

Acknowledgments



This study has had a long gestation, from research long ago to insights gained over the last few years. Initially I published a study of the crisis surrounding accusations of slavery against Liberia in 1929. Several years later, I was a contributing editor to *The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers*. I knew Liberia the place; I knew less of Garvey and the circumstances that had produced him. The editor of the papers, Robert A. Hill, sent me tons of material whetting my appetite to know more. I thank him very much for that impetus. My growing interest in the Diaspora led me to wonder why African American emigrationism had been seen by many as an impractical, if glorious, detour on the road toward participation in a multiracial society. Ten years ago Randall Kennedy of the Harvard Law School suggested to me that I pursue the question. Time and other projects pulled me in other directions, but the questions remained. This book is my answer to some of them, and it hopes to raise other questions, especially with regard to human rights and the frameworks in which we view them.

I conducted research in Liberia, Great Britain, the United States, and Spain. In Liberia I went through the National Archives before the overthrow of the Tolbert regime and have not retraced my steps. The same is true of the United Kingdom. I have returned to Spain several times. The Archivo General de la Administración Civil del Estado in Alcalá de Henares, which was closed to me earlier, is now open. In the late 1980s I was also given access to previously closed archives in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

I thank all those who aided my early efforts, especially Joel Jutkowitz who helped me first get into print on Liberia and labor. As an Africanist who has “drifted” toward the Diaspora, I want to thank all of those who have helped me along the way. African American collections have been invaluable in bridging that “middle passage” between the formerly artificially separated fields of Africa and its Diaspora. The Moorland-Spangarn Research Center at Howard University was more than helpful. I thank chief librarian Jean Church and Ida Jones, Donna Wells, and Clifford Muse for their assistance, especially with my insistent requests for photographs. I thank Leila Torres of the center for her moral sup-

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