Contents

List of Figures                                  page ix
List of Maps                                    xi
List of Tables                                  xii
Preface                                         xiii
Acknowledgments                                xx

1 Reconstructing the Fragments: Liberia’s Economic History, 1847–1980 1

Part I: Foundations 31
2 Before the Dragons Came 33
3 Black Americans in West Africa 58

Part II: The Art of Survival 91
4 Trade, Globalization, and Sovereignty 93
5 From Paper to Gold 116
6 The Costs of Foreign Capital 139
7 Financial Controls and Forced Labor 163

Part III: Sovereignty for Sale? 189
8 An African Marshall Plan 191
9 Concessions and Growth 217
10 Selling the Flag 246
11 Sovereignty beyond the Age of Empires 271
Appendix 1: Data on Liberian Economic History 283
Appendix 2: Calculating Liberian GDP Per Capita, 1845–1964 296
References 307
Index 335