Politics and Society
in Contemporary
_____ Africa _____

Politics and Society in Contemporary —— Africa ——

Second Edition

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Macmillan Education

Published in the United States of America in 1992 by
Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
1800 30th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80301

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Politics and society in contemporary Africa/by Naomi Chazan . . .
[et al.]—2nd ed., fully rev. and updated

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-55587-283-0

1. Africa—Politics and government—1960– 2. Africa—Social
conditions—1960– 3. Africa—Economic conditions—1960– 4.

Africa—Foreign relations. I. Chazan, Naomi, 1946–

JQ1872.P635 1992

960.3'2—dc20

92-5934

CIP

The paper used in this publication meets the requirements of the
American National Standard for Permanence of Paper for Printed
Library Materials Z39.48-1

Published and distributed outside North and South America
and Japan by

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS, England, and London
Companies and representatives throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-57814-8

ISBN 978-1-349-12976-8 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-12976-8

A catalogue record for this book is available from the
British Library.

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Preface

The first edition of this textbook was conceived by Lynne Rienner several years ago in response to the need for a comprehensive and comparative overview of contemporary African politics and society. The decision to revise and update the volume scarcely four years after publication was prompted not only by the rapid changes that have taken place in Africa in recent years, but also by the advances in the field of contemporary African studies. We have attempted, in this second edition, to trace the transformations that have occurred in Africa in the wake of the persisting economic crisis on the continent, and to place developments in Africa within the context of the substantial shifts in global structures and priorities.

We have also taken advantage of this opportunity to address some of the comments we received on the first edition. The most important change is the adoption of a political interaction approach to replace the political choice framework that we developed initially. We believe that the concept of political interaction better reflects the intertwining of social, economic, and political processes on the continent, and also conveys the close connection that has emerged between domestic and international dynamics. By moving to a political interaction approach, we feel that we are giving voice to important changes in the analysis of politics in the African context, as well as increasing the ability to compare occurrences in Africa with those taking place in other parts of the world.

This revised edition has been undertaken, like the initial volume, in the spirit of cooperation among the four authors. Our task this time was complicated by our geographic dispersion to all corners of the globe: Naomi Chazan was in Jerusalem, Robert Mortimer in Senegal, John Ravenhill in Australia, and Donald Rothchild in California. Without electronic mail and faxes it

would have been virtually impossible to coordinate our efforts. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the team approach has proven itself once again.

Naomi Chazan owes special thanks to Ruth Ginio, who painstakingly assisted in updating the tables. The Harry S Truman Research Institute of the Hebrew University continued to provide administrative support and facilities for this project. Robert Mortimer wishes to thank Carol Henry for processing the revisions of his chapters, and John Ravenhill owes a special debt to Lynne Payne, who scanned the old manuscript onto disk and corrected it. Donald Rothchild acknowledges the assistance of Letitia Lawson, who helped in the editorial process. And all of us owe special appreciation to Steve Barr of Lynne Rienner Publishers for successfully managing this complicated project.

Once again, however, we extend our deepest gratitude to Lynne Rienner, who has been a staunch supporter of this work from its inception, and has displayed both immense understanding and provided much needed backing in particularly difficult circumstances. Without her help and commitment this revised edition would not have been completed.

April 1992

Changes in Country Names

Present

Benin
 Botswana
 Burkina Faso
 Burundi¹
 Cameroon

 Cape Verde
 Central African Republic
 Congo

 Côte d'Ivoire
 Djibouti
 Equatorial Guinea
 Ghana
 Guinea-Bissau
 Lesotho
 Malagasy Republic (still often
 referred to as Madagascar)
 Malawi
 Mali
 Namibia
 Rwanda¹
 Saharan Arab Democratic Republic³

 Somali Democratic Republic (Somalia)
 Tanzania⁴
 Togo
 Zaire

 Zambia
 Zimbabwe

Previous

Dahomey
 Bechuanaland
 Upper Volta
 Ruanda-Urundi
 French Cameroons and British Southern
 Cameroons²
 Cape Verde Islands
 Oubangui Chari
 French Congo; sometimes referred to as
 Congo-Brazzaville
 Ivory Coast
 French Territory of the Afars and Issas
 Spanish Guinea
 Gold Coast and British Togoland
 Portuguese Guinea
 Basutoland
 Madagascar

 Nyasaland
 French Soudan
 South West Africa
 Ruanda-Urundi
 Spanish Sahara; sometimes referred to as
 Western Sahara
 British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland
 Tanganyika and Zanzibar
 French Togoland
 Belgian Congo; subsequently Congo;
 sometimes referred to as Congo-Kinshasa
 or Congo-Leopoldville
 Northern Rhodesia
 Southern Rhodesia; Rhodesia

1. Ruanda-Urundi was a Belgian-administered trust territory that became independent in 1960 as two separate states.
2. The Southern Cameroons, a British-administered UN trust territory, joined the Republic of Cameroon following a plebiscite in 1961; the people of the Northern Cameroons opted for integration with Nigeria.
3. Morocco has claimed this territory, a claim contested by the Polisario Front (the national liberation movement). Polisario refers to the territory as the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).
4. The United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar came into being on April 26, 1964, as a consequence of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar; the name "United Republic of Tanzania" was officially adopted a year later.

Source: Adapted from William Tordoff, *Government and Politics in Africa* (Indiana University Press, 1984).

Reprinted from April A. Gordon and Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, © 1992 by Lynne Rienner Publishers. Prepared by Jeff Neff.