Theology and Social Issues in Africa

The Christian axis has shifted dramatically southward to Africa, Asia, and Latin America, so much so that today there are more Christians living in these southern regions than among their northern counterparts. In the case of Africa, the African Initiated Churches—founded by Africans and primarily for Africans—has largely contributed to the exponential growth and proliferation of the Christian faith in the continent. Yet, even more profoundly, these churches espouse a brand of Christianity that is indigenized and thoroughly contextual. Further, the power and popularity of the AICs, beyond the unprecedented numbers...
joining these churches, are attributed to their relevance to the existential everyday needs and concerns of their adherents in the context of a postcolonial Africa. At the heart of Christian theology is Christology—the confessed uniqueness of Christ in history and among world religions. Yet this key feature of Christianity, as with other important elements of the Christian faith, may be variously understood and re-interpreted in these indigenous churches. The focus of this study is the amaNazaretha Church, an influential religious group founded by the African charismatic prophet Isaiah Shembe in 1911 in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The movement today claims a following of some two million adherents and has proliferated beyond the borders of South Africa to neighboring countries in Southern Africa. The book addresses the complex and at times ambivalent understanding of the person and work of Christ in the amaNazaretha Church, presenting the genesis, history, beliefs, and practices of this significant religious movement in South Africa, with broader implications for similar movements across the continent of Africa and beyond.

Christianity and Culture

For not integrating initially some of the good elements in Igbo culture, many Igbo Christians have double personality – Christian personality and traditional personality. They are Christians on Sundays but traditionalists on weekdays. To combat such an anomalous situation, in imitation of Christ's effort at completing what was lacking in the Jewish religion, author Edwin Udoye proposes radical inculturation. His book equally contains many serious theological reflections such that it recommends itself to both theologians and the scholars researching on the religions of the world. Udoye has therefore made a very significant contribution worthy of commendation to both theological and religious studies.

Religious Ethics

Nigeria has become the arena of one of the most remarkable religious movements of recent times, reflecting the shift in the global center of Christianity from the North to the South. This book tells the story of one sector of this movement from its root in the Nigerian civil war to the turn of the new millenium. It describes a revival that occurred among the Igbo people of Eastern Nigeria and the new Pentecostal churches it generated and documents the changes that have occurred as the movement has responded to global flows and local demands. As such, it explores the nature of revivalist and Pentecostal experience but does so against the backdrop of local socio-political and economic
developments, such as decolonization and civil war, as well broader processes, such as modernization and globalization.

**African Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa**

An inclusive and innovative account of religious ethical thinking and acting in the world. Rather than merely applying existing forms of philosophical ethics, Religious Ethics defines the meaning of the field and presents a distinct and original method for ethical reflection through comparisons of world religious traditions. Written by leading scholars and educators in the field, this unique volume offers an innovative approach that reveals how religions concur and differ on moral matters, and provides practical guidance on thinking and living ethically. The book’s innovative method—integrating descriptive, normative, practical, fundamental, and metaethical dimensions of reflection—enables a far more complex and nuanced exploration of religious ethics than any single philosophical language, method, or theory can equal. First introducing the task of religious ethics, the book moves through each of the five dimensions of reflection to compare concepts such as good and evil, perplexity and wisdom, truth and illusion, and freedom and bondage in various theological contexts. Guides readers on understanding, assessing, and comparing the moral teachings and practices of world religions. Applies a disciplined, scholarly approach to the subject of religious ethics. Explores the distinctions between religious ethics and moral philosophy. Provides a methodology which can be applied to comparative ethics for various religions. Compares religious traditions to illuminate each of the five dimensions of ethical and moral reflection. Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method will help anyone interested in the relation between religion and ethics in the modern world, including those involved in general and comparative religion studies, religious and comparative ethics, and moral theory.

