Relevant Books


This second edition introduces Nigeria’s rich and complex history. Readers will find a wealth of information on pre-20th century history, Nigeria under British colonial rule, and important post-independence issues while providing greater attention to Nigeria’s role in international relations, diaspora, and contributions to arts, film and culture in particular. This revised edition covers major developments since the last edition such as the rise of the terrorist group Boko Haram and the election of Muhammadu Buhari to the presidency in 2015 among others. The volume also contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography, and over 1,000 cross-referenced entries on important personalities, politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, and culture.


This anthology presents an interdisciplinary approach to Yorùbá culture and customs. Written by Yorùbá experts on all continents, the seventy-five chapters in the volume employ a variety of multi-faceted perspectives to provide a detailed study of the Yorùbá people with insights from anthropology, arts, language and linguistics, literature, history, religion, sociology, philosophy, psychology, criminology, law, technology, medicine, pharmacy, engineering, economics, education, political science, music, theater, popular culture, cultural studies, migration and African world studies, gender, etc. Each chapter addresses the changes that have taken place in traditional culture.

*Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies*, vol.12, no.2, September 2018

This volume combines conceptual and empirical methodology to connect the administrative dots between the dynamics of democratic governance and the imperatives of development in Nigeria. The optimism underlying this book derives from the author's reflection on the connection between democratic governance, the civil service in Nigeria and the critical import of reform as the sine qua non for achieving not only a paradigm shift in Nigeria's productivity profile, but also as the means through which democracy can become a truly liberating ideology for Nigerians. Hence, this work also explores a deep historical strategy as an administrative method by which to understand why the capability readiness of the Nigeria civil service system has been compromised and how a deep political commitment to the transformation of the ministries, departments and agencies can transform Nigeria in terms of infrastructural and human capital development.


This book takes a close look at masquerade traditions in the Yoruba town of Otta, exploring transformations in performers, performances, and the institutional structures in which masquerade was used to reveal ongoing changes in notions of gender, kinship, and ethnic identity. Hence, the author focuses on performers and spectators to reveal a history of masquerade that is rich and complex; and the work offers a nuanced understanding of performance practices in Africa and their role in forging alliances, consolidating state power, incorporating immigrants, executing criminals, and projecting individual and group power on both sides of the African-Atlantic world.

This book offers a detailed examination of the counter-insurgency operations undertaken by the Nigerian military against Boko Haram between 2011 and 2017 based on extensive fieldwork conducted with military units in Nigeria. The book has two main aims. First, it seeks to provide an understanding of the Nigerian military’s internal role – a role that today, as a result of internal threats, pivots towards counter-insurgency as the book illustrates how organizational culture, historical experience, institutions, and doctrine, are critical to understanding the Nigerian military and its attitudes and actions against the threat of civil disobedience, today and in the past. The second aim of the book is to examine the Nigerian military campaign against Boko Haram insurgents – specifically, plans and operations between June 2011 and April 2017, within this theme, emphasis is placed on the idea of battlefield innovation and the reorganization within the Nigerian military since 2013, as the Nigerian Army and Air Force recalibrated themselves for counterinsurgency warfare.


In this book the author argues for a decolonization of the environment and to see the environment from the perspective of local communities’ and thus, examines the case of the Ogoni struggle against the Shell oil company, and asks how may we understand the struggle of the Ogoni against the state and Shell? Was the conflict merely about a minority ethnic drive at securing provincial advantages in distributional matters, or the legitimate actions of a local community aimed at preserving its environment and livelihood?

This book provides a critical study of the trajectory of struggles in the Niger Delta since 1995, paying attention to continuities and changes, including recent developments linked to the shift from local resistance, to the rupturing of the Presidential Amnesty peace deal (largely to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta) and the resurgence low-intensity sporadic armed militancy—led by the Niger Delta Avengers militia among others. The contributors interrogate the nature of the region’s political economy, socio-economic trends and trajectories over the past two decades. This collection also accentuates the lessons learnt, prospects for self-determination, socio-economic and environmental justice and peace in the aftermath of the hanging.


