CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Cassanelli is Professor of African History at the University of Pennsylvania and was a founding member of the Somali Studies International Association. He has written The Shaping of Somali Society (Philadelphia, 1982) and co-edited with Catherine Besteman The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia (2nd edition, London, 2000). He is currently working on a history of the Somali diaspora.

Charles Geshekter is Professor of African History at California State University, Chico. His articles about Somali Studies have included the Dervish Resistance Movement, British colonial policy, superpower rivalries in the Horn, jokes and humor in Somali culture, and documentary filmmaking. He co-edited with Hussein M. Adam The Proceedings of the First International Congress of Somali Studies (1992). He is completing a book on “The Meaning of the 20th Century for Somalia.”

Lidwien Kapteijns is Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at Wellesley College, where she teaches African and Middle Eastern history. She has written several books on the pre-colonial and colonial history of the Sudan, but her most recent work has dealt with Somali history and includes the volume Women’s Voices in a Man’s World: Women and the Pastoral Tradition in Northern Somali Orature, c. 1899–1980 (Portsmouth, 1999).

Abdi Ismail Samatar is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He has published two books and over two dozen articles on Somalia, Botswana, and the African state and development. His recent volume, Botswana: An African Miracle, was a finalist for the Herskovits Award of the African Studies Association in the United States. He is working on two assignments: one is on the Somali Ethiopia region and the other is on leadership and democracy. The latter, a book project, is a collaborative work with Ahmed I. Samatar.

Ahmed I. Samatar is James Wallace Professor and Dean of International Studies and Programming at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is the author/editor of five books and over two dozen articles, including the forthcoming volume, with Abdi Ismail Samatar, The State in Africa: Reconsiderations. Samatar is a founding member and editor-in-chief of Macalester International, in addition to Bildhaan.