**God, Spirit, and Human Wholeness**

In this book the author, relying on the research he carried out in Igboland, Nigeria, leads us to see the action of God's grace already active in the Igbo religious culture called Omenala Ndigbo before the coming of Christian missionaries and how these cultural values have prepared the people to receive the Gospel. But, as he points out, these cultural values on which the Christian message ought to have been built from the beginning were grossly misunderstood and neglected. The Igbo people are now mainly Christians. But because the Gospel has not yet become their culture, some of them have double allegiance
to the doctrines of the Church and to the practices of Omenala Ndigbo. The author opines that to build the Catholic Church in Igboland on a solid foundation, the Eucharist must take the central place – since the Eucharist makes the Church and is the source and summit of the life of the Church. Thus the work, which uses the analytical and hermeneutical method known as inculturation, is on Eucharistic Ecclesiology from an Igbo perspective and will be useful for the Church, both at the local and universal levels for self-understanding and renewal, ecumenism, dialogue and mission.

Overcoming the Osu Caste System among the Afro-Igbo

It is in honour of the silver jubilee of Most Rev. Anthony J. V. Obinna’s episcopacy that this book is put together in this first volume titled Emerging Conversations on Theofililation: Essays in Honour of Archbishop Anthony J. V. Obinna. This volume discusses and enlarges insights inherent in Archbishop Obinna’s theological thinking on theofililation. Therefore, the contributors to this volume critically examine his idea of theofililation from their areas of speciality as a further exploration of this theological term. The willingness of the contributors has resulted in a collection that envisage the eclectic and heterogeneous scholarly vision of its honouree. Besides, the contributors to this maiden edition encompass both illustrious theologians and promising researchers in theology, philosophy, psychology, and management. The themes discussed by the contributors are grouped into biblical/comparative study, systematic/pastoral, ethical/management, philosophical/political, and anthropological issues. The enriching and diverse collections of this volume have five thematic sections of nineteen chapters that theofililation brings together. “This Festschrift in honour of Amarachi Obinna is a compendium of usable knowledge. The authors have dealt with various themes largely inspired by the theology and practice of the archbishop. This conviction leads to the reflections on theofililation, the reinGodment of all creation. The Festschrift is truly a treasure” (Prof. John Obilor, Imo State University Owerri). “This book is an insightful reading which will serve as an inspirational theological wellspring for emerging scholars engaged in articulating a robust African contextual theology to which it breathes fresh air. The spirit of dynamism in Archbishop Obinna’s novel brainchild of theofililation is manifested in its applicability to wide-ranging academic disciplines” (William Odeke Owire, KU Leuven).

Emerging Conversations on Theofililation

This Handbook offers an analysis of the relation between football and politics, based on over 30 case
studies covering five continents. It provides a detailed picture of this relation in a wide number of
European, American, African, and Asian states, as well as a comparative assessment of football in a
global perspective, thus combining the general and the local. It examines themes such as the political
origins of football in the studied country, the historical club rivalries, the political aspects of
football as a sports spectacle, and the contemporary issues linked to the political use of football. By
following the same structure with each study, the volume allows for the comparison between largely
investigated cases and cases that have seldom been addressed. The Handbook will be of use particularly to
students and scholars in the fields of sport studies, political science and sociology, as well as
cultural studies, anthropology and leisure studies.

The Doctrine of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Igbo Belief in the
"reincarnation"

It is the conviction of Sacramentum Caritatis as well as the fathers of the Second Vatican Council that
active participation at Eucharistic celebration cannot be easily disassociated from active involvement in
the Church's mission in the world. This present study in the light of the foregoing presuppositions,
exposes some of such challenges confronting the Afro-Igbo Christian, with special focus on the menace of
the osu caste system, and proposes ways towards its eradication. One of such ways remains strengthening
the Eucharistic celebration through the process of the inculturation.

