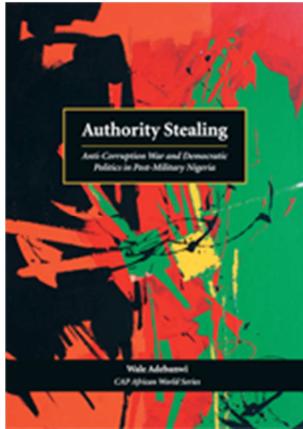
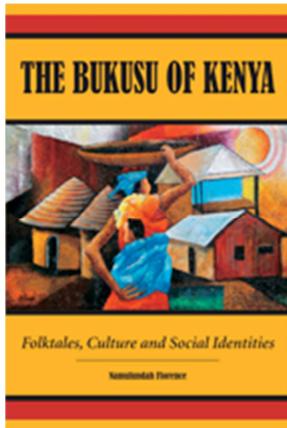


Books Available for Review

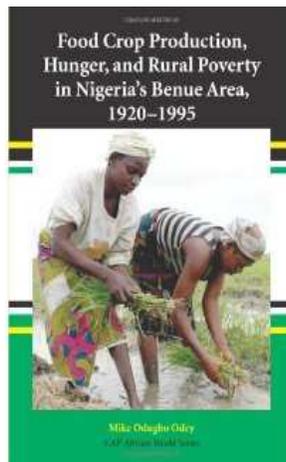
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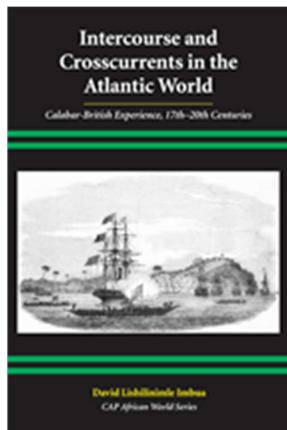
Authority Stealing: Anti-Corruption War and Democratic Politics in Post-Military Nigeria by Wale Adedunni (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2012, pp.482, ISBN: 978-1-61163-023-7). This book chronicles the story of Nuhu Ribadu, arguably Africa's most courageous and most successful anti-corruption Czar and former head of Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. Thus, the book places the anti-graft exploits of Ribadu in post-military Nigeria on a larger canvass of the crisis of nationhood in a country in which public office is regarded as an 'eatery.' The book is based on ethnographic and archival materials, supplemented with interviews with key dramatis personae, while focusing on the era of democracy in Nigeria, using biographical, structural and historical perspectives covering fifty years of Nigeria's existence, and therefore, illuminating the paradoxes of the anti-corruption campaign in Africa.



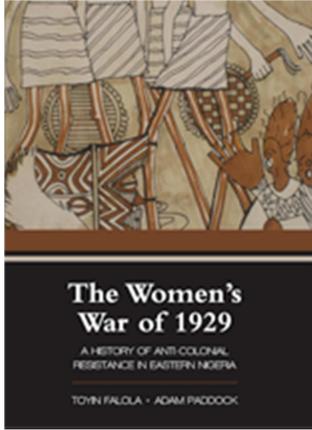
The Bukusu of Kenya: Folktales, Culture and Social Identities by Namulundah Florence (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2011, pp.200, ISBN: 978-1-61163-0253-1) explores the social history in Bukusu folktales compiled in *From Our Mothers' Hearths: Bukusu Folktales and Proverbs*. The heroes of Bukusu tales are farmers, shepherds, stepmothers, husbands, orphans, ironsmiths, hunters, neglected wives, scheming stepmothers, shepherds, and barren women—ordinary people from all walks of life. Thus, the book shows how folktales bring value and pressures to behavior. For instance, except in a few tales, females rather than males fall prey to ogres, commit social breaches and require male direction and protection whereas most of the stories depict the triumph of the despised and weak, such as orphans and neglected wives over those who abuse power or good fortune.



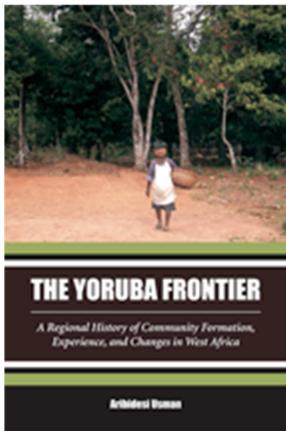
Food Crop Production, Hunger, and Rural Poverty in Nigeria's Benue Area, 1920-1995 by Mike Odugbo Odey (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2011, pp.312, ISBN: 978-1-59460-848-3). This volume engages a history of hunger, food crop production and rural poverty, covering the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial epochs through which the present Benue State in Central Nigeria emerged. The book also deals with food and rural development policies and the challenges of successive colonial and post-colonial governments, as well as the corresponding methods of survival by the people, and explains why hunger exists in the midst of high levels of food production and why food producers tend to suffer deprivations and abject poverty.



