



# **Engaging Modernity: Muslim Women and the Politics of Agency in Postcolonial Niger (Women in Africa and the Diaspora)**

*Ousseina D. Alidou*

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Seizing the space opened by the early 1990s democratization movement, Muslim women are carving an active, influential, but often-overlooked role for themselves during a time of great change. *Engaging Modernity* provides a compelling portrait of Muslim women in Niger as they confronted the challenges and opportunities of the late twentieth century.

Based on thorough scholarly research and extensive fieldwork—including a wealth of interviews—Ousseina Alidou's work offers insights into the meaning of modernity for Muslim women in Niger. Mixing biography with sociological data, social theory and linguistic analysis, this is a multilayered vision of political Islam, education, popular culture, and war and its aftermath. Alidou offers a gripping look at one of the Muslim world's most powerful untold stories.

Runner-up, Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize, Women's Caucus of the African Studies Association, 2007

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