Genesis 12-50

This book explores in depth Ikpu-ala as a social justice value in the Igbo social justice system. The
traditional social justice concept of ikpu-ala provides an important conceptual framework through which
adult Igbo Christians can engage in a critical and conscious theological reflections upon how they can
make the Igbo Christian community fully authentic and faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a
process that will highlight the total transformation of the Igbo society, which began with the arrival of
the missionaries in 1885. This reflection is based on the Igbo experience and understanding of Omenala,
the Igbo moral code, in which the world of the material and the spiritual, while occupying distinct
domains, nonetheless remain deeply intertwined. In this book, the author explores that for the Igbo
community, the reality of theology has evolved as a distinct from of experience that is deeply connected
with tradition for the sake of praxis (Don Browning, 1995). Consequently, the author not only sees Ikpu-
ala as authentic Igbo social justice value but also considers it as something that can be integrated into the Christian social values without either destroying Igbo longstanding cultures or traditions. The author highlights two key lessons from the Igbo integration of ikpu-ala into Christian social justice: (1) that the Igbo Catholic Church should engage the Igbo culture and traditions in a theological interactive reflections for the incarnation of the Word among the Igbo Catholics, and (2) that Ikpu-ala, with its theological values, can assist the Igbo Catholic Church in the sacrament of reconciliation and so transform the twenty-first century Igbo Catholic into an integrated and authentic Christian.

Priestly celibacy: a gift and a commitment (can. 277 § 1).

The need for renegotiation of the place and role of women in the family, the Church, and the society cannot be any more urgent than now, especially as people are more aware of the devastating effects of the evils of inequality, discrimination, and oppression. It is a pity that the excellent qualities of bravery, industry, resilience, and perseverance historically attributed to African women, with which they negotiated for better place in the family, the Church, and the society, have been manipulated to serve as instruments for their denigration. The problem is that the patriarchal articulations of gender relations from the western world that entered Africa through colonialism, Christianity, western education and globalization allied themselves with the macho elements in African culture, and institutionalized the oppression of women; a move that women have always resisted both overtly and covertly. But how long could they hang on? This book provides exceptional and critical assessment of these issues, especially from the perspective of the Igbo society of Nigeria. Apart from assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the efforts made by women themselves to surmount these challenges, it also explores how the autochthonous values of the traditional culture could integrate with Christian values to enthrone gender equality in the society. Fr Muonwe demonstrated in this present publication his pastoral zeal for justice especially on the predicaments of women in African nay Igbo society. He regrets as it were that the African (Igbo) traditional society is still far from realizing the Christian gospel ideal of dignity and equality of human person because of the obvious environment that is strictly androcentric and carefully crafted in patriarchal hegemony I thank Fr Muonwe for this timely publication especially for many Igbo Christian communities today experiencing crisis in several aspects of our culture I hope the Bishops, the Priests, the Religious and Laity will find in this present work a rare and indispensable treasure for solutions to our pastoral predicaments. Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony B. C. Chiegboka. New Dawn for African Women is encyclopaedic in content and daunting in its wealth of documentation [It] is a well-written book. The contents covered much more than Igbo women, or gender issues. It addressed such other issues as Igbo
cosmology, Igbo concept of life and death, the history of Christianity in Igboland and Igbo social anthropology, among others. It is a book, which every Nigerian, especially the Igbo, should read. The book is inspirational and provocative in the extreme; it is original and displays learning lightly carried. One cannot but return to it over and over again after the first reading. I very strongly recommend it to the Nigerian and African reading public. C. Ego Uzoezie (Ph.D.)

Achievement as Value in the Igbo/African Identity

The joy over the growth of Christianity in Africa is also a challenge to all concerned to help Christianity take roots, ennoble and become one with the cultural life of the numerous tribes of Africa. This missionary expectation is not yet fully realized in many local churches in Africa. From these perspectives, Adolphus Chikezie Anuka inaugurates a new brand of concrete, target-oriented emphasis on dialogical inculturation. In this book, the Mmanwu cultural institution of the Igbo people of south eastern Nigeria stands in central focus, opening itself to the influences of Christian values as well as speaking to the religious assumptions of Christianity. The theoretical results of this research work and its practical pastoral suggestions are both enlightening and appealing.

