

Contents

Acknowledgements — VII

Timeline and Map — IX

List of the Main Abbreviations and Acronyms — XIII

List of Figures — XV

Preface — XVII

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 Benin and Togo: A Comparative Framework for Exploring Faith-Based Student Activism in West Africa — 3
- 1.2 Beyond Secular Student Activism: Faith-Based Student Associations and the Evolving Landscape of African Campus Politics — 9
- 1.3 Religious Resurgence on Campus: A Comparative and Historical Perspective on Faith-Based Student Activism in Africa — 13
- 1.4 University, Aspirations, and Future Making: Pursuing the Good Life in Uncertain Times — 16
- 1.5 A History of Activism and Organised Religion on Campus: Bridging History and Anthropology — 19
- 1.6 Structure of the Book — 27

2 The Advent of Military Regimes and the Creation of the First Public University in Togo and Benin (1970–80) — 31

- 2.1 One-Party States and Military Rule: The Regimes of Eyadéma and Kérékou — 31
- 2.2 The Birth of Higher Education in Benin and Togo — 41
- 2.3 The National University in Togo and Benin: Highly Politicised Institutions — 50

3 Surviving in an Authoritarian Context: The First Faith-Based Student Associations on Campuses (1970s–80s) — 61

- 3.1 From Chad and Central African Republic to Lomé and Cotonou: The Creation of the First Bible Groups on Campus — 62
- 3.2 The *Jeunesse Étudiante Catholique* (JEC): Contrasting Paths in Togo and Benin — 68
- 3.3 Closer Links with Libya and the Creation of an Islamic Association on the Abomey-Calavi and Lomé Campuses — 74

4 Faith-Based Activism in an Era of Democratisation and Campuses in Turmoil (1990s) — 85

- 4.1 Students Protests, National Conferences, and Religious Fervour — 86
- 4.2 Tensions between Christian Student Associations, Parishes, and Churches — 93
- 4.3 JEIUB and CIUB in the Era of ‘AEEMisation’: Bringing Together Western-Educated Pupils and Students — 103
- 4.4 Navigating Campus Life in Faith-Based Student Associations: Coping with the Challenges of Being a Student — 112

5 Developing Leaders with Moral Values: Providing Entrepreneurial Skills Beyond the Academic Curriculum (2000–10s) — 127

- 5.1 Democratic Challenges and Higher Education Reforms — 128
- 5.2 The ‘Golden Age’ of Faith-Based Student Associations — 139
- 5.3 The ‘Entrepreneurial Turn’ in the Social Curriculum — 151

6 The Becoming of Former Activists Beyond Campus: A New Religious Elite? — 167

- 6.1 A Nostalgia for Activism: New Faith-Based Associations of Former Student Activists — 168
- 6.2 A Christian Elite in Socio-Political Debates: A Half-Hearted Involvement — 175
- 6.3 Muslims Intellectuals and ‘Francophone’ Islam: Combining Secular and Islamic Knowledge — 185

7 ‘Too Young’, ‘Immature’, and not Committed Enough: The Decline of Faith-Based Student Organisations? — 201

- 7.1 A Bleak Picture: Former Activists Look at the Current Generation on Campus — 202
- 7.2 Reassessing Student Engagement: A Nuanced Perspective on University Life and Faith-Based Associations — 213
- 7.3 Navigating New Challenges: Religious Groups’ Adaptation to a Changing University Landscape — 222

Conclusion: A History of Resilience, Adaptation, and Community — 239

Sources and Bibliography — 245

Index — 281