

Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba, by David Laitin

Please read the Preface, pp. ix – xi, and Chapter 1, pp. 1-12, 16-20

Reading questions

Preface

1. What is the key puzzle about Yoruba society that Laitin seeks to resolve? (pp. ix – xi)

Chapter 1

2. What was the most hotly contested issue during Nigeria's constitutional convention in 1976? (pp. 1-2)
3. Laitin describes the debate as an issue with “all the ingredients of a cultural clash in which political compromise is impossible”. What were three reasons why the issue was especially difficult to solve? (pp. 2-4)
4. What made the Yoruba delegates swing voters on the issue? (pp. 5-8)
5. How did Yoruba delegates view the issue, in contrast to most other delegates? (pp. 8-9)
6. Why is it especially surprising that Muslim Yoruba did not ally themselves with Muslims from other parts of Nigeria on the issue? (pp. 9-11)
7. What are the two key identities that all Yoruba people hold, according to Laitin? (pp. 16-17)
8. Why has religious identity not become politicized among the Yoruba? (pp. 17-20)