LABOUR, LAND AND CAPITAL IN GHANA

FROM SLAVERY TO FREE LABOUR IN ASANTE, 1807–1956

Gareth Austin

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER PRESS

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations xi

List of Tables xiii

Preface xv

Note on Names xix

Maps xxi

Note on the Maps xxiv

1 Introduction 1

Part I. Context and Concepts

2 Theories and Debates: Some Tools for Thinking about the History of Property and Markets in Asante and Beyond 23

3 Asante, 1807–1956: The State, Output and Resources 34

4 The Changing Relationship Between Inputs and Output, 1807–1956 72

Part II. Social Relations of Production and Trade, 1807–1896: Absent and Imperfect Factor Markets

5 Land Tenure, 1807–1896 99

6 The Mobilization of Labour, 1807–1896 106
Appendix: Nineteenth-Century Slave Prices 128

7 Capital and Credit, 1807–1896 135

Part III. Slavery as Hobson's Choice: An Analysis of the Interaction of Markets and Coercion in Asante's Era of 'Legitimate Commerce', 1807–1896

8 Factor Markets Without Free Labour: The Nieboer Hypothesis and Asante Slavery and Pawnship, 1807–1896 155

9 Gender and Kinship Aspects of the Social Relations of Production, 1807–1896 171

10 Exploitation and Welfare: Class and 'Social Efficiency' Implications of the Property Rights Regime, 1807–1896 181

Part IV. The Decline of Coercion in the Factor Markets of Colonial Asante: Cocoa and the Ending of Slavery, Pawnship and Corvée, 1896–c.1950

11 Why Was Prohibition So Long Delayed? The Nature and Motives of the Gradualism of the British 'Men on the Spot' 205

12 The Decline of Coerced Labour and Property in Persons in Practice: Change from Above and from Below in Colonial Asante, 1896–1950 215

13 Cocoa and the Ending of Labour Coercion, c.1900–c.1950 236

Part V. Social Relations of Production and Trade, 1908–1956: Towards Integrated Factor Markets?

14 Land Tenure:
What Kind of Transformation under Cash-Cropping and Colonial Rule? 253

15 Capital and Credit:
Locking Farms to Credit 278

16 Free Labour:
Family Workers, the Spread of Wage Contracts, and the Rise of Sharecropping 304

Part VI. Freedom and Forest Rent, 1908–1956

17 Land in a Tree-Farm Economy 325

18 Capital in a Tree-Farm Economy 356

19 Free Labour:
Why the Newly-Emerged Regular Wage Contracts Were Eclipsed by Sharecropping 401

20 Conclusion 431

Abbreviations Used in the Notes 455

Notes 456

List of References 547

Index 574