Transforming Sudan

Following the conclusion of the Second World War, the nature of inequality in Africa was dramatically altered. In this book, Alden Young traces the emergence of economic developmentalism as the ideology of the Sudanese state in the decolonization era. Young demonstrates how the state was transformed, as a result of the international circulation of tools of economic management and the practice of economic diplomacy, from the management of a collection of distinct populations, to the management of a national economy based on individual equality. By studying the hope and eventual disillusionment this ideology gave to late colonial officials and then Sudanese politicians and policymakers, Young demonstrates its rise, and also its shortfalls as a political project in Sudan – particularly its inability to deal with questions of regional and racial equity, showing how it fostered not only state formation, but also civil war.

Alden Young is an assistant professor of African History and the Director of the Program in Africana Studies at Drexel University, Philadelphia. He was previously a post-doctoral fellow in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania, and holds a Ph.D. in History from Princeton University, New Jersey.
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Transforming Sudan

Decolonization, Economic Development, and State Formation

ALDEN YOUNG
Drexel University, Philadelphia
# Contents

## Acknowledgments

1. Introduction: The Economizing Logic of the State  
   - 1
2. From Colonial Economics to Political Economy, 1820–1940  
   - 23
3. Planning and the Territorial Perspective, 1945–1951  
   - 46
   - 76
   - 91
   - 107
   - 127
8. Conclusion: Toward a New African Economic History  
   - 147

## Bibliography

## Index
Acknowledgments

I first became interested in the questions that motivate this book as I watched my parents take part in Black urban politics from the 1970s until the early 2000s. Living in New Orleans and then Detroit, I was fascinated not only by the voting rights movement but also by what followed its achievement: the successes and failures of local governance, in particular economic governance. Similarly, this book is concerned primarily not with the heroes of the independence movement in Sudan, but with the officials who strove to govern Sudan after January 1, 1956.

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