Solidarity in the Church and Solidarity Among the Igbos of Nigeria

Interface between Igbo Theology and Christianity is a timely book that provides new scholarly thinking concerning the convergence of Christianity and Igbo Traditional Religion taking place in the Igbo culture area. This book, a fruit of multidisciplinary conversation among Igbo scholars and Igbophiles, offers concepts, themes, issues, and case studies with deep ethnographic details, some of which do not exist anywhere else in print. It is a major statement of how modern Igbo scholars, social scientists, philosophers, theologians, liturgists, and active pastors and parish priests, understand the intersection of Igbo Traditional Religion and Christianity in postcolonial Nigeria. The editors and authors of the chapters of this book draw from their wealth of experience to offer to students, scholars, researchers, community-based organizations and NGOs, and practitioners in interfaith dialogue a “must have” manual to engage in and develop mutual respect and trust among Christian denominations and between them and Igbo Traditional Religion. This book will serve as a blueprint for a deep dialogue among the Igbo in both city and rural settings, in the context of clan and community life context and in the Christian parish setting. The book will certainly appeal to numerous communities in Africa wishing to share similar local
experiences and collective memories, but which do not have the channels to talk about themselves in scholarly writing.

Societies, Networks, and Transitions, Volume I: To 1500: A Global History

Karl Barth and Comparative Theology

"EDEN IN SUMER ON THE NIGER" provides archeological, linguistic, genetic, and inscribed evidence of the West African origin of mankind, language, religion and civilization. It provides multidisciplinary evidence of the actual geographical location in West Africa of the Garden of Eden, Atlantis and the original homeland of the Sumerian people before their migration to the "Middle East". By translating hitherto unknown pre-cuneiform inscriptions of the Sumerians, Catherine Acholonu and Sidney Davis have uncovered thousands of years of Africa's lost pre-history and evidences of the West African origins of the earliest Pharaohs and Kings of Egypt and Sumer such as Menes and Sargon the Great. This book provides answers to all lingering questions about the African Cavemen (Igbos/Esh/Adamas/Adites) original guardians of the human races, Who gave their genes for the creation of Homo Sapiens (Adam) and were the teachers in the First Age of the world.

Foreign Missionary Background and Indigenous Evangelization in Igboland

Exploring history in global framework, Lockard's SOCIETIES, NETWORKS, AND TRANSITIONS, VOLUME I: TO 1500: A GLOBAL HISTORY, Fourth Edition, combines the accessibility and cultural richness of a regional approach with the rigor of comparative scholarship. Emphasizing culture, social change, gender issues, economic patterns, science and religion, it helps you unravel the connections, encounters, cooperation and conflicts of world and regional history. The author includes profiles of individuals from various walks of life as well as highlights social life and cultural artifacts such as music, literature and art. Extensively revised, the text incorporates recent scholarship throughout, examines various debates among historians and explains how historians use original documents. Insightful questions help you reflect on the historical significance of text material -- and how it relates to you. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.
Toward an African Theology of Fraternal Solidarity

In over 2,000 years, Christianity has made 'the' overwhelming impact on the culture of the Western world in particular. But culture has also helped to shape the development and form of Christianity since the interaction of two such powerful phenomena cannot help but change the other. This new book brings together over 1200 citations on Christianity and Culture which are indexed by subject, title and author for easy access.

Mmanwu and Mission among the Igbo People of Nigeria

The Routledge Handbook of African Theology

Christianity and Culture Collision

Peoples, Beliefs, Cultures, and Justice in Afro-Catholicism: Ikpu-Ala and Igbo Church

Drawn from the Conference on World Christianity, this provocatively titled book, invoking images of “culture collision,” “particularity,” and the “global South”, prompts for profoundly new understandings of apparently polar themes: inculturation, universality, and world Christianity. Since the emergence of world Christianity is not an epiphenomenon, but central to the question of how the gospel is good news for today's world, readers concerned about the theological issues related to the possibilities for a genuinely new evangelization will find this volume. It will also be of interest to students and scholars of African ecclesiastical history, world Christianity, and inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue. Cyril Orji is Associate Professor of theology at the University of Dayton, Ohio, USA. He specializes in systematic and fundamental theology with particular emphasis on the theology and philosophy of Bernard Lonergan, whom he brings into conversation with the works of the American pragmatist and semiotician Charles Sanders Peirce. Dr Orji also collaborates in inter-religious dialogue and the intersection of...

