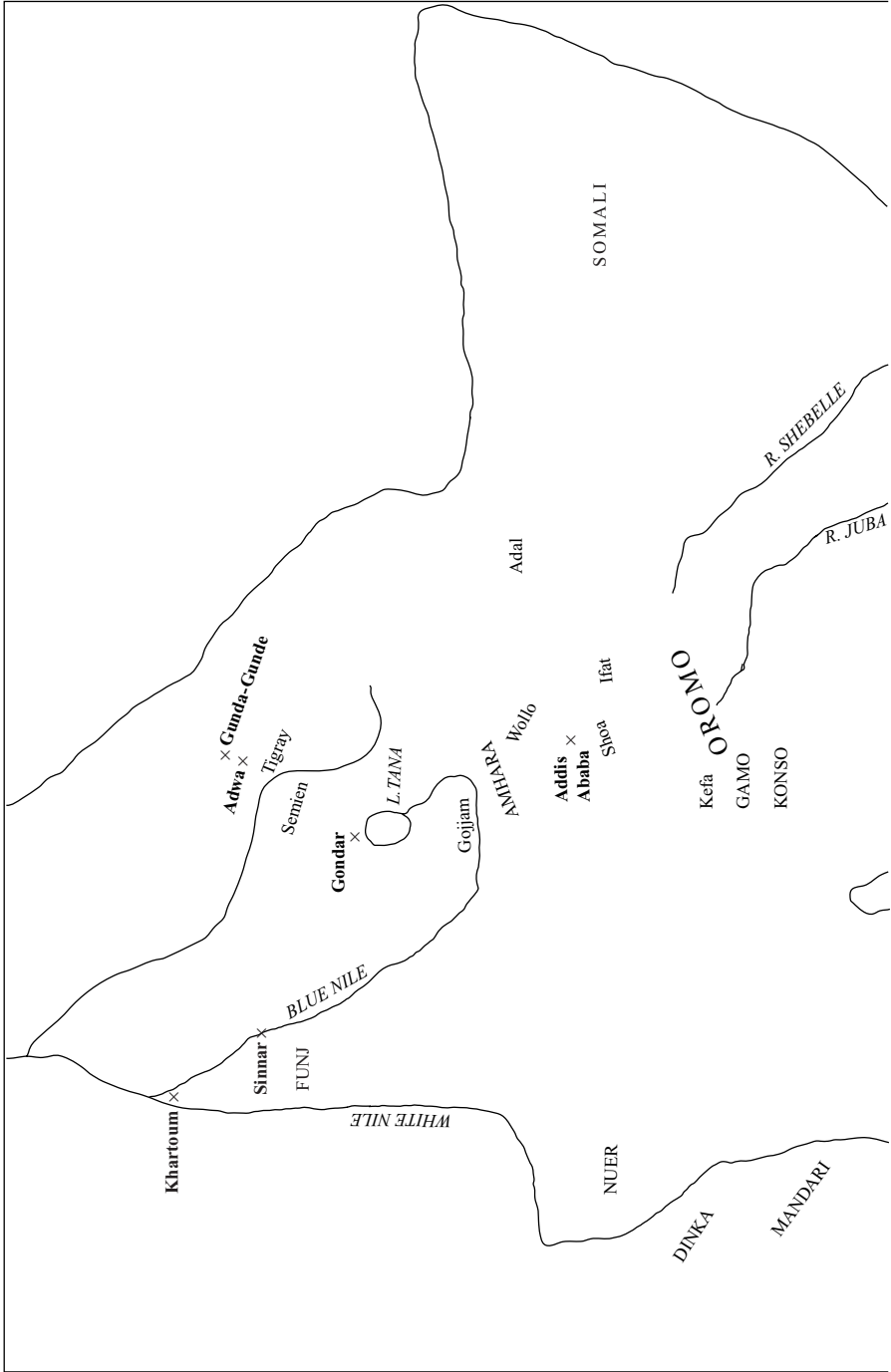
ANC	African National Congress (of South Africa)
<i>BIFAN</i>	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français [Fondamental] de l'Afrique Noire</i>
CA	Cape Archives Depot, Cape Town
CAB	Cabinet [records in PRO]
<i>CEA</i>	<i>Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines</i>
CFA	Communauté Financière Africaine
CMS	Church Missionary Society [records in Birmingham University Library]
