Contents

Introduction: Arbiters and Witnesses of Change		
Co	ntextualizing Conversations on African Islands	1
	Toyin Falola, R. Joseph Parrott, and Danielle Porter Sanchez	
	Part 1: Atlantic Ocean Islands	
1	The Canaries to Africa: The Atlantic Strategy of "To Be or Not to Be" Germán Santana Pérez	39
2	Sugar, Cocoa, and Oil: Economic Success and Failure in São Tomé and Príncipe from the Sixteenth to the Twenty-First Centuries Gerhard Seibert	68
3	The Bijagos of Canhabac Island (Guinea-Bissau) Joshua Bernard Forrest	96
4	An Island in the Middle of Everywhere: Bioko under Colonial Domination Enrique N. Okenve	125
5	Cursing in Bioko and Annobón: Repeating Islands that Don't Repeat Michael Ugarte	157
6	African Ports and Islands during the Second World War Ashley Jackson	170
7	"Nos lingua, nos kultura, nos identidadi": Postcolonial Language Planning and Promotion in Cabo Verde and the Cape Verdean Diaspora	208

Part 2: Indian Ocean Islands

8	Africa's Indian Ocean Islands, Near and Distant Edward A. Alpers	245
9	Monsoon Metropolis: Migration, Mobility, and Mediation in the Western Indian Ocean William Bissell	267
10	The Mascarenes, Indian Ocean Africa, and Global Labor Migration during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries Richard B. Allen	294
11	The Island as Nexus: Zanzibar in the Nineteenth Century Jeremy Prestholdt	317
12	Slavery and Postslavery in Madagascar: An Overview Denis Regnier and Dominique Somda	345
13	The Comoros: Strategies of Islandness in the Indian Ocean Iain Walker	370
14	Gendered Pioneers from Mayotte: An Ethnographic Perspective on Travel and Transformation in the Western Indian Ocean Michael Lambek	397
Notes on Contributors		417
Index		423