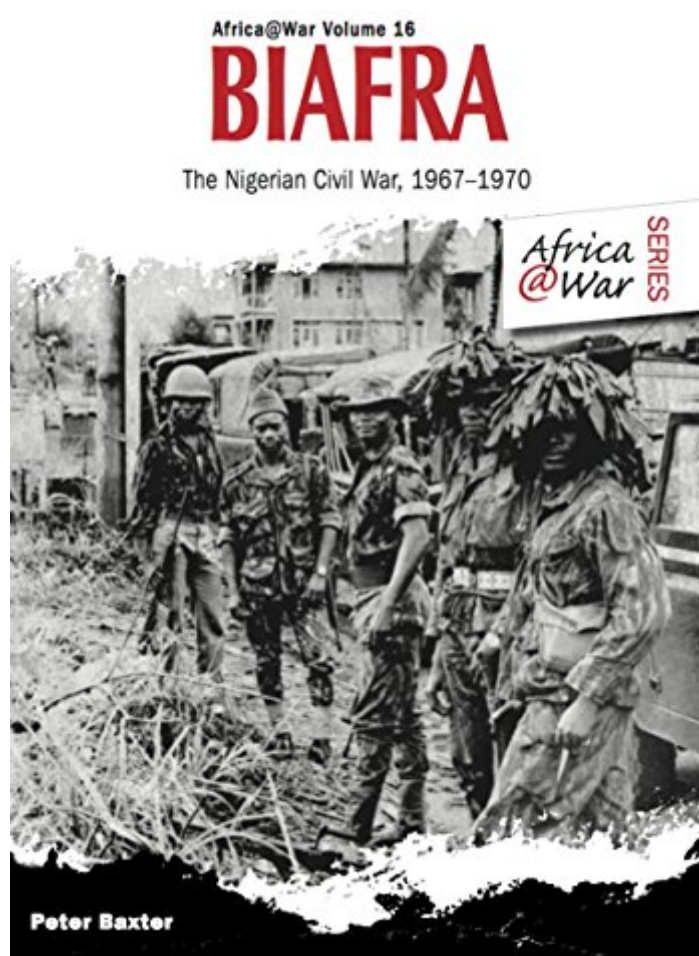




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Biafra: The Nigerian Civil War 1967-1970 (Africa @ War Series)



Synopsis

Nigeria was a unique concept in the formation of modern Africa. It began life as a highly lucrative if climatically challenging holding of the Royal Niger Company, a British Chartered Company under the control of Victorian capitalist Sir George Taubman Goldie. It was handed over to indigenous rule in 1960 with the best of intentions and a profound hope on the part of the British Crown that it would become the poster child of successful political transition in Africa. It did not. One of the signature failures of imperial strategists at the turn of the 19th century was to take little if any account of the traditional demographics of the territories and societies that were subdivided, and often joined together, into spheres of foreign influence, later evolving into colonies, and finally into nation states. Many of the signature crises in postcolonial Africa have owed their origins to this very phenomenon: incompatible and mutually antagonistic tribal and ethnic groupings forced to cohabit within the indivisible precincts of political geography. Congo, Rwanda/Burundi, Sudan and many others have suffered ongoing attrition within their borders as historic enmities surge and boil in restless and ongoing violence. Such was the case with Nigeria in the post-independence period. The traditions and practices of the Islamic north and the Christian/Animist south, and even within the multiplicity of ethnic division in the south itself, proved to be impossible to reconcile. The result was an immediate centrifuge away from the center, complicated by the vast infusion of oil revenues and the inevitable explosion of corruption that followed. All of this created the alchemy of civil war and genocide, which erupted into violence in 1967 as the eastern region of Nigeria attempted to secede. The war that followed shocked the conscience of the world, and revealed for the first time the true depth of incompatibility of the four partners in the Nigerian federation. This book traces the early history of Nigeria from inception to civil war, and the complex events that defined the conflict in Biafra, revealing how and why this awful event played out, and the scars that it has since left on the psyche of the disunited federation that has continued to exist in the aftermath.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very nice slim treatise on a very disturbing subject, the Biafran War. This is a classic African conflict where one tribe tries to break free of oppression, taking with it natural wealth, from another controlling tribe and is nearly wiped out with guns, bombs and starvation! The mother country is supported heavily by a European power wanting the oil, the other is supported by few. The outcome is sadly obvious, Biafra loses! Nigeria wins, BP wins!! This book goes in a few pages, deep into the problems of not only Nigeria but of Africa on the whole. The tribal/clan wars that result from the decolonization are frequent and bloody. Usually leaving the strongest but not the wisest in power much to the detriment of everyone except the 1% in charge! The pictures are many and some never seen. I really like this whole series because like the Osprey books, you get a lot of information on subjects at a cheap price. I have several books on Biafra and mercenaries in Africa and am pleased with this book as an addition to my library

Interesting and well informed narrative of the 67-70 war in Nigeria. Appears at an interesting time (2017) as the same conflict is now again going on. It is clear that Africa (see South Africa also) is a failed continent. Why do we pretend it is not.

This book is a good introduction to a subject that seldom receives attention.

A basic narrative of a war of last resort fated from the beginning to be lost.

Great reading!

I enjoyed this, would give it 3.5 stars if I could. Good photographs and breaks down the politics fairly well. I felt it was a little light on describing equipment, organization and military operations...I was hoping for more nuts and bolts. I love the "Africa @ War" series and wanted to love this volume. It was good but left me a little underwhelmed.

Precise and factual, this brief book on the Biafran Civil War is excellent.

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