CO	Colonial Office [records in PRO]
CPP	Convention Peoples' Party (Ghana)
CS	Chief/Colonial Secretary
<i>CSSH</i>	<i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>
CUL	Cambridge University Library
CWM	Council for World Mission [records in SOAS Library]
DO	Dominions Office [records in PRO]
FO	Foreign Office [records in PRO]
FOCP	Foreign Office Confidential Print
ICU	Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (of South Africa)
<i>IJAHS</i>	<i>International Journal of African Historical Studies</i>
<i>JACS</i>	<i>Journal of African Cultural Studies</i>
<i>JAH</i>	<i>Journal of African History</i>
<i>JES</i>	<i>Journal of Ethiopian Studies</i>
<i>JHSN</i>	<i>Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria</i>
<i>JMAS</i>	<i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i>
<i>JSAS</i>	<i>Journal of Southern African Studies</i>
KAR	King's African Rifles

KNA	Kenya National Archives
MMS	Methodist Missionary Society [records in SOAS Library]
MNA	Malawi National Archives
NS	New Series
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
PDG	Parti Démocratique de Guinée
PP	Parliamentary Papers
PRO	Public Record Office, London
<i>RAL</i>	<i>Research in African Literatures</i>
RH	Rhodes House, Oxford
RKA	Reichskolonialamt [records in Bundesarchiv, Berlin]
<i>SAHJ</i>	<i>South African Historical Journal</i>
SAIRR	South African Institute of Race Relations
