

BASIL DAVIDSON

THE
LOST
CITIES OF
AFRICA



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The Lost Cities $\frac{1}{1}$

of Africa



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BASIL DAVIDSON



James Currey
OXFORD

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This book is about Africa and Africans south of the Sahara Desert, during the fifteen hundred years or so before the colonial period began.

Its aim is to present in outline what is now known and what it now seems reasonable to believe about some leading aspects and achievements of African life and civilization during that time, and thus to contribute to an understanding of the origins and background of Africa today.

'...the most effective popularizer of African history and archeology outside Africa.' – Roland Oliver in the *New York Review of Books*

'In Britain, Davidson is the often-overlooked fourth man in the group that includes his contemporaries and fellow historians, Christopher Hill, Eric Hobsbawm and E.P. Thompson (a close friend of Davidson's for many years). These men's committed, left-wing approach to writing history opened up the stuffy, chauvinist world of British professional historians and reached a popular audience far beyond academia. But whereas the others wrote about the British or European past, Davidson studied Africa and put his political energies into the struggle for Third World liberation.' – Michael Bygrave in *The Guardian*

Cover photograph by Lynn Taylor of interior of Djingereiber mosque in Timbuktu.

Photograph of Basil Davidson by Erno Wientjens.

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