This book explores from various perspectives how the literature of the northern region of Nigeria has promoted the ideology of integration and societal resurgence. Through the diverse cultural productions from this very heterogenous socio-political region, researchers have dissected the portrayals and characterisations of ideologies which foster harmony among the people who speak a multitude of languages and have an array of cultural practices. These contributions bring to the fore the multiple roles that both indigenous literary productions and those adapted from foreign elements have played in realising social and cultural integration and advancing collective values of the people of Northern Nigeria.

Referring to Nigeria’s economic development strategy as "nurture-capitalism," the author contrasts the role of private enterprise, which is expected to foster growth of the productive sector of the economy, with the government’s role, which is to nurture the capitalist sector generally and to favor indigenous enterprise in particular. Hence, the author examines the development of Nigerian nurture-capitalism from 1949 to the launching of and early experience with the Third Plan (1975–80), with emphasis on the post-civil war 1970s and turns to an intensive study of indigenous business and possible impediments to the development of Nigerian private enterprise, analyzing the role of capital availability, entrepreneurship, and the economic environment. Also, the author demonstrates that there are substantial divergences between private profitability and social utility and that there is an abundance of socially useful investment possibilities for indigenous businessmen; and looks at the government business-assistance programs, and their economic, administrative, and political characteristics. Finally, the book assesses the sources of successful investment and makes a case for enhanced socially useful investments. Comparing “pragmatic developmentalism,” “pragmatic socialism,” and “thoroughgoing socialism,” he proposes a pragmatic orientation that postpones ideological decisions as long as practicable.


This book examines relations between Nigeria and the United States, analyzing the levels of collaboration and interaction between the two countries since Nigerian independence in 1960. The central objective of the volume is to understand how American policy-makers have thought about and acted toward Nigeria from the time she achieved statehood in 1960 until the end of the Obama administration. The book argues that there is huge potential in Nigeria; the country has the largest population in Africa and is well-endowed in terms of both human and natural resources, and additionally, it has the largest economy and biggest market on the continent, the largest concentration of Black population in the world, a burgeoning and vibrant youthful population, and a tradition of international engagement since its independence.

This volume features contributors from leading scholars in African scholarship, and provides a quick reference point for key topics and themes via an interdisciplinary approach.


This volume tells the story of Islamic reform from the perspective of dress, textile production and trade, and pilgrimage, over the past 200 years. As Islamic reformers have sought various means to address societal problems such as poverty, inequality, ignorance, unemployment, extravagance, and corruption, they have used textiles as a means to express their religious positions on these concerns. Home first to the early indigo trade and now a thriving textile mill industry, northern Nigeria has been a center for Islamic practice as well as a place where everything from women’s hijabs to turbans, buttons, zippers, short pants, and military uniforms offers a statement on Islam. Hence, the author argues that material distinctions, along with an understanding of the religious ideology and the political economic context from which successive Islamic reform groups emerged, are important components for understanding how people in northern Nigeria have continued to seek a proper Islamic way of being in the world and how they imagine their futures—spiritually, economically, politically, and environmentally. The author is a professor emeriti in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan.

This work describes the major Nigerian film genres and how they relate to Nigerian society—its values, desires, anxieties, and social tensions—as the country and its movies have developed together over the turbulent past two decades. The book shows that Nollywood is a form of popular culture; it produces a flood of stories, repeating the ones that mean the most to its broad audience. Hence, the author interprets these generic stories and the cast of mythic figures within them: the long-suffering wives, the business tricksters, the Bible-wielding pastors, the kings in their traditional regalia, the glamorous young professionals, the emigrants stranded in New York or London, and all the rest. Based on more than twenty years of research, the author’s survey of Nollywood’s history and genres is extensive as it describes landmark films, leading directors, and the complex character of this major branch of world cinema.


This book provides a detailed analysis of a corpus of nearly 850 bronze plaques that were installed in the court of the 16th century Benin kingdom at the moment of its greatest political power and geographic reach (the original name of the Benin Kingdom at its creation in the first millennium CE was Igodomigodo). The bronze plaques are among the most recognized masterpieces of African art, and yet many details of their commission and installation in the palace in Benin City, Nigeria are little understood, according to the author. The author is the Department Head and Teel Curator for the Arts of Africa and Oceania at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts.