
NIGERIA'S DIVERSE PEOPLES

A REFERENCE SOURCEBOOK

April A. Gordon

A B C  C L I O

Santa Barbara, California · Denver, Colorado · Oxford, England

Contents

Series Editor's Foreword xi

Introduction xv

List of Maps xxv

PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY

- 1 **The Peopling of Nigeria** 1
 - Ethnic Diversity in Nigeria 1
 - Nigerian Prehistory 5
 - Iron Age Nigeria 8
 - The Origins of Nigeria's Present Ethnic Groups 10
 - The Yoruba 11
 - Northern Nigeria and the Hausa-Fulani 13
 - The Igbo 15
 - The Middle Belt 16
 - Conclusion 16
 - Timeline 17
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 18
 - Bibliography 19

- 2 **Cultures of Nigeria:
An Overview of Ethnicity, Region, and Religion** 21
 - The Yoruba 25
 - The Hausa-Fulani 30
 - The Igbo 36
 - Conclusion 38
 - Timeline 39
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 40
 - Bibliography 41

3 European Contact and the Atlantic Slave Trade 43

- The Atlantic Slave Trade 44
- Ending the Slave Trade 54
- The March toward Colonialism 63
- Conclusion 65
- Timeline 67
- Significant People, Places, and Events 68
- Bibliography 70

DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA**4 Colonialism and Nationalism 71**

- Indirect Rule and the Shaping of Identities 72
- The Economic Impact of Colonialism 85
- Demographic Change 87
- Nationalism: The Challenge to Colonial Rule 88
- Conclusion 97
- Timeline 98
- Significant People, Places, and Events 98
- Bibliography 100

5 The Legacy of Colonialism and Postindependence Political Culture 101

- The Colonial Legacy 102
- Ethnicity, Region, and Religion in Nigeria's Political Culture 108
- Patron-Client Relationships and the Culture of Corruption 116
- Conclusion 119
- Timeline 121
- Significant People, Places, and Events 121
- Bibliography 122

6 The Biafra Civil War 125

- Ethnoregionalism in the First Republic 125
- The 1966 Coup and the End of the First Republic 129
- The Civil War 132
- Effects of the Civil War 142
- Timeline 149
- Significant People, Places, and Events 149
- Bibliography 150

- 7 Party Politics and Civilian Government 151**
- The First Republic (1960–1966) 152
 - The Second Republic (1979–1983) 159
 - The Aborted Third Republic (1993) 167
 - The Restoration of Democracy (1998–) 171
 - Conclusion 177
 - Timeline 178
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 178
 - Bibliography 180
- 8 Ethnomilitary Rule 183**
- Period One of Military Rule (1966–1979 and 1983–1985) 184
 - Period Two of Military Rule (1985–1998) 189
 - Conclusion 196
 - Timeline 197
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 198
 - Bibliography 198
- 9 Civil Society and Ethnoregional and Religious Issues 201**
- Ethnic Associations 203
 - Religion and Civil Society 213
 - Civil Society and Nation Building 222
 - Conclusion 227
 - Timeline 229
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 230
 - Bibliography 231

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

- 10 Nigerians Abroad 233**
- The Demographic Picture 234
 - Migration and Identities 237
 - Virtual Nigeria 242
 - Can One Go Home Again? 249
 - Conclusion 250
 - Timeline 252
 - Significant People, Places, and Events 252
 - Bibliography 253

11 The Future of Nigeria	255
The Ethnomilitary Elite	257
Ethnoregionalism and Corruption in Politics	258
Ethnoregional and Religious Conflict	260
The 2003 Elections	263
The Future of Ethnoregionalism and Religious Divisions	266
Timeline	270
Significant People, Places, and Events	271
Bibliography	272
<i>Index</i>	273
<i>About the Author</i>	291