

African Histories and Modernities

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John Kwadwo Osei-Tutu
Victoria Ellen Smith
Editors

Shadows of Empire in West Africa

New Perspectives on European Fortifications

palgrave
macmillan

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This collection is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Kwabena Adu-Boahen.

PREFACE

The book is a product of a project called *Shadows of Empire: a study of European imperial forts and castles from the sixteenth century to the present*. This project applied entangled history approaches to the study of Afro-European relationships in West Africa from the fifteenth century, emphasising the centrality of fortifications as centres of interaction and exchange. “Shadows of Empire” is, in turn, a sub-project under the multi-component *Beyond Borders: Transnational movements through history* project (2010–2012), an institution-based strategic project designed and implemented by the Department of Historical Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, Trondheim). The Faculty of Humanities of NTNU and the Norwegian Research Council (NRC) co-funded the project. We are also grateful to the Department of History of the University of Ghana for facilitating and organising the infrastructure for the conference.

On 1st and 2nd August 2012, many of the contributors attended a conference entitled *Shadows of Empire: Studies of European Colonial Fortifications in West Africa from fifteenth Century* at the University of Ghana. They came to share their thinking and put forward their research from the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Ashesi University, The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of Basel and Sciences Po (Paris), University of Virginia and University of California (Los Angeles). This publication brings together selected and revised papers from the conference along with

specially commissioned chapters from scholars associated with the University of Warwick, University of Ghana, University of Wisconsin and Norwegian University of Science and Technology to ensure that this book presents a fully rounded and cohesive collection. As such, our aim is to offer multidisciplinary and international approaches through which we explore the meaning, uses and impacts of European fortification systems on the Gold Coast (Ghana). We hope that these studies enrich knowledge about the European-built forts and castles within the West African milieu.

The process from conference to completed book has been a laborious one, but the result is one that we are proud to be able to share with you. We thank Dr. Kofi Baku, who as Head of the History Department at the University of Ghana, accepted in 2012 to host the Conference from which this book has emerged. Thanks also go to Tom McCaskie, Toyin Falola and the team at Palgrave for their support in bringing this project to publication. Regrettably, Dr. Kwabena Adu-Boahen, former Head of the Department of History at the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), and one of the participants of the 2012 conference, did not live to see this volume into print. We dedicate the book to his memory.

Trondheim, Norway
Legon, Ghana

John Kwadwo Osei-Tutu
Victoria Ellen Smith

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Contributors

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