Charismatic Renewal and Pentecostalism

This systematic theological study in comparative religion aims at finding ways of making the mission of the Church more effective in Igboland of Nigeria. Three methods were used: the main is expository and analytic, the focus is anthropological and the end-vision is a doctrinal and pastoral dialogue. The result is an assertion that a traditional religious belief like the ilo-uwa can be studied and evaluated theologically and offered healing by the Gospel message. Another result is an assertion that the Church must take inculturation seriously if it must witness to the cultures and peoples of Africa.

Onomastics between Sacred and Profane

This book provides a unique insight into understanding the Igbo social, economic, and political world through comprehensive analyses of indigenous and foreign religious practices, issues surrounding women, literature, language, sexism in musical lyrics, films, and community development and government. It also explores thought-provoking cultural practices relating to marriage and divorce, reincarnation, naming, and masquerade dance. The themes covered in the book help readers appreciate the often-neglected multifaceted local and external forces that continue to shape the Igbo experience in southeastern Nigeria.

The Concept of Man in Igbo Myths

Building on recent engagements with Barth in the area of theologies of religion, Karl Barth and Comparative Theology inaugurates a new conversation between Barth’s theology and comparative theology. Each essay brings Barth into conversation with theological claims from other religious traditions for the purpose of modeling deep learning across religious borders from a Barthian perspective. For each
tradition, two Barth-influenced theologians offer focused engagements of Barth with the tradition’s respective themes and figures, and a response from a theologian from that tradition then follows. With these surprising and stirringly creative exchanges, Karl Barth and Comparative Theology promises to open up new trajectories for comparative theology. Contributors: Chris Boesel, Francis X. Clooney, Christian T. Collins Winn, Victor Ezigbo, James Farwell, Tim Hartman, S. Mark Heim, Paul Knitter, Pan-chiu Lai, Martha L. Moore-Keish, Peter Ochs, Marc Pugliese, Joshua Ralston, Anantanand Rambachan, Randi Rashkover, Kurt Richardson, Mun’im Sirry, John Sheveland, Nimi Wariboko

T&T Clark Handbook of Ecclesiology

In this book, Ikenna Okafor tackles an interesting and timely topic and demonstrates competence and maturity in developing his insight into Igbo humanism—to make liberation theology from an African perspective into a theology of solidarity and fraternity. With a good narrative style, Okafor critiques the Latin American liberation theological project. And inspired by the hermeneutical implications of "UBE NAWANNE," the evangelical positioning of material poverty and pathos for the poor as defining Christian discipleship is persuasively presented. The potent nwanne idiom guides his critical evaluation of the social teachings and praxis of the Catholic Church. In fact, it is clear that Okafor embarked on a subject matter that is of theological moment and has creative pastoral implications for the Church of Nigeria, the Churches of Africa, and the World Church.

Religion and Social Reconstruction in Africa

Frequently overlooked in the search of knowing and acting wisely are some important philosophical and cultural ideas and questions. The kpim of Social Order boldly captures such ideas and questions for awareness through critical thinking. The current volume in the Kpim Book Series makes the point that for a systematic analysis and significance of Social Order to be attained, we need to ask, What is the kpim or central core of Social Order of things? Where does the deepest layer, notion, symbolism, reality and application of social order, programs, human rights, institutions, communities, diplomacy, uprising, social asset, social power, policy action, inter-culturalism, global forces and all else lie? How can we reach and understand the innermost part of Social Order in the modern world? By gathering articles from seasoned, experienced, and emerged scholars from various backgrounds, the book explores deep-rooted questions touching on African context and related societies. The refreshing perspectives, analyses, deep
reflections, vigorous arguments, and representations shown by the essays are distinctive and have been referred to as a comprehensive reader in the season of inquiry, meaning and significance of social order in the contemporary time. This is a book no one should ignore. Students, scholars, researchers, universities, colleges, educationists, institutions, policy makers, governments, legislatures, agencies, labour unions, civil society organizations, occupy movements, religious groups, entrepreneurs and the general public will find this book as an asset and a must read. The kpm of Social Order is therefore written out of the critical need to fill the gap for a decisive knowledge society in the modern world.