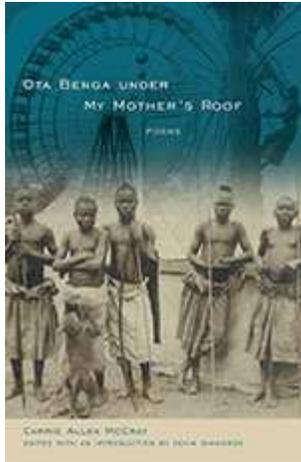
Intercourse and Crosscurrents in the Atlantic World: Calabar-British Experience, 17th-20th Centuries by David Lishilinimle Imbua (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2012, pp.230, ISBN: 978-1-61163-0006-0). This study questions earlier conclusions which were either products of nationalist history or built on popular views, and shows that rather than being passive victims, African people in Old Calabar played active roles in their encounter with Europeans. Hence, great borrowings and exchanges took place in the Atlantic world among populations that were radically different in language, culture and physique, and despite geographical and cultural separations, the physical and intellectual crossings that permeated the Atlantic world improved the fortunes of all its neighboring populations.



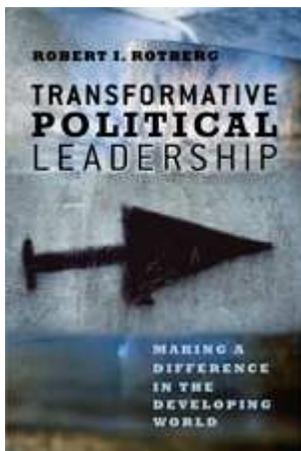
The Women's War of 1929: A History of Anti-Colonial Resistance in Eastern Nigeria edited by Tovin Falola and Adam Paddock (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2011, pp.936, ISBN: 978-1-59460-931-2). This book offers a narrative and analysis of a central event in the colonial history of Nigeria – the Women's War of 1929, also called the Aba Women's Riots by colonial officials and thus addresses the historical debates related to the causes and consequences of the event with assessments of each side's strengths and weaknesses. Focusing mainly on the actions of African participants, the book explains the cultural, social, and economic issues that led to the Women's War and the reasons why women used specific strategies. It also evaluates the aftermath of the conflict and how the protest practices used by Igbo and Ibibio women influenced British colonial policy. The book goes further than other historical accounts of the Women's War by evaluating subsequent women's protests into the 1930s and includes a large collection of primary documents reproduced for print from archives in Nigeria and London.



The Yoruba Frontier: A Regional History of Community Formation, Experience, and Changes in West Africa by Aribidesi Usman (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2012, pp.268, ISBN: 978-1-59460-384-6) is concerned with local frontier zones were widespread in pre-colonial Africa, owing to readily available land and a low-density, scattered population. As frontier issues have become a crucial key to understanding the predicaments of culture groups in the 21st century, this book addresses the relationship between the frontier experience and the complicated problem of ethnic definition in the region today. One of these frontier zones is the northern Yoruba region. Thus, this book engages archaeology and history to address the key issues relevant to both African scholars and their international counterparts, hence archaeological evidence provides the bulk of the data for the pre-1800 period and for the later period, there exists adequate archival data drawn from colonial sources, oral tradition, and ethno-historical data collected by the author and others.



In **Ota Benga under My Mother's Roof (Poems)** (Columbia, SC: University of south Carolina Press, 2012, pp.64, ISBN: 978-1-61117-085-6) Carrie Allen McCray (1913–2008) uses poignant and personal verse to trace the ill-fated life of the Congolese who was famously exhibited in the Bronx Zoo in 1906 before being taken in by the McCray family of Lynchburg, Virginia. Rooted in the rich historical and autobiographic context of her own experiences with Benga, McCray offers compelling, dexterous poems that place Benga's story within the racial milieu of the early twentieth century as the burgeoning science of social anthropology worked to classify humans based on race and culture. The theme of this book is a study of humanity, of people of all kinds, in which Benga's vitality becomes the measure against which everyone is measured. With poems that revel in African American signifying, spirituality, and traditional storytelling, McCray's collection establishes a sincere legacy for Ota Benga as she shares her friend's harrowing tale with new generations.



Transformative Political Leadership: Making a Difference in the Developing World by Robert I. Rotberg (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012, pp.217, ISBN 10-0-226-72899-4). Accomplished political leaders have a clear strategy for turning political visions into reality. Through well-honed analytical, political, and emotional intelligence, leaders chart paths to promising futures that include economic growth, material prosperity, and human well-being. Alas, such leaders are rare in the developing world, where often institutions are weak and greed and corruption strong—and where responsible leadership therefore has the potential to effect the greatest change. In this book the author focuses on the role of leadership in politics and argues that accomplished leaders demonstrate a particular set of skills. Through illustrative case studies of leaders who have performed ably in the developing world—among them Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Seretse Khama in Botswana, Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore, and Kemal Ataturk in Turkey—Rotberg examines how these leaders transformed their respective countries..