Scholarship is more of a collaborative enterprise than we tend to admit when we put just a single name on the cover page of any book, and this book, like most others, is a collective effort displaying the name of a single individual. Although I have long been interested in religious violence in Nigeria, having experienced the early parts of the 1980 Maitatsine religious riots in Kano and having lost a first cousin in one of the city's numerous religious conflicts, my first sustained academic interest in the subject came in 2007 when, along with Professors Funmi Olonisakin and James Gow, I worked on an Economic and Social Research Council grant awarded to King's College London on religious radicalization and political violence in West Africa. However, this book owes more to another grant, this one from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the African Leadership Centre at King's College London's School of Global Affairs to research peace, society, and the state in Africa. My first debts are to these institutions for these awards.

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