Zimbabwe and Uganda represent one of the unusual instances in the Islamic history of Africa south of the Sahara, where Islam witnessed periods of recession after its establishment and spread. Although the foot-prints of Islam in Zimbabwe can be traced back to the 10th century, yet no Islamic tradition and literature as such has developed in it (neither in Arabic nor in the local languages), leave alone Uganda, where regular propagation of Islam started only in the beginning of the 19th century. Otherwise, in other regions – especially in West Africa – once Islam was established, it kept steadily gaining momentum, thus leaving behind considerable amounts of literature in both Arabic and local languages (Swahili, Fulani, Hausa, Mandingo, etc.).

Our paper will try to trace the historical contexts in which Islam reached Zimbabwe and Uganda, the agents through whom it was introduced and propagated, the different historical, social, political (both internal and external) that hampered its progression and led to its recession in each of the two countries. It will then try to shed light on the relatively recent attempts and efforts made...
to resurrect Islam in these two countries and to examine the prospect of their success. Throughout this study reference will also be made to other regions of Africa for the purpose of comparison.