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There is no doubt. Muslim scholarship and society in 17th-century Central Sudanic Africa

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THERE IS NO DOUBT
Muslim scholarship and society
in 17th-century central sudanic Africa.

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A note on transcription and dates

The transliteration of Arabic words follows the system that is used by many journals such as the Journal of Islamic Studies and the Journal of Islamic Africa. This includes words that have been incorporated in the English language, such as jihād, ‘ulamā’, ḥarām and ṣūfī, which are printed in roman type. Words that are foreign to the English language are printed in italics, including for instance the singular of the word ‘ulamā’, that is *‘ālim* (scholar). In order to not distract the reader with formal matters any more than necessary, I have chosen to write ḥadīth as an Arabic word known in the English language, and use the anglicised form of ḥadīths as its plural. Finally, the names of some places and persons in contemporary Chad – such as Abgar Alim or Ahmat Saleh – are written in the way people there usually spell them today, in Latin script without diacritics.

The dates in this book are dates of the Common Era. This complies with a convention in modern scholarship on Islamic history in West Africa. The manuscripts which have formed the point of departure for my research are, almost without exception, not dated.