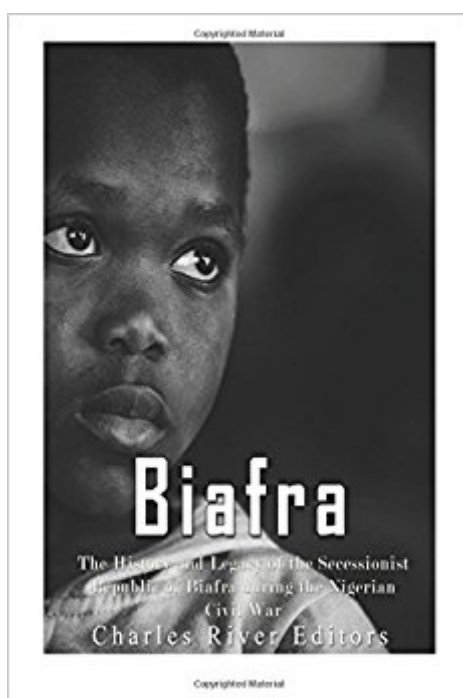


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Biafra: The History And Legacy Of The Secessionist Republic Of Biafra During The Nigerian Civil War



Synopsis

*Includes pictures *Includes contemporary accounts of the Nigerian civil war *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading

“[A] cardinal principle of British colonial policy [is] that the interests of a large native population shall not be subject to the will of a small minority of educated and Europeanized natives.”

Lord Frederick Lugard

Nigeria was the creation of a British businessman by the name of Sir George Taubman Goldie. The gifted son of a substantial Manx military officer and politician, Goldie was educated at the prestigious Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, after which he served briefly in the army before embarking on a journey of adventure to West Africa. The year was 1877, and the West African coast was sub-divided into the spheres of influence of various European trading concerns, and while some exploration of the interior had taken place, the European rush to claim the region had yet to begin in earnest. Nigeria was an unpopular destination for European settlement, thanks to its punishing climate and proliferation of tropical disease, so it saw very little direct European influence. Europeans were posted to Nigeria or sought employment purely to satisfy the needs of administration, and, of course, the various Christian missionary organizations were led largely by whites. Christian missions, incidentally, succeeded spectacularly in the spreading of Christianity across the animist south, but they made absolutely no inroads in the Muslim north. Nigeria was among the first African colonies to be groomed for independence, and upon its success as a free nation, Britain staked a great deal. The process was lengthy, bearing in mind both the intricate ethnic tapestry of the region and the relatively complex systems of government, involving a number of different permutations in the 15 years between the end of World War II and 1960, when independence was finally granted. During this period, the realization began to dawn that the original 1914 amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates of Nigeria might have been a strategic blunder, inasmuch as an attempt had been made to forge a single territory out of two radically different and mutually antagonistic blocs. It was, of course, too late by then to try and alter the political map of Nigeria, but perhaps the creation of two territories, rather than one, would have ultimately served the region better. On October 1, 1960, the new nation of Nigeria took its place on the world stage, and it was welcomed into the United Nations and the British Commonwealth. Riding a wave of official optimism, with its deep ethnic fissures for the time being hidden, Nigeria was hailed as a signature success in British decolonization. It would soon prove to be anything but a success. Biafra: The History and Legacy of the Secessionist Republic of Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War chronicles the story of Nigeria, its civil war, and the controversial secession of Biafra. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about Biafra like never before.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found the e-book Biafra: The History and Legacy of the Secessionist Republic of Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War to be interesting. I remember seeing the starving Biafran children on television on the nightly news while growing up in the New York City area. The e-book describes the events leading up to the massacres that took place in the northern part of Nigeria of the Igbos, the formation of Biafra, the world political view of Biafra, the conduct of the war and the final defeat of the Biafran Army. I really don't understand why the Biafran leader created Biafra when he knew or should have known that the country was not adequately prepared to defend itself. Also, he should have known that since the oil was in the South that there was no way Nigeria was going to allow Biafra to have all the oil. Personal observations I think I can safely say that many Nigerians would agree that the British should never have combined the North with the South. The British did not understand that a portion of the north believe that only a northerner can rule Nigeria. Also, there was and is a significant amount of animosity between the various ethnic groups in Nigeria. I have visited various parts of the North and west of Nigeria in a period of three trips and 30 years. The book indicated that at the time of independence that the educated Igbo dominated the lower strata of civil service, blue-collar levels of industry, nursing, teaching and the trades. One would assume that after the massacres that caused the creation of Biafra that there would be few Igbo traders and blue-collar types in the northern part of Nigeria presently. But at some point after Biafra cease to exist the community returned.

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