

# **AFRICA**

## **AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR**



**EDITED BY**  
**DAVID KILLINGRAY AND RICHARD RATHBONE**

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*Edited by*  
David Killingray  
and  
Richard Rathbone

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# Preface

This collection of essays grew out of an international conference hosted by the Centre of African Studies of the University of London and held at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Reactions to the announcement of a forthcoming conference on the Second World War and Africa to be held in the summer of 1984 frankly surprised the organisers. In the event over 100 scholars attended the conference and, even more impressively, nearly forty colleagues offered and delivered papers, the bulk of which we were able to distribute in advance. Although, as we stress in our introduction, Africa has been rather neglected during the war period by historians, it was abundantly clear that a great deal of good work was being undertaken to redress that situation in Africa, in Europe, in the United States and Australasia. Given the richness of what we were offered at the conference, the task of selection was both daunting and to some extent tragic, as much of that material that we had perforce to exclude was excellent and exciting. In selecting the pieces for this volume we endeavoured to present a reasonable continental spread, combined with various treatments of many of the major themes that emerged at the conference.

Our greatest debt is to the very large number of first-rate historians of Africa who managed to get funding, no easy task in these hard times, and sacrificed the time to make this a stimulating, intimate (though large) and entirely constructive conference. The notable absence of prima donnas, the openness of discussion and the good humour throughout a series of very taxing sessions proved once again that historians of Africa are an unusually nice bunch of people.

The editors would like to register their gratitude for the financial assistance of the Group Research Committee of the School of Oriental and African Studies and especially to Michael Strange, a good man in a crisis. We are also grateful for the assistance of Annette Percy, Marion Swiny and Jean Waring.

DAVID KILLINGRAY  
RICHARD RATHBONE

# Notes on the Contributors

**Michael Brett** is Lecturer in the History of North Africa at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

**Michael Cowen** was born in Zimbabwe and attended the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland before going on to Cambridge. He has taught at the Universities of Nairobi and Swansea and is now a Senior Lecturer at the City of London Polytechnic. He is the author of a number of papers and articles on the peasantry in Kenya; he is currently working on a study of the colonial policy of the Labour Government, 1945–51.

**Louis Grundlingh** teaches at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg. He studied at the University of the Orange Free State and was until late 1983 a Lecturer at Potchefstroom University in the Western Transvaal. He is completing a doctoral dissertation on 'The Role of the South African Blacks in the Second World War'.

**Mohamed Khenouf** was born in Constantine, Algeria. He studied at the University of Constantine, where he now teaches history. He has recently completed research on Algerian nationalism during the Second World War at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

**David Killingray** has taught at Goldsmiths' College, University of London, for the last fourteen years. He has written on various aspects of modern African history and imperial relations and is currently preparing a book on Africa and the First World War. In 1986 he became an editor of *African Affairs*.

**John Lonsdale** is a Lecturer in history at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College. He is the author of a number of articles on Kenyan and East African history and a contributor to the *Cambridge History of Africa. Vol. 6, 1870–1905*, edited by R. Oliver and J. D. Fage.

**Brian Mokopakgosi III** was born in southern Botswana, in which country he received his secondary and undergraduate education. In 1983 he gained an MA degree in European History from The Johns Hopkins University, returning to the University of Botswana as a lecturer in history. He is now on study leave working for a doctorate at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

**Anthony Ndi** attended school in Cameroon and then studied at Ibadan University. From there he went to the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where he gained a doctorate in African history. He has taught history in several secondary schools in Cameroon and is currently Vice-Principal of Lycée de Wum, Bamenda, Cameroon.

**Richard Rathbone** has taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies since 1969. He edited *African Affairs* with Alison Smith in the early 1970s. He has written on modern West African political history, population history, and the social history of South Africa, and more recently upon slavery and the slave trade. He is currently finishing a book on European colonialism in Africa.

**Gilbert A. Sekgoma** was born and studied in Botswana, graduating from the University in 1979 to become a Staff Development Fellow in the Department of History. He went to Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, where he is now completing a doctoral thesis on the history of Sierra Leone.

**Nicholas Westcott** studied history at the University of Cambridge, undertook research in Tanzania from 1979 to 1980 and in 1982 completed a PhD thesis on 'The Impact of the Second World War on Tanganyika, 1939–49'. He is in the process of publishing a number of studies of the period. He now works for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.