

BOOK REVIEW BY CHRIS IGWENYERE

(I) TITLE: POST-WAR NIGERIAN HISTORY FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

(II) AUTHOR: REV. Fr. DR. NATHANIEL I. NDIOKWERE

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(IV) BOOK REVIEWER: CHRISTIAN OBIOMA IGWENYERE; Author of (a) Violent Non-State Actors: Untold Distractions To peace And Young People. (b) No Patriotism No Nation. (c) Olive Branch Then And Now. Chris Igwenyere lives in Seattle, USA.

(1) INTRODUCTION

POST-WAR NIGERIAN HISTORY FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES is one of the best literary works on African history written by Rev. Fr. Dr. N.I Ndiokwere. The book is split into **BOOK ONE** and **BOOK TWO**, with 367 pages - Book One and 350 pages - Book Two, simply to help Readers handle and digest the contents with ease. The two books have 28 chapters which are well connected.

(2) AUDIENCE

Rev. Fr. Dr. N.I. Ndiokwere`s Post-War Nigerian History For Schools And Colleges is timely as Nigeria is bottled in various chaotic political and societal challenges that began in 1914. Nigerian University Arts & Science Students will gain immensely from these two volumes. In fact College and University libraries must have special place for the books in their shelves. Nigerian problems continued to escalate as from 1960 and up till 2019 no solutions for the country`s nightmare are in sight. The 2019 general elections no doubt have exposed the country`s ills. This book is written in a simple English language for every African especially Nigerians whose parents were even not born when most of the key topics dominating the modern Nigerian history played out. To scholars in African history and anyone who wishes to fully appreciate an undiluted psychological, social, economic, and political accounts of an African country as diverse as Nigeria, this book is highly recommended.

(3) STRUCTURE AND CONTENT – BOOK ONE

The author`s style and choice of formatting is very unique and extraordinary. **BOOK ONE** and its table of contents are channeled towards understanding the lessons of history as regards the government and the citizenry of Nigeria. It makes it easy for both the reader and student to follow the writer right from Chapter 1 to Chapter 14. (1) In Chapter 1 the author explains to the student, the scholar, and the average reader the great overall “Importance of History”. The teacher must let the students realize that ignorance of history is a disaster. The author digs into the following topics in details (2) The Center Of The Post-War Nigerian History-The Igbos of

Nigeria, (3) How Nigeria Treated The Defeated Biafra and the “Loss Of Igbo Ingenuity And Entrepreneurship” (4) Nigeria Before 1966 (5) Nigeria-Biafra War In Retrospect- Part 1, (6) Nigeria-Biafra War In Retrospect-Part 2 (7) How The Alleged Igbo Coup And Counter Coup Led To Igbo Genocide (8) “No Victor No Vanquished Declaration” (9) Mass Rejection And Alienation Of The Conquered Igbos And The Crisis Of Identity In The Post-War Nigeria (10) The Aftermath Of The Civil War On Biafran Youths And The Decline Of Igbo Relevance In The Post-War Nigeria (11) How The Igbos Compare With And Differ From The Jews.

(4) THE MILITARY IN THE MODERN NIGERIAN HISTORY

In the last three Chapters of Book One the authors dives into very important part and heart of Modern Nigerian History. The role of the MILITARY in Nigerian governance can never be skipped in any narrative that touches the one-time most populous and the richest nation in the African continent. Here students and readers must pay very close attention and take important notes! (12) History Of Military Dictatorship And Democratic Governance In The Murky Waters Of Nigerian Politics (13) Bribery And Corruption - Unmitigated Disaster and Nigeria’s Stigma of Shame (14) Political Institution And Electoral Crisis In Nigeria. In this last chapter the author discusses the beginnings of the mayhem referred to as “ELECTIONS” in Nigeria.

(5) BOOK TWO

BOOK TWO is a continuation of Book One. However, it sharply differs from Book One. It divulges the broken nature of Nigeria’s contemporary state of the union, hence it provides some road maps to follow. From Chapter 15 to Chapter 28, BOOK TWO discusses the following topics (1) Resolving The Nigerian Political Impasse- Some Open Options, (2) Second Biafra Revolution: Key Actors And Institutions, (3) The North-South Dichotomy (4) Break-up Of Nigeria: Historical Perspective And Options, (5) There Was A Country: There Will Be A country (6) How African And Nigerian Problems Began (7) Christian Missionary Enterprise In Pre And Post-War Nigeria (8) Christianity In Turmoil (9) The Church And The Future Of Education In Nigeria, (10) Islam On Rampage (11) Fulani Empire Expansionism (12) The Battered Image Of A Nation (13) Ghana And Nigeria: Then And Today (14) Those Who Do Not Learn History Are Doomed To Repeat It.

(6) CONCLUSION.

I am honored to write a review of this book because I succeeded in reading both volumes from cover to cover with little or no distraction. Msgr N. I. Ndiokwere (PhD) was my Rector at Bonus Pastor Seminary Osina in the Catholic diocese of ORLU. A Catholic Priest, my teacher and formator did not confine his vocation to clerical work of the Church. The Holy Spirit freely used him to accomplish much in other areas of the Apostolate. Right from his return from Europe at the completion of his studies in Rome and London in 1979 Rev. Fr. N.I Ndiokwere has been one of the very few clergymen in Nigeria who continued to used his platform as a Priest to write and

condemn evil and injustices in whatever form and sector they appear in Nigeria. Among his most prominent literary works are (i) Prophecy and Revolution (ii) Search for Greener Pastures - Igbo and African Experience (iii) The African Church, Today and Tomorrow (iv) Gateway to Success in English Language (v) Comprehensive Latin Course for Schools and Colleges (vi) Only in Nigeria.

In Father Ndiokwere's book titled "Only In Nigeria" he addressed numerous moral, religious, political and societal issues which are very peculiar to NIGERIA. These issues have continued to affect the nation negatively!

Teaching history in schools and colleges in Africa, letting the young generation know their past, especially in a politically deranged country such as Nigeria may be part of the panacea to the mistakes of the past. Msgr N.I. Ndiokwere has once again shown in this book (Post-War Nigerian History for Schools and Colleges) the need to write, revisit and record the events of the past and present, study them carefully and use the lessons to shape the next generation. This work is not only written for Nigerians, I recommend it to students, scholars, researchers and everyone who is interested in African History international relations, government and politics. To the author I must say 'Congratulations!' You have accomplished a lot in this arena. More grease to your elbows!

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