Since September 11, 2001, many have attempted to understand the role of Islam in politics and in international affairs. Given the paucity of research on Islam in contemporary sub-Saharan Africa, many commentators have resorted to outdated notions of localized African Islam and Islamic fundamentalist security threats often thought to come from outside the continent. The newly released book, *Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa*, challenges such conventional assumptions about Islam in Africa. It presents cutting edge research that was organized by the African Studies Centre in Leiden and the Centre d’Etude d’Afrique Noire in Bordeaux and funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs with additional support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Written in an accessible style, the book is suitable for specialists and students as well as general readers. It will be essential reading for academics, journalists, and policymakers who require a better understanding of the dynamics of Islam and politics in Africa.

Approximately one-fifth of the world’s Muslims live in Africa. However, the effects that political liberalization, economic reform, the weakening of the state, and increased global interconnections have had on Muslim societies and the practice of Islam in Africa are still not well understood. The contributors to this volume illustrate the dramatic changes these developments have brought in Muslim politics, through detailed case studies of ordinary African Muslims, Muslim activists, Islamic NGOs, debates about Islamic law, secularism and minority rights, and the political process in both conflict and postconflict settings in more than a dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Countering stereotypes about Islam in Africa and “fundamentalism,” this book offers fresh perspectives on the complexity of Muslim politics in contemporary Africa.

- This book is the first fairly comprehensive treatment of the diversity of Islam and Muslim politics in contemporary sub-Saharan Africa.

- This collection of case studies provides not only detailed discussions of Islam, Islamic reform, political Islam, and other contemporary ways of being Muslim in Africa but it also offers original analytical perspectives for understanding changes in the practice of Islam and Muslim politics more generally.

- Case studies consider sharia in northern Nigeria; recent conflict in Sudan; debates about women’s rights in Mali; the co-existence of Muslim and Christian communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania; transnational networks linking Muslim activists in Africa with the Middle East and beyond; and Islamic NGOs in Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Mozambique, and South Africa.
Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa

Edited by Benjamin Soares & René Otayek

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