The Palgrave International Handbook of Football and Politics

The historiography of African religions and religions in Africa presents a remarkable shift from the study of 'Africa as Object' to 'Africa as Subject', thus translating the subject from obscurity into the global community of the academic study of religion. This book presents a unique multidisciplinary exploration of African traditions in the study of religion in Africa and the new African diaspora. The book is structured under three main sections – Emerging trends in the teaching of African Religions; Indigenous Thought and Spirituality; and Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. Contributors drawn from diverse African and global contexts situate current scholarly traditions of the study of African religions within the purview of academic encounter and exchanges with non-African scholars and non-African contexts. African scholars enrich the study of religions from their respective academic and methodological orientations. Jacob Kehinde Olupona stands out as a pioneer in the socio-scientific interpretation of African indigenous religion and religions in Africa. This book is to his honour and marks his immense contribution to an emerging field of study and research.

Interface Between Igbo Theology and Christianity

"When African scholars lament over the near destruction of African cultures, they do not reflect the reality of African women's historical traditions of empowerment and inclusion in pre-colonial/pre-Christian African societies, which were also lost in the same process of Western Christian cultural imperialism. Similarly, most male Church theologians writing or speaking about inculturation do not address the deeper cultural issues, which impact heavily on African women. .. [from back cover]
The Volume speaks to us from the heart and engages the socio-political concerns in the Nigerian context through the lens of a theological approach. The author reflects historically the numerous consequences of the amalgamation of the ethnic groups of different orientations in Nigeria into one socio-political structure of the colonizers interests. This sociopolitical structure raises several questions than answers it pretends to offer the indigenous people. From a Nigerian point of view, the articles in this volume critically challenge the unjust formation of any nationhood in the Africa context. It points out how the sustenance of an unjust nation formation betrays the creed on which such a nation is established. “Truth conquers all” is the spirit with which this Volume is written. It is the truth that will set a nation like Nigeria free from the spirit of confusion and unperceived religio-socio-political syncretism. The awareness emanating from this volume suggests liberating steps from the unsuspicuous colonial interests and the sustained feigned relationship with the colonizers which militate against the socio-political and economic growth, and theological orthodoxy of such a growing nation.

**Societies, Networks, and Transitions: A Global History**

Is celibacy an exclusive practice of the Latin Church? Why has priestly celibacy in the Catholic Church always been singled out for attacks? Is the requirement of celibacy harmful to man’s psycho-sexual equilibrium and to the normal development of human personality? Is celibacy a greater burden to priests from non-Western cultures like Ingho-Nigerian culture? Is priestly celibacy still relevant in today’s society? If priestly celibacy is a charism, how can it be imposed by law? These crucial questions about priestly celibacy find their answers in this work. There has been a debate concerning the primary source of the obligation of priestly celibacy. This work clarifies that since priestly celibacy is a charism of the Holy Spirit, the primary source of obligation does not rise from the law but from the charism itself (gift) and from the free response which the person gives in love to this charism (commitment). The work traced the magisterium of the Church on priestly celibacy from 1917 code to the pontificate of Benedict XVI and came to the conclusion that the crisis associated with celibacy is not solved by abrogating the law but through an integrated celibate formation of seminarians. The work therefore developed an «integrated celibate formation model for Igho-Nigerian seminarians», a model which is adaptable to the formation of seminarians in any socio-cultural and ecclesial situation.

