

out of the sails of those who habitually castigate the federal government for not integrating the ex-Biafran soldiers into the Nigerian Army. Similarly, the author offers a more acceptable explanation for the introduction of the Indigenisation Decree of 1972: the circumstances suggest that it was inspired by the oil boom of the post civil war period and a patriotic zeal to protect Nigeria's young industry, in contrast to the commonly made argument that it was intended to strangle the economy of the Igbo. If the latter was the case, the Igbo present at the meeting of the Supreme Military Council where the decision was taken would probably have raised an objection. The conceptual problem of confusing the outcome of an exercise with the motive that underpinned it has done incalculable damage to the unity of the country.

In several places, the author demonstrates sound critical judgement and draws conclusions that are difficult to fault. These will be useful to both governments and peacemakers. From the book, it is sufficiently clear that only a reintegration process that is accompanied by infrastructural development can work in Africa. The author also stresses the need to involve the international community in post-war DDR processes to erase or minimise the memory of war trauma.

The book, however, has a few shortcomings which can be addressed in subsequent editions. Like other works on the Nigerian civil war, the book concentrates only on the treatment of the Igbo. First, it glosses over the effect of the demobilisation and reintegration exercise on the ethnic minorities in the Eastern Region. Secondly, although the festering issue of abandoned property receives considerable attention, the author ought to have explained why the development was restricted to Port-Harcourt and Rivers State. An insight into the nature of inter-group relations, particularly between the Igbo and the Ijaw in Port-Harcourt before 1967, would have helped. Besides, the author's choice of 1897 as the foundation of modern Nigeria on p. 29 is hardly justifiable given the administrative and political history of the territory.

On the whole, Olukunle Ojeleye has considerably advanced the state of our knowledge on the Nigeria civil war and peace building in Africa. His book will help to create a paradigm shift in a country where the politics of belonging has eclipsed the task of nation-building.

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**China into Africa: trade, aid and influence** edited by ROBERT I. ROTBERG  
Baltimore, MD: Brookings Institution Press, 2008. Pp. 339, \$29.95 (pbk).  
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This volume is an excellent collection of academic essays on Sino-African relations and covers a wide range of issues, including political, economic, military and cultural ties between the two regions. It also features contributions from Western academia as well as African and Chinese researchers. By considering the history of engagement between China and Africa – with many chapters making it clear that China's current engagements with Africa can be traced back over half a century – the book helps the reader to separate fact from myth. For example, Deborah Brautigam, an expert on these matters, concludes that the aid provided by Beijing is still far below that of traditional Western

players in Africa, while Harry G. Broadman's study reveals that Africa's exports to China have been significantly diversified in recent years.

This is also a collection of unconventional viewpoints. The chapter written by Stephen Brown and Chandra Lekha Sriram shows that China's legal culpability for human rights abuses in Africa is limited, and that we lack comparative studies on the role of China and other actors on these issues. In a separate chapter, Stephanie Rupp argues that Sino-African relations are neither 'colonial' nor 'neocolonial' in that China has no intention in making Africans 'Chinamen' (p. 77), and so the relationship can be better described as one of 'postcolonial interdependency' (p. 79).

Several chapters raise less-discussed issues about Sino-African relations. The pioneering research of Martyn J. Davies on the Special Economic Zones established by China in Africa is likely to open the way for further studies, even though his analysis would have been more rigorous had it been based more on fieldwork and less on media sources. Similarly, David Shinn, former US Ambassador to Ethiopia, presents a detailed analysis of military and security relations between China and Africa in historical perspective. Finally, in a chapter discussing China's political outreach to Africa, Joshua Eisenman illustrates the activities of the little-known International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Africa, concluding that 'they support CPC development objectives' (p. 242).

But *China into Africa* is not without fault. Many chapters in the book use the same references, reflecting a lack of material as well as the gap between our knowledge of Sino-African relations and their fast growing importance. Moreover, some chapters could have been better presented and included more empirical data and material. For example, the chapter by Ndubisi Obiorah, Darren Kew and Yusuf Tanko offers a quite balanced perspective on China's relations with Nigeria, but the sample they choose is obviously too small to make any valid conclusions.

Although it would have benefited from greater fieldwork, this collection makes a considerable contribution to our knowledge about the growing and increasingly complex relations between China and Africa. Overall, *China into Africa* represents a very interesting and useful background work, and serves as a timely reminder of the urgent need to develop an in-depth understanding of the nature of the rapid evolution of Sino-African relations.

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**Bewitching Development: witchcraft and the reinvention of development in neoliberal Kenya** by JAMES HOWARD SMITH

Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2008. Pp. 272, £11.00 (pbk).

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This book explores how ideas of development and witchcraft intersect in Kenya's Taita District, where state efforts at 'development' have borne little fruit. Smith conducted fieldwork in the mid 1990s, while Daniel arap Moi was clinging to power, and structural adjustment programmes – and the decline in employment opportunities that resulted – were biting hard. Thus, there is a