



## Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa (African Studies)

*By Frederick Cooper*

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This authoritative volume changes our conceptions of "imperial" and "African" history. Frederick Cooper gathers a vast range of archival sources to achieve a truly comparative study of colonial policy toward African labor forces. He shows how African trade union and political leaders used the new language of social change to claim equality and a share of power. In the end, Britain and France could not reshape African society. As they left the continent, the question was how they had affected the ways in which Africans could reorganize society themselves.

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"This is a magnificently researched and richly detailed account of the complex struggles over labour and colonial policies in French and British Africa." Jane Parpart, International History Review

"...a formidable book. ...not only in its length, but also in the prodigious range of its archival sources, and the brilliance and variety of its case studies. ...its theoretical ambition sets this book apart from conventional work in labor history. Cooper successfully combines the insights of discourse analysis with the strenghts of social history. This is a superb analysis of the colonial state that at the same time constitutes a major breakthrough in African labor history. It convinces by the sheer excellence of its historical research as well as the careful contextualization of its unremittingly theoretical vision. It deserves to be read well beyond the normal bounds of African studies." Christiane Harzig, Labor History

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