**Overcoming Women's Subordination in the Igbo African Culture and in the Catholic Church**
The Holy Spirit is a sine qua non in the life of the church and in all Christian life and experience. The importance of the experiential and praxis-oriented theology of the Charismatic Renewal and Pentecostalism cannot be overemphasized in the realization of the potentials of a Spirit-animated church. In fact, Charismatic Renewal in the Nigerian Catholic Church is an essential part of the changing face of the Catholic Church in Nigeria. This work is, therefore, using Charismatic and Pentecostal theology and praxes to argue for the renewal of the Nigerian Catholic Church. It avers that the praxis-oriented and experiential theology of the Charismatics and Pentecostals, which characterize them as Spirit-filled groups and churches, are enabling the Nigerian Catholic Church to realize the potentials of a Spirit-driven church. It upholds that the Nigeria Catholic Church through the Nigerian Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which is an indispensable part of the changing face of the Catholic Church in Nigeria, has wittingly or unwittingly begun the renewal of her pneumatological, ecclesiological, and liturgical doctrines and practices in accord with those of a truly Spirit-animated church.

Nigeria's Christian Revolution

Exploring history in global framework, Lockard's SOCIETIES, NETWORKS, AND TRANSITIONS: A GLOBAL HISTORY, Fourth Edition, combines the accessibility and cultural richness of a regional approach with the rigor of comparative scholarship. Emphasizing culture, social change, gender issues, economic patterns, science and religion, it helps you unravel the connections, encounters, cooperation and conflicts of world and regional history. The author includes profiles of individuals from various walks of life as well as highlights social life and cultural artifacts such as music, literature and art. Extensively revised, the text incorporates recent scholarship throughout, examines various debates among historians and explains how historians use original documents. Insightful questions help you reflect on the historical significance of text material -- and how it relates to you. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

Shembe, Ancestors, and Christ

Genesis 12-50: A Narrative-Theological Commentary uses narrative criticism to bring out the theological aspects of the biblical story. While basing itself on the Christian belief that Christ is the goal of all Scripture, it nevertheless allows the Hebrew Bible to speak for itself and to show how its inner message may receive completion in Christ. Hence, it adopts what the author calls a “two-stage” hermeneutics. A
The particular contribution of this commentary is the comparison and confrontation of patristic and early rabbinitic exegesis as Christians and Jews struggled over the same texts, using them to support their diverse beliefs. The discussion is geared towards the average educated reader.

The Eucharist as Orik?ns?

Divided into 3 parts, this handbook provides a wide-ranging survey and analysis of the Christian Church. The first section addresses the scriptural foundations of ecclesiology; the second section outlines the historical and confessional aspects of the topic; and the final part discusses a variety of contemporary and topical themes in ecclesiology. Compiled and written by leading scholars in the field, the T&T Clark Handbook of Ecclesiology covers a range of key topics in the context of their development and importance in each stream of historic Christianity and the confessional traditions. The contributors cover traditional matters such as creedral notes, but also tackle questions of ordination, orders of ministry, and sacraments. This handbook is extensive enough to provide a true overview of the field, but the essays are also concise enough to be read as reference selections.

New Dawn for African Women

Religiously, God is the creator of everything seen and unseen; thus, one can ascribe to Him the names of His creation as well, at least in their primordial form. In the mentality of ancient Semitic peoples, naming a place or a person meant determining the role or fate of the named entity, as names were considered to be mysteriously connected with the reality they designated. Subsequently, God gave people the freedom to name persons, objects, and places. However, people carried out this act (precisely) in relation to the divinity, either by remaining devoted to the sacred or by growing estranged from it, an attitude that generated profane names. The sacred/profane dichotomy occurs in all the branches of onomastics, such as anthroponymy, toponymy, and ergonomy. It is circumscribed to complex and interdisciplinary analysis which does not rely on language sciences exclusively, but also on theology, ethnology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, anthropology, geography, history and other connected fields, as well as culture in general. Despite the contributors’ cultural diversity (29 researchers from 16 countries – England, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, U.S.A., and Zimbabwe – on four continents) and their adherence to different religions and faiths, the studies in Onomastics between Sacred and Profane share a common goal that
consist of the analysis of names that reveal a person’s identity and behavior, or the existence, configuration and symbolic nature of a place or an object. One can state that names are tightly connected to the surrounding reality, be it profane or religious, in every geographical area and every historical period, and this phenomenon can still be observed today. The particularity of this book lies in the multicultural and multidisciplinary approach in theory and praxis.

