

African Economic History

Internal Development and External Dependency

Ralph A. Austen

Professor of African History University of Chicago

James Currey LONDON

Heinemann PORTSMOUTH NH



Contents

Acknowledgements	
Introduction	1
Notes	6
Bibliography	6
1 The dynamics of subsistence: African domestic economies in	
historical perspective	9
From foraging to domesticated food sources: the beginnings	10
Domesticated food production and metallurgy: diffusion and	
intensification	13
The mature domestic economy: organization of production	16
The mature domestic economy: market relationships	20
Conclusion: dynamics and limitations of subsistence	24
Notes	24
Bibliography	26
2 Commercial frontiers and contact economies: I	
The West African Sudan and the Sahara	31
Trade routes and export commodities: the ancient and medieval era	32
Routes and commodities: the era of European expansion	37
The developmental impact: commercial organization	40
The developmental impact: changes in production	45
Conclusion: the Sudanic economy in African perspective	48
Notes	49
Bibliography	51
3 Commercial frontiers and contact economies: II	
East Africa and the Indian Ocean	56
The conditions of development	56
Entrepôts and exports: the pre-European period, AD 150-1500	58
Entrepôts and exports: the era of Portuguese and Omani control,	
1500-1885	60
The developmental impact: commercial organization	63
The developmental impact: production	67
Conclusion	74
Notes	75
Bibliography	76

vi Contents

4	Commercial frontiers and contact economies: III	
	Western Africa and the Atlantic	81
	Trade routes: European control of the ocean	81
	Trade routes: African supply zones	83
	Commodities: the shifting composition of exports	85
	The commercial impact: Europeans, Afro-Europeans and	
	Afro-Muslims	88
	The commercial impact: African ethnic relays	91
	The developmental impact: export production	95
	The developmental impact: manufacturing	99
	The direction of contact economic change: development, stagnation,	
	or crisis?	100
	Notes	102
	Bibliography	103
	bioliogruphy	103
5	From slave trade to imperialist partition: Africa in the economy	
Ū	of early industrial Europe	109
	The abolition of the slave trade	110
	Free/legitimate trade and political expansion	112
	Conclusion	117
	Notes	118
	Bibliography	118
	bibliogruphy	110
6	The colonial economies: I Étatist-peasant regimes	122
Ţ	Infrastructure: the parastatal experiments	123
	Infrastructure: the state and railways	126
	Commerce: from competition through oligopoly to étatism	129
	From commerce to manufacturing: the limits of transformation	132
	The state and the market: monetization	134
	The state and the market: regulation of commerce	136
	Peasant agriculture: the expansive phase	137
	Peasant agriculture: the limitations of development	142
	Conclusion: étatist-peasant regimes and the contradictions of	172
	colonialism	146
	Notes	140
	Bibliography	147
	bibliogruphy	147
7	The colonial economies: II Regimes of competitive exploitation	155
•	South Africa before the mineral revolution: the weak frontier	156
	The mineral revolution in Southern and Central Africa	162
	Varieties of agricultural transformation	168
	From primary production to industrialization	181
	Conclusion: South Africa as an African model	186
	Notes	187
	Bibliography	189
	- Line State in American	107
8	From neo-mercantilism to decolonization: Africa in the	
	mid-twentieth-century world economy	197
	The chronology of change: markets and public policy	198
	Costs and benefits of change: European private sectors	211

211

Content	s vii
Postscript: the contemporary world economy and Africa	216
Notes	217
Bibliography	219
9 From decolonization to post-colonial regimes: efforts at internal	
transformation	224
The internal economics of decolonization	225
Post-colonial economic regimes	233
Conclusion	258
Notes	259
Bibliography	261
10 Growth and dependency, autonomy and marginalization:	
a retrospective	268
Notes	272
Bibliography	272
Appendix	273
Bibliography	281
Index	285