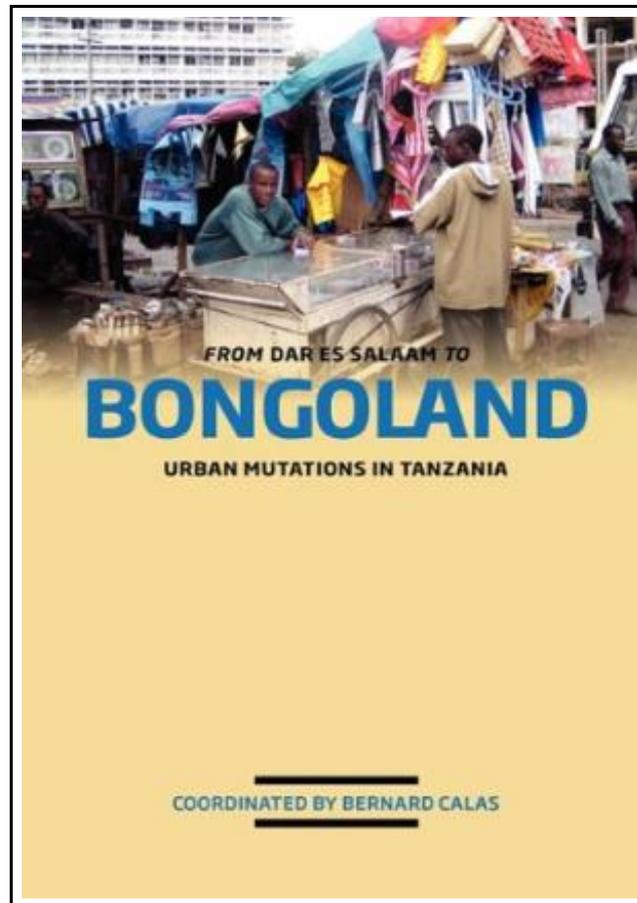


## From Dar Es Salaam to Bongoland: Urban Mutations in Tanzania



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*(Kian Harber)*

## FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO BONGOLAND: URBAN MUTATIONS IN TANZANIA



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Mkuki Na Nyota Publishers, Tanzania, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 240 x 166 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The name Dar es Salaam comes from the Arabic phrase meaning house of peace. A popular but erroneous translation is haven of peace resulting from a mix-up of the Arabic words dar (house) and bandar (harbour). Named in 1867 by the Sultan of Zanzibar, the town has for a long time benefitted from a reputation of being a place of tranquility. The tropical drowsiness is a comfort to the socialist poverty and under-equipment that causes an unending anxiety to reign over the town. Today, for the Tanzanian, the town has become Bongoland, that is, a place where survival is a matter of cunning and intelligence (bongo means brain in Kiswahili). Far from being an anecdote, this slide into toponymy records the mutations that affect the links that Tanzanians maintain with their principal city and the manner in which it represents them. This book takes into account the changes by departing from the hypothesis that they reveal a process of territorialisation. What are the processes-envisaged as spatial investments-which, by producing exclusivity, demarcations and exclusions, fragment the urban space and its social fabric? Do the practices and discussions of the urban dwellers construct limited spaces, appropriated, identified and managed by communities (in other words, territories)? Dar es Salaam is often described as a diversified, relatively homogenous and integrating place. However, is it not more appropriate to describe it as fragmented? As territorialisation can only occur through frequenting, management and localised investment, it is therefore through certain places-first shelter and residential area, then the school, daladala station, the fire hydrant and the quays-that the town is observed. This led to broach the question in the geographical sense of urban...



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