Contents

List of Figures  xii
Preface  xvii
Acknowledgments  xxi

1 Geography and Society  1
   Geographical Location and the Yoruba Culture Area  5
   Yoruba Subgroups, Language, and Dialects  10
   Neighboring Groups  14
   Social and Political Organization  19

Part I Long Historical Formations

2 Prehistory and Protohistory  31
   Late Stone Age  32
   Early Iron Age  42
   Early Settlement Development (AD 500–1000)  45
   Ife Development and Political Consolidation during the Classical Period (ca. AD 1000–1400)  49
   Regional Migration and Founding of Settlements  54

3 The Growth of Complex Societies  58
   Ife Cultural Efflorescence and Impact on the Yoruba  58
   The Decline of Ife  75
   Oyo: Foundation and Development  76

4 States and Small-Scale Polities, AD 1400–1600  87
   States  87
   Small-Scale Polities of the Yoruba Northern Frontier  101
# Table of Contents

## Part II     Yoruba Polities and Entry into the Atlantic World

5     The Seventeenth Century: The Age of Empire Building
- The Rise and Expansion of Oyo and Political Consolidation
- Administration of the Oyo Empire
- Oyo Economy
- Oyo and the Subordinate Yoruba Polities
- Village Activities and Sociopolitical Development in the Seventeenth Century

6     The Eighteenth Century
- Pre-Atlantic Forms of Servitude
- Early Slave Trade to the Coast
- Revolution at Oyo-Ile
- The Rise of Ilorin in the Age of Afonja
- The Decline of Oyo and Loss of Tributary Polities

## Part III     The Nineteenth Century: Wars and Transformations

7     Yorubaland in the Nineteenth Century: The Height of Trouble
- The Owu Wars
- The Rise of Ilorin in the Era of the Fulani
- Collapse of the Oyo Empire and the Founding of New Settlements
- Fulani–Nupe Military Activities in Northern Yoruba

8     The Nineteenth Century: The Internecine Wars and Consequences
- The Ibadan Wars and Territorial Expansion
- The Ijaye War
- The Ekitiparapo/Kiriji War
- European Intervention
- Consequences of the Wars
- Political Reorganization and Shifting Allegiance
- Economic Exploitation

9     The Nineteenth Century: Slave Trade and Slavery
- Slave Raiding, Trading, and Domestic Slavery
- Yoruba Slaves in the Atlantic World
# Contents

Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the Impact on Yorubaland 214
European Activities in the Yoruba Interior 216

10 The Nineteenth Century: New Agencies of Transformation 219
   Islam 219
   Christianity 222
   Western Education 226
   Yoruba Cultural Transformation in the New World 228
   The Yoruba Returnees 236

Part IV  Economic, Social, and Cultural Practices over Time

11 The Precolonial Economy 243
   Agriculture 243
   Hunting and Fishing 247
   Craft Industries 248
   Trading and Selling 267
   Currency System 270

12 Religion and World View 271
   Pantheons (Orisas) 273
   Spirits, Personalities, and Ancestors 277
   Traditional Medicine: Healers, Herbs, and Evocative Powers 291

13 Creativity: Arts, Body Adornments, and Music 295
   Sculpture 295
   Hairstyling, Facial Marks, and Body Tattooing 302
   Music 311
   Change 318

Part V  Colonial Yoruba

14 Colonial Rule, Economy, Education, and Identity 323
   Colonial Rule in Yorubaland 323
   Responses to Colonial Rule 328
   Colonial Economy 329
   Christianity and Western Education under Colonial Rule 335
Table of Contents

Part VI Postcolonial Yoruba

16 Politics and Identity: The Post-Independence Era
   Political Crisis in Yorubaland and Consequences
   The 1966 Military Coup
   Nigerian Civil War and the Plight of the Yoruba
   The 1975 Military Coup
   The 1976 Military Coup

17 Politics and Yoruba Identity at the Close of the Twentieth Century
   The Second Republic: The 1979 Election
   The 1983 Election
   The 1983 Military Coup
   The 1985 Military Coup
   The Third Republic: The 1993 Election and Its Cancelation
   The 1993 Military Takeover
   The Oodua Peoples Congress
   The Fourth Republic

18 Contemporary Politics and Identity
   The 2003 Election
   The 2007 Election
   The 2011 Election
   Yoruba Marginalization
   Opposition Party Alliances and Mergers: The Birth of the APC
   The Southwest Geopolitical Zone: The Battleground for the 2015 Elections
   The 2015 General Election
   Yoruba Representation in the Government
## Contents

19 Contemporary Sociopolitical, Economic, and Cultural Transformation  
   Changes in Family, Home, and Community 410  
   Yoruba Chieftaincy in Transition 413  
   Economic Development 416  
   Western Education: Growth and Impact 420  
   Religious Changes 421  
   Cultural Growth 426

20 Summary and Conclusion 429  
   The Development of Social Complexity 430  
   Events in the Nineteenth Century 431  
   Colonial Rule and Impact 435  
   The Changing Political Fortunes of the Yoruba 438  
   Contemporary Yoruba Diasporic Connections 447

Notes 451  
References 455  
Index 491