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978-1-107-03089-3 - African History Through Sources: Volume 1: Colonial Contexts and
Everyday Experiences, c. 1850–1946

Nancy J. Jacobs

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African History through Sources

This book recounts the history of colonial Africa through more than one hundred primary sources produced by a variety of actors: ordinary men and women, the educated elite, and colonial officials. The sources include official documents and politicians' commentaries, as well as interviews, memoirs, lyrics, and photographs. This book includes entries drawn from all around sub-Saharan Africa, many translated into English for the first time. Introductions to each source and chapter provide context and identify themes.

Balancing coverage of the state and economy with attention to daily life, family life, and cultural change, *African History through Sources* presents a wide range of experiences that allow readers to analyze change, understand perspectives, and imagine life during Africa's colonial past.

Nancy J. Jacobs is Associate Professor in the department of history at Brown University. She has received two teaching awards, one for digital innovations (2004) and the Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning (2010). She is the creator of the *Animated Atlas of African History*, a web visualization of African history from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first century. She is the author of *Environment, Power, and Injustice: A South African History* (Cambridge 2003).

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African History through Sources

*Volume 1: Colonial Contexts and
Everyday Experiences, c. 1850–1946*

NANCY J. JACOBS

Brown University, Rhode Island



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For my teachers and my students

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Her enthusiasm, sense of language, and great skill with mechanics were essential in nudging this fledgling out of the nest.

I often imagined the entries in this book as textile scraps. The fabric metaphor provides a good way to make the necessary disclaimers, because nothing is easier than seeing the imperfections in one's own stitchery. Sadly, beautiful remnants remain unused. Perhaps I cut some pieces unwisely or edited them clumsily. The grain of some pieces may not be straight with the work as a whole. Some seams pucker and the stitches aren't even. Much of the richness of this patchwork comes from the imagination and enthusiasm of others. Any artless or messy handiwork is my responsibility.