This book focuses on the major issues in the history of Nigeria during the twentieth century, showing how the country was created and governed under different regimes. While recognizing the role of external influences, notably the establishment of colonial rule by the British, the Cold War, and contemporary global politics, the book stresses the contributions of Nigerians to the development of their country. The leading themes explored in the book are historiography and methods; politics and economy; creativity and literature; and the burdens of the nation-state.

The contributors represent a new crop of Nigerian scholars whose ideas will shape many of the discussions on the country in the next fifty years. Inscribing their aspirations into the analyses and narratives, they see both challenges and optimism as they and their country travel slowly to a future whose conditions are hard to predict.

The importance of Nigeria cannot be exaggerated: one in five Africans is a Nigerian; it is a leading African country with the second largest economy; and it remains a regional power, an influential actor in world politics, and a hugely populated country whose restless citizens will not relent in their demands for progress, political stability, and interethnic harmony.
Thus, the events of the twentieth century represent part of a series of developments, aspects of which could be labeled ‘traditional’, ‘reformist’, ‘colonial’, or ‘modern’. I will suggest, however, that this historical trajectory cannot be properly assessed without a careful attention to the cultural context in which it occurred.


The world economy performed better in the last half century than at any time in the past. World GDP increased six-fold from 1950 to 1998 with an average growth of 3.9 per cent a year compared with 1.6 from 1820 to 1950, and 0.3 per cent from 1500 to 1820. English.

Nigerian Languages Studies in the 20th Century: A Critical. Appraisal Abstract In many African settings, Nigeria not exempted, it may be easier for the camel to go through the eye of the needle than to get indigenes speak regularly and effectively. There were other Yoruba scholars who left indelible positive marks on Yoruba studies in the twentieth century. They include Ayo Banjo, Babs Fafunwa, Awobuluyi, Akinkugbe, Yiwola. Though Ayo Banjo, Babs Fafunwa were.