**Culture, Precepts, and Social Change in Southeastern Nigeria**

Religion has played a major role in both the division and unification of peoples and countries within Africa. Its capacity to cause, and to heal, societal rifts has been well documented. This book addresses this powerful societal force, and explores the implications of a theology of reconstruction, most notably articulated by Jesse Mugambi. This way of thinking seeks to build on liberation theology, aiming to encourage the rebuilding of African society on its own terms. An international panel of contributors bring an interdisciplinary perspective to the issues around reconstructing the religious elements of African society. Looking at issues of reconciliation, postcolonialism and indigenous spirituality, among others, they show that Mugambi’s cultural and theological insight has the potential to revolutionise the way people in Africa address this issue. This is a fascinating exploration of the religious facets of African life. As such, it will be of great interest to scholars of religious studies, theology and African studies.

**The Interface of Igbo Theology and Christianity**

This book brings together twelve essays on a wide and rich range of topics, discussions and methodologies in African theology today. Even the book’s limitations provide an insight into the situation: its variety also indicates the absence of comprehensive and sustained discussion flowing from the economic and institutional limitation of Africa where research in theology is often beyond the means of many theologians. Then there is the difficulty of staying abreast of continually changing contexts and events in Africa itself. For all of these reasons then, a compelling introduction to a dynamic analysis and conversation.

**African Theology Today**
The Holy Spirit provides access to relationship with and reflection on the Triune God. In West Africa, Christians approach the Triune God in a way that challenges the Jewish-Christian memory. Deeply rooted in their ancestral memory, where living is relationality, they embrace the Trinitarian faith, the economy of the relational God-Christ-Spirit, by expanding and reinventing their indigenous experience of God, deities, spirits, and ancestors. Christian faith-practice is marked by the spectacular dominance of the Holy Spirit, whose charisms reflect the operations of deities. African Initiated Churches (AICs), Protestant and Catholic charismatic movements, experience God-Spirit's liberating and healing hand for the enhancement and realization of communal and individual destiny (what one expects from a concerned providential deity). This book argues that the emergent West African Trinitarian imagination is in harmony with Hebrew insight into the One and Only Yahweh of the patriarchs that assumed the dimensions of Elohim, God—experienced as a sound of sheer silence by Elijah, and proposed in utter weakness as the Only God by Deutero-Isaiah—the God that Jesus called Abba, Father. As Spirit and Life, the Holy Spirit, which is the source of all charisms (Origen), is our link to the Trinity.

Resolving the Prevailing Conflicts Between Christianity and African (Igbo) Traditional Religion Through Inculturation

Achievement seems to be a first-class value in our world today. With the ongoing global debate on what constitutes identity, can we include achievement as one of the constituents? In the Igbo/African identity, the achievement instinct is basically innate. The ethics of this phenomenon needs an evaluation, aimed at improving the status quo. What is the plight of the Igbo/African "achieving" in the face of modern capitalistic tendencies? What has become of the many other values in her identity, which has been her pride as a race? How is her religiosity (which is inseparable from daily living) affected by "modernity" and its new trends of the achievement ethos? These are some of the issues that are addressed in this book with the conviction that theology, achievement and identity are continuity.

The Kpim of Social Order

Theology has a rich tradition across the African continent, and has taken myriad directions since Christianity first arrived on its shores. This handbook charts both historical developments and contemporary issues in the formation and application of theologies across the member countries of the African Union. Written by a panel of expert international contributors, chapters firstly cover the
various methodologies needed to carry out such a survey. Various theological movements and themes are then discussed, as well as biblical and doctrinal issues pertinent to African theology. Subjects addressed include: • Orality and theology • Indigenous religions and theology • Patristics • Pentecostalism • Liberation theology • Black theology • Social justice • Sexuality and theology • Environmental theology • Christology • Eschatology • The Hebrew Bible and the New Testament The Routledge Handbook of African Theology is an authoritative and comprehensive survey of the theological landscape of Africa. As such, it will be a hugely useful volume to any scholar interested in African religious dynamics, as well as academics of Theology or Biblical Studies in an African context.

Eden in Sumer on the Niger

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