Contents

List of figures	xi
Foreword	xiii
Preface	xv
Acknowledgements	xvii
Introduction	xix
Part I Intrinsic landscapes	
1 The land	2
Geological history	2 3 3 6
The Crystalline Platform	3
Younger Granites and the Jos Plateau	6
Sedimentary rocks	6
Vulcanicity	8
Laterite	8 8 8
Aeolian Sands	8
Physiographic regions	9
Western plains and ranges	9
Northern High Plains	10
Eastern piedmont	10
Eastern Highlands	10
Jos Plateau	10
Biu Plateau	10
Niger Trough	10
Benue Trough	11
Gongola plateaux and plains	11
Cross River Plains	11
Eastern Scarplands	11
Dissected margins	11
Lower Niger valley	12
Low coastlands	12
The Delta	12

Contents

2	Climate Temperature The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity A. Tropical continental air B. Inversion zone C. The rainstorm zone D. The main cloud sheet E. The southern stable air zone Rainfall and water supply Sensible climate Regional examples Port Harcourt Lagos Bida Kano	13 13 14 14 15 15 15 15 17 18 20 20 20 20 20
3 Par	Ecosystems Tropical rain forest zone Guinea savanna zone Sudan savanna zone Sahel zone Montane and sub-montane zones Freshwater swamp Mangrove forests Flood plains Biological productivity It II Human processes in the landscapes	22 23 27 28 29 30 30 31 31 32
4	Cultural stages Hunting and collecting Agriculture Iron Age Political units European influence	34 34 35 37 38 42
5	Transformation of 'the bush' Fire Cultivation Firewood Useful trees Grazing Forest reserves Wildlife Soil erosion Laterite	45 45 47 48 49 51 51 53 54
6	Provision of infrastructure Terraces Water supply Wells Boreholes Reservoirs Irrigation	57 57 59 59 60 61
vii	i	

يبو

		Contents
	Transport Railways Roads Other forms of transport Building materials	63 63 64 65 67
7	Spatial organization Rural settlements Urban settlements Population distribution	72 72 74 76
Par	t III Achieved landscapes	
8	Landscape systems of the north The Hausa heartland Close-settled zones Smaller rural settlements Bauchi Bornu	84 84 85 90 95
9	Landscape systems of the centre The Tiv landscape Nupe landscapes Mokwa Settlement Scheme Shendam Settlement Scheme Kainji Reservoir Highland landscapes The Jos Plateau The Eastern Highlands Uninhabited areas	101 102 105 107 109 110 113 113 116 118
10	Landscape systems of the south Yoruba landscapes Benin landscapes Igbo landscapes Cross River landscapes	119 119 124 126 130
11	Townscapes The polynucleated town Zaria Ibadan Post-1900 towns Kaduna Enugu Lagos Abuja	133 133 140 143 146 146 148 149
12	National integration and the developing landscapes Urban landscapes Rural landscapes The national pattern	157 157 158 159

ix

Contents

Further reading	161
Bibliography	163
Index	172