

# CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Foreword .....   | ix        |
| Key to Language Map (Countries) .....                        | i         |
| Key to Language Map (Languages) .....                        | 2,4       |
| Language Map .....   | 3         |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>PART I THE SABA INHERITANCE .....</b>                     | <b>5</b>  |
| <br>   |           |
| Chapter One: The Literatures of Ethiopia .....               | 7         |
| 1. The Axumite Period .....                                  | 7         |
| 2. The Golden Age of Ge'ez .....                             | 8         |
| 3. The Decline of Ge'ez Writing .....                        | 12        |
| 4. The Emergence of Amharic .....                            | 15        |
| 5. The Flowering of Amharic Literature .....                 | 19        |
| 6. Ethiopian Creative Writing in English .....               | 21        |
| Notes ... (317)  |           |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>PART II THE LEGACY OF ISLAM .....</b>                     | <b>25</b> |
| <br>   |           |
| Chapter Two: West Africa: Arabic Writing .....               | 27        |
| 1. Timbuctoo (15th to 17th centuries) .....                  | 28        |
| 2. Stagnation and Reform (18th century) .....                | 31        |
| 3. The Revival: Hausaland .....                              | 34        |
| 4. The Revival: Northern Ghana .....                         | 39        |
| 5. The Revival: Senegal .....                                | 40        |
| Notes ... (318)  |           |
| Chapter Three: West Africa: The <i>Ajami</i> Tradition ..... | 47        |
| 1. Fulani .....  | 47        |
| 2. Hausa .....   | 58        |
| 3. Wolof .....   | 71        |
| Notes ... (323)  |           |
| Chapter Four: Madagascar .....                               | 75        |
| 1. <i>Ajami</i> Writing .....                                | 75        |
| 2. Christianity and the Roman Script .....                   | 78        |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 3. The French Regime .....                            | 83      |
| Notes ... (327)                                       |         |
| Chapter Five: East Africa: Swahili .....              | 93      |
| 1. Early Works .....                                  | 93      |
| 2. The Emergence of Swahili Writing .....             | 96      |
| 3. The Golden Age of Classical Swahili Literature ... | 98      |
| 4. The European Conquest and Its Consequences ...     | 115     |
| 5. The Modernization of Swahili Literature .....      | 132     |
| 6. The Post-independence Period .....                 | 147     |
| Notes ... (329)                                       |         |
| Chapter Six: East Africa: Somalia .....               | 155     |
| 1. Traditional Somali Poetry .....                    | 155     |
| 2. The Modernization of Somali Literature .....       | 162     |
| 3. The New Somali Script .....                        | 167     |
| Notes ... (336)                                       |         |
| <br>PART III THE IMPACT OF THE WEST .....             | <br>171 |
| Chapter Seven: Colonization and Literature .....      | 173     |
| Notes ... (339)                                       |         |
| Chapter Eight: Southern Africa .....                  | 187     |
| 1. The Nineteenth Century .....                       | 187     |
| 2. Bantu Writing Between the Wars .....               | 196     |
| 3. Post-War Developments .....                        | 207     |
| 4. Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe .....                     | 226     |
| Notes ... (341)                                       |         |
| Chapter Nine: West Africa .....                       | 243     |
| 1. Sierra Leone and Liberia .....                     | 243     |
| 2. Nigeria .....                                      | 246     |
| 3. Ghana .....  | 266     |
| Notes ... (349)                                       |         |
| Chapter Ten: West Central Africa .....                | 281     |
| 1. Cameroon .....                                     | 281     |
| 2. Belgian Africa: Kongo and Kinyarwanda .....        | 286     |
| Notes ... (356)                                       |         |
| Chapter Eleven: East Africa .....                     | 297     |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Ganda .....                           | 299 |
| 2. Kenya .....                           | 307 |
| Notes ... (359)                          |     |
| <br>                                     |     |
| Notes and References .....               | 317 |
| Index .....                              | 363 |
| <br>                                     |     |
| Regional/Political Maps                  |     |
| Ethiopia .....                           | 6   |
| Nigeria .....                            | 46  |
| Madagascar .....                         | 92  |
| Somalia .....                            | 156 |
| Southern Africa .....                    | 172 |
| Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania ..... | 241 |
| West Africa (Atlantic to Nigeria) .....  | 242 |
| Cameroon, Congo (Braz.), Zaire .....     | 315 |
| Kenya and Uganda .....                   | 315 |