WARS WITHOUT END

The Political Economy of a Precolonial African State

S. P. Reyna
# Contents

Illustrations vii

Preface ix

Chapter 1 Introduction 1

## PART I A SAVANNA PERIPHERY 13

Chapter 2 The East-Central Sudan 15

Chapter 3 Origins and Other "Impressive Things" 41

## PART II THE SUN KINGS' REALM 57

Chapter 4 The Social Landscape 59

Chapter 5 Food Producers and Their Households 72

Chapter 6 The Sun King and His Court 92

Chapter 7 Revenue Collection and Allocation 119

Chapter 8 Warfare 135

## PART III PREDATORY ACCUMULATION 149

Chapter 9 Predatory Accumulation in Fields of Empire 151

Chapter 10 Epilogue 165

Appendix: Sources 167

Notes 173

References 185

Index 197
Illustrations

Map 1.1 The Setting of the East-Central Sudan 2
Map 2.1 East-Central Sudanic Bioclimatic Zones 16
Map 2.2 East-Central Sudanic Languages 21
Map 3.1 Bagirmi 42
Figure 3.1 Fluctuations in Lake Chad 47
Figure 8.1 Reproduction of the Bagirmi State 148
Table 2.1 East-Central Sudanic Languages 19
Table 3.1 Rulers of Bagirmi 52
Table 6.1 The Mbang and His Court 107
Table 7.1 Estimated Bagirmi Taxes during the Late Nineteenth Century 129
Table 7.2 Revenues of Bagirmi and Wadai during the Late Nineteenth Century 131