Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Note on Language xiii
List of Abbreviations xv
Glossary xvii
Maps xxiii

1 “Making History” Across the African Divide 1
   Saharan History and Its Misperception 4
   Africans, Arabs, and “Making History” 14
   The Centrality of Orality 21
   African Written Sources 31
   Interpreting the Sahara Through Western Sources 36
   On Trans-Saharan Trails: Method and Layout 45

2 Trans-Saharan Trade in the Longue Durée 49
   Early Trans-Saharan Crossings 51
   Beginnings of Arabic Sources 59
   First Trading Communities 63
   “Golden Trade of the Moors” 71
   Saharan Markets Old and New 79
   Later Turning Points 86
   Early Modern Saharan Trade 90
   Reflections on the Book and Paper Trade 99
   Conclusion 104
3 Markets and the Movement of Caravans: Nineteenth-Century Developments
   Caravans in the Age of Jihad 107
   Trans-Saharan Slave Trade 112
   Old and New Merchandise 130
   Moroccan Commerce 146
   The Rise and Fall of Markets 152
   Conclusion 157

4 Guelmîm and the Wãd Nün Traders 160
   The Market of Guelmîm 162
   The Tikna: Distant Relatives of the Almoravids 171
   The Bayrûk Family 179
   The Jews of Guelmîm 182
   The Awlãd bû al-Sibã‘ 186
   The Wãd Nün Network 196
   Conclusion 205

5 The Organization of Caravan Trade 206
   “Ships of the Desert” 208
   Caravans Big and Small 214
   Caravan Workers 222
   Family Labor and Women Caravaners 232
   The Paper Economy of Caravanning 241
   Currencies on Trans-Saharan Trails 248
   Measures and the Problem of Valuation 257
   Market Rules, Fairs, and Fees 262
   Imminent Dangers and Organized Violence 265
   Conclusion 272

6 Business Practice and Legal Culture in a Paper Economy of Faith 274
   Religion, Legal Culture, and Commerce 279
   Islam, Mâliki Law, and Contracts 284
   Saharan Qâdî Justice 296
   Overview of Saharan Jurisprudence 301
   Return Policies and the Law on Defects 304
   Rules of Cross-Cultural Exchange 308
   Nawázîl Al-Qard, or the Value of Credit 312
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracting Saharan Caravans</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Trade Networks and the Limits of Cooperative Behavior</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Trade Network Model</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious and Legal Institutions</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy and the Question of Trust</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wâd Nûn Trade Network Inheritance Case Study</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Institutional Constraints</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 On Trans-Saharan Trails</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orality and Trade Network History</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Contracting Trust</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Law and the Organization of Trade</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vital Role of Credit</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networks of Trade Networks</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Distance Trade and Cultural Diffusion</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridging the African Divide</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Appendix 1: Nineteenth-Century Events*                                      | 401  |

*Appendix 2: Pillaged Caravans Reported in Chronicles*                        | 405  |

*Bibliography*                                                               | 409  |

*Index*                                                                    | 451  |