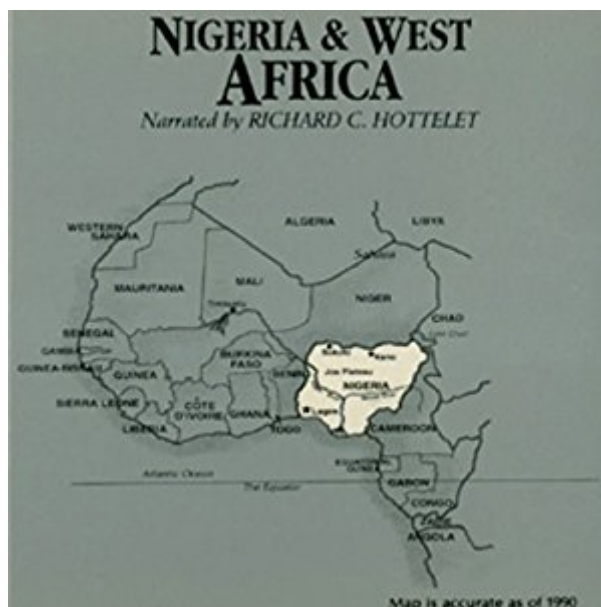


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Nigeria And West Africa



Synopsis

With a culture dating back to at least 700 BC, West Africa has a long and rich history. British influence after the sixteenth century, and especially in the eighteenth century, changed the region's course. By 1967, Nigeria was at war with itself, with the "Republic of Biafra" produced in Nigeria's eastern region. Over a million people perished. This is the story of Nigeria's struggle, which typifies the history and outlook of the West African region. The World's Political Hot Spots series explains the basis of conflicts in some of the world's most politically sensitive areas. Many of these regions are in today's headlines, and tensions recently have become violent in virtually all of them. Each presentation covers up to ten centuries of background, revealing how and why today's problems occur. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have a relative from this part of the world, so this audio presentation was of particular interest to me. I generally found it informative, though the presentation is perhaps not quite as systematic as it ideally could be. A further drawback is that, while a 2006 date is given, I believe this is a reissue of a 1992 production, so two important decades of history are missing. I won't attempt to summarize the presentation, but here are a few points which stood out for me: (1) Before Europeans arrived, Africans had established some fairly significant civilizations (not just villages and towns) which were essentially unknown to Europeans. (2) The British were pioneers in establishing the slave trade, and were also pioneers in eventually abolishing it. But with or without the slave trade, their economic interests were central in their involvements in this region and they often resorted to violence to maintain control. (3) Africans were complicit in the slave trade, often helping with kidnapping other

Africans and other operations.(4) Though the presentation is ambiguous on this point, it seems that tribalism within Africa has (a) continued to prevent African social, political, and economic unity, (b) often resulted in horrific violence, (c) prevented establishment of stable government on any substantial scale, (d) prevented Africans from borrowing good ideas from other cultures around the world, and (e) facilitated European colonialism in Africa via a divide and conquer strategy. I fear that the prospects for Africa still aren't good, but hopefully the recent social uprisings in the Arab world illustrate that one shouldn't give up hope. Recommended for anyone with a strong interest in this region but, again, keep in mind that this presentation is a bit dated.

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