S of S	Secretary of State
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies, London
TANU	Tanganyika African National Union [records at party headquarters]
TNA	Tanzania National Archives, Dar es Salaam
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission (South Africa)
UNA	Uganda National Archives
UP	Unofficial Papers
UPC	Union des Populations de Cameroun
WAFF	West African Frontier Force
WFA	White Fathers Archives, Rome
WO	War Office [records in PRO]
ZNA	Zimbabwe National Archives



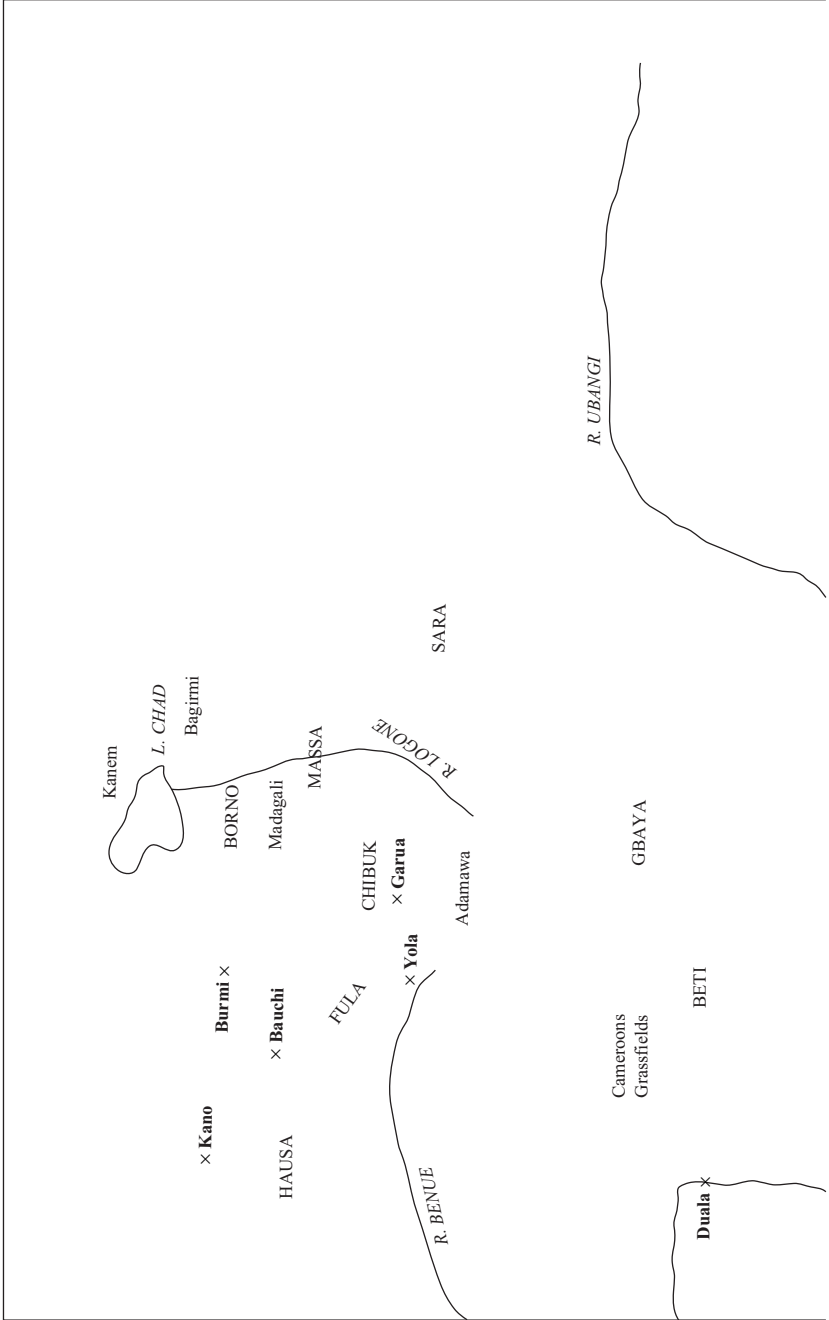
Map 1. Southern Africa

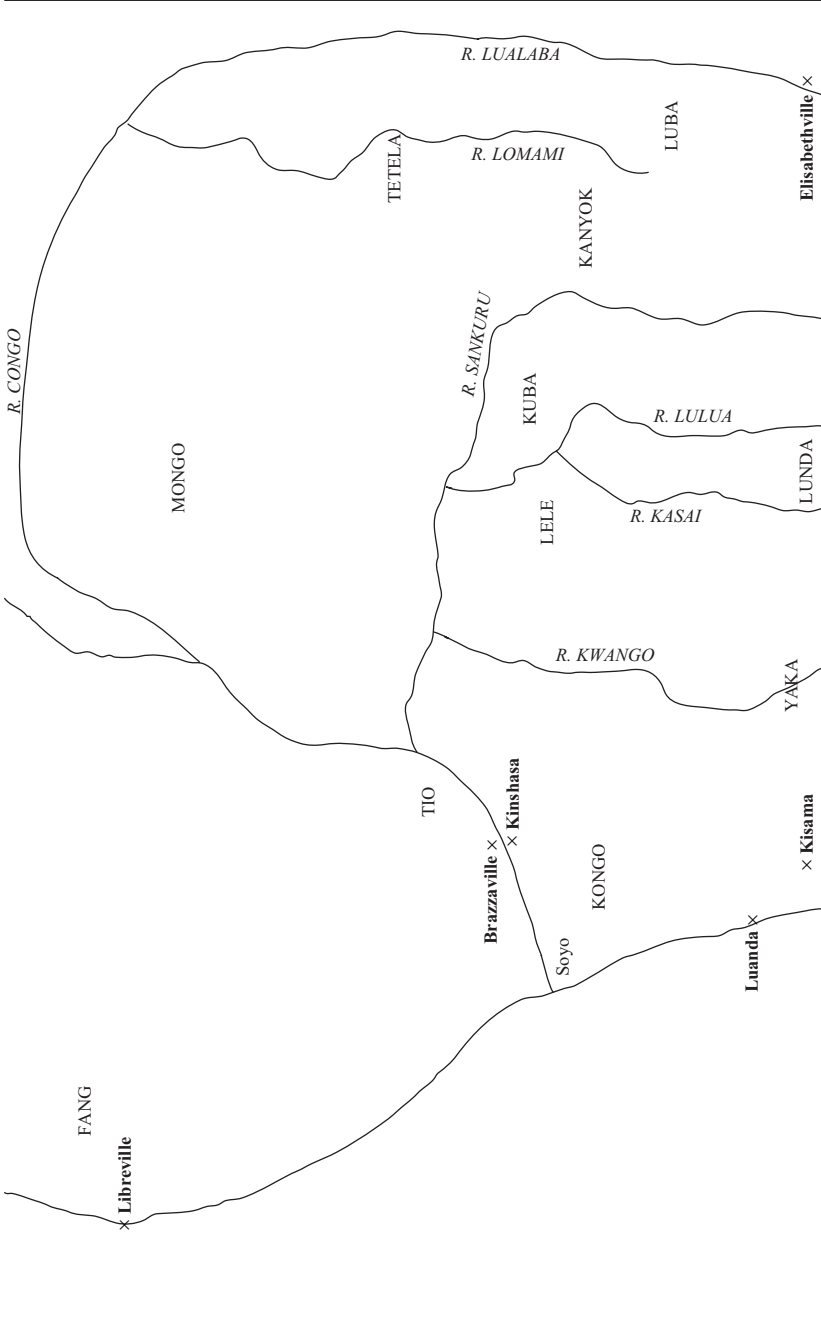




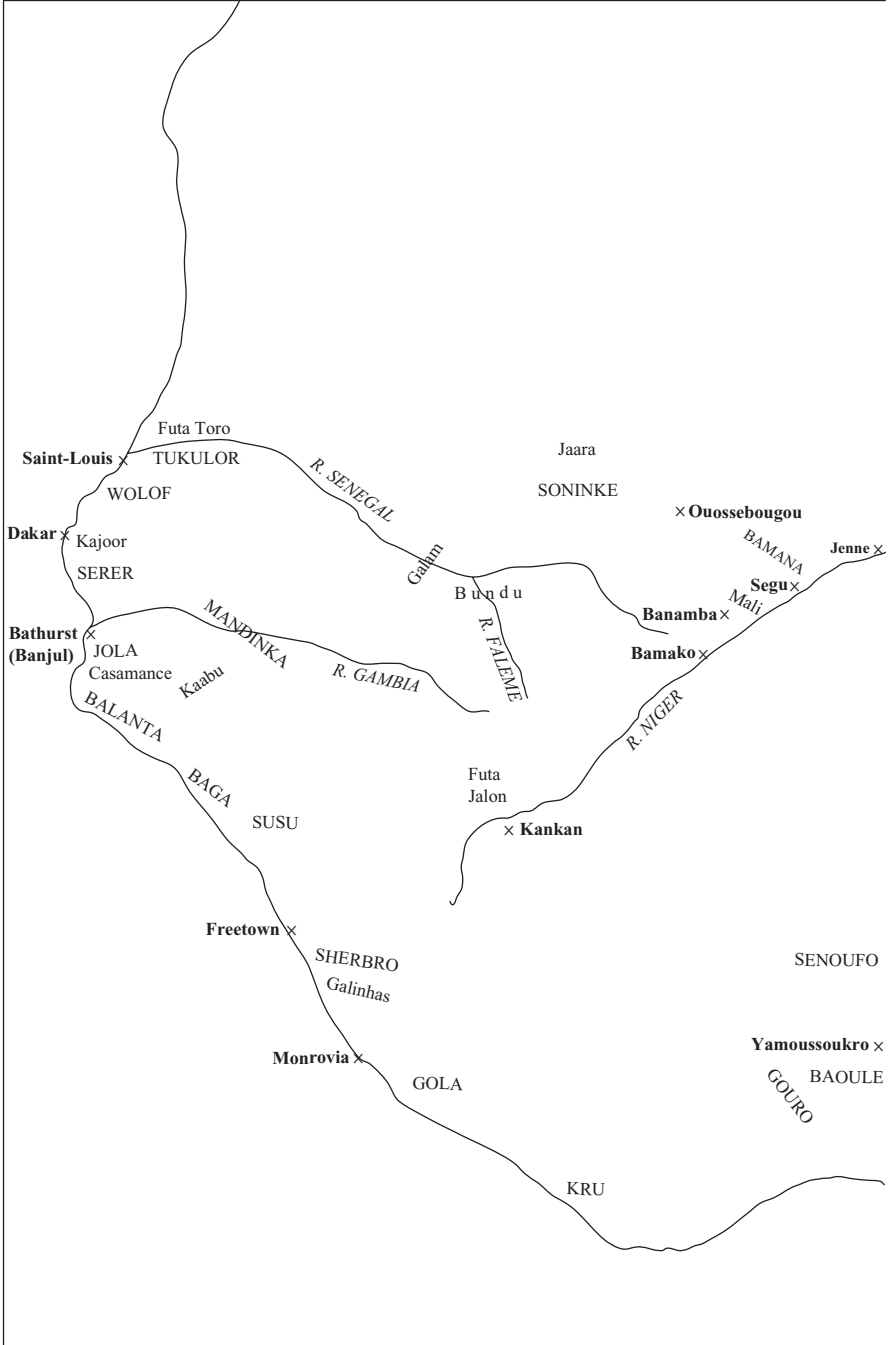


Map 2. Eastern Africa

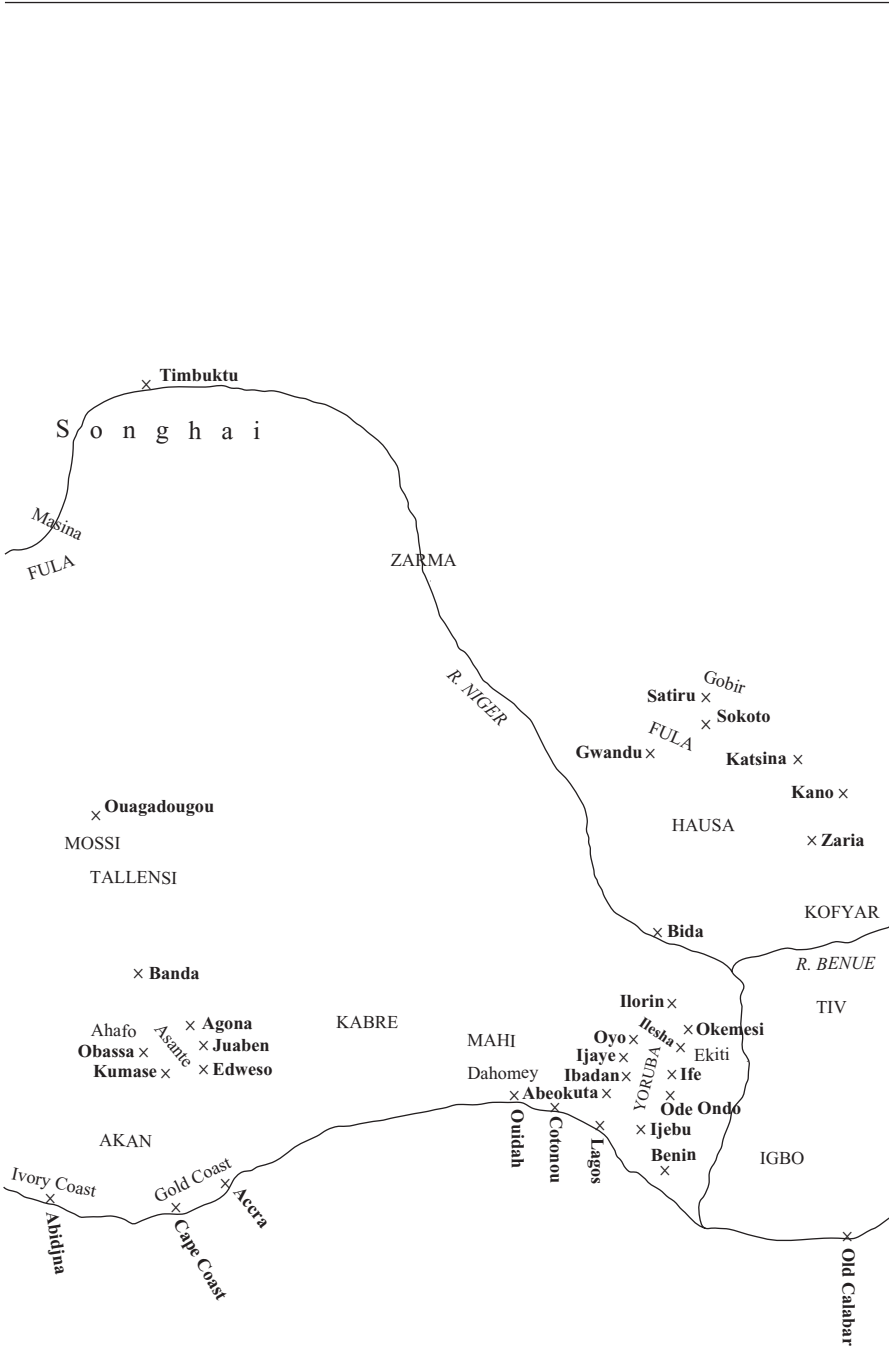


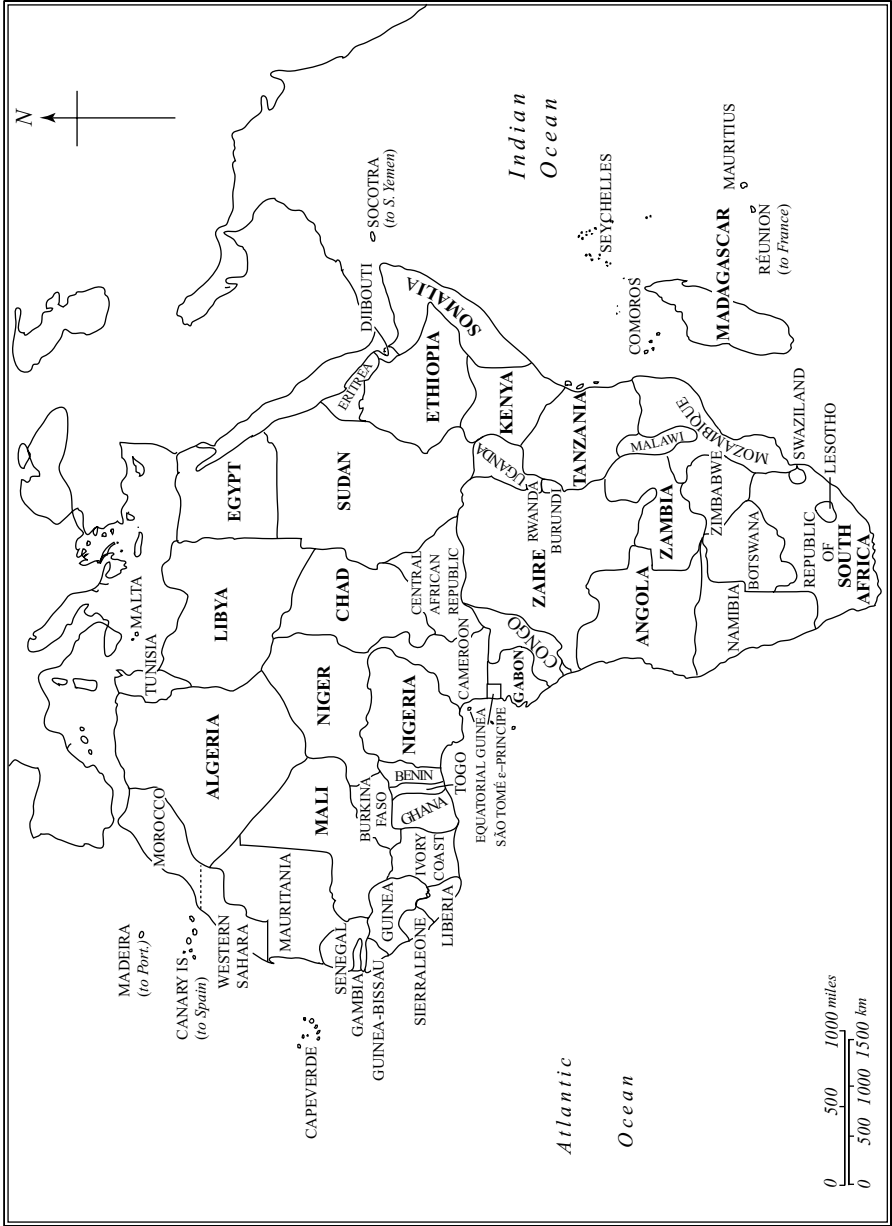


Map 3. West-Central Africa



Map 4. West Africa





Map 5. Independent African states. Source: Adapted from Roland Oliver, *The African experience* (London, 1991), p. 233.