Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xxiii

Introduction 1

PART ONE Cosmos and Society 9

One Ritual and the Social Order

Two
The Mambai and Their Land
24

Three
The Mythic Origins of Colonial Rule
51

Four
The House as a Source of Life
66

Contents

Five
The Renewal of Life through Marriage
81

Six The Ritual Community 98

Seven
Divinity and the Social Order
133

PART TWO Rituals of White and Black 153

Eight White Ritual: The Path of Rain 155

Nine White Ritual: The Meeting at the Spring 178

Ten Black Ritual: The Journeys of the Dead 200

Conclusion 236

Notes 247

References 275

> Index 281