Book Reviews


It is often said that a great person (or a prophet) is not often neither acknowledged nor recognized amongst his/her own people. Perspective on African Studies, written in honor of one of Africa’s most distinguished scholars, is a book that sets out to deconstruct this usual saying. It is a remarkable publication that can be considered a modest but significant effort on the part of two emergent scholars, Dr. Akin Alao and Dr. Rotimi Taiwo.

Being honored is Dr. Toyin Falola, a distinguished personality of many parts, indeed a distinguished African historian with several academic accolades and awards for many decades, who is also the Frances Higgonbotham Nalle Centennial Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin and a University Distinguished Teaching Professor. This festschrift is divided into seven sections, with thirty-five well-researched chapters that straddle almost the entire gamut of Falola’s scholarship and academic interests, including politics, language, religion, arts, economy, education, gender, law, ethnicity, culture as well as Africa’s pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial and modern history.

The book is another addition to the numerous scholarly endeavors aimed at celebrating, undisputably, one of Africa’s most prolific and versatile scholars. As noted by the editors, the volume is of extensive multi-disciplinary importance, which is made up of essays from scholars in different areas of African Studies, where Professor Falola himself has worked extensively.

Section one of the book has eight chapters that deal with past as well as contemporary history and politics of Nigeria. Chapter one, titled “Oil Multinationals and the politics of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Niger Delta”, was written by Iwebunor Okwechine; chapter two, which deals with “The Dilemma of Traditional Rulers in Modern Governance: A Comparison of South Africa and Nigeria”, was authored by F. A. Olasupo; and chapter three is by Ajayi Gboyega, with the title of “Sovereign National Conference, National Conference or Constitutional Review: Which Options for the Beleaguered State”. Chapter four, by Bolaji Adeniji, examines “The 1940 Colonial Development and Welfare Act in Nigeria: An Assessment of its Socio-economic Impacts”; chapter five is about the “Ecology of Elections and Quality of Nigerian Democracy” by Animashaun Mojeed Adekunle; chapter six deals with “Deconstructing Civil Society: A Critical African Perspective” by Kehinde O. Olayode; chapter seven examines “Palm Oil, Crude Oil and Foreign Enterprise in the History of Warri: 1891-1991” written by Anthony Oritsegbemi Ifediora, while chapter eight examines “The Roots of Ethno-religious Conflicts in Nigeria: The Arabo-Islamic/Judeo-Christian Factor” written by Charles Ogidan.
Section two of the edited volume is sub-titled “Perspectives on Social Issues”. In all, there are seven chapters in this section. The first contribution in this section is the chapter nine, which is titled “The Deepening Crisis of Corruption in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis of Policy Options”, and was authored by A. Sat Obiyan; chapter ten, co-authored by Adisa Ademola Lateef and Owoeye Idowu Omotayo, is on “The Emerging Network of Support for Retirees in Osun State, Nigeria”; chapter eleven is on the “Effects of Modernization on the Obligations of Extended Family in Osun State”, and written by Akanmu Olusola Esther, while S. R. Akinola wrote on “Community Self-governance as a Panacea for Environmental and Social Injustice in the Niger-Delta of Nigeria” for chapter twelve. Chapter thirteen in this section deals with “Towards an Alternative Paradigm for National Security Discourse in a Globalising World: A View from Africa” and written by Chris S. Orngu. Joseph Olukayode Akinbi and Dolapo Zacchaeus Olupayimo wrote on “The International Financial Institutions and Africa: Profit or Losses” in chapter fourteen, while “Globalization, Migration and Sub-ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria”, as chapter fifteen, was written by Olajide Olayemi Akanji.

The third section of the publication has the theme of “Perspectives on Language and Communication”. There are seven chapters in this section. Rotimi Taiwo’s chapter sixteen is on “Ideology and Power in News Reports on the 2007 Nigerian Presidential Election in some Western Online Media”; chapter seventeen, titled “The Syntax of Pronouns and Interrogative Markers of Mofoli Dialect of Yoruba”, is by Felix Abidemi Fabunmi; chapter eighteen is titled “Campaign Manifesto Headings as Text in Campus Politics” and co-authored by Taofik O. Adesanmi and Moji Olateju. M. O. Ayeomoni, in chapter nineteen, discusses “Language and Persuasive Ideology in President Shehu Shagari’s maiden speech”; chapter twenty is about “The Press and the Multi-stage Determination of public Interest in a Developing Society”, which was written by Oladokun Omojola, while chapter twenty one looks at “The Place of Indigenous Languages in the Technological Development of Nigeria”, and authored by Faleye James Oladunjoye; chapter twenty-two offers an examination of “Some Manipulative Dimensions of News Paper Reporting of the Niger-Delta Conflicts in Nigeria”, which was written by Kehinde A. Ayoola.

Section four is sub-titled “Perspectives on Religion and Culture”, and it has a total of four chapters. Chapter twenty-three addresses the issue of “Theology of Blessing: A New Wave in Nigerian Christianity”, written by Olufemi Samuel Alofe; chapter twenty-four discusses “Contemporary Islamic Music among the Yoruba: The Effects of Cultural Diffusionism”, written by Yomi Daramola. In chapter twenty-five, A. K. Makinde examines “Shari’ah: An Instrument for Arresting Global Terrorism, while chapter twenty-six deals with “The Interconnectivity between Islam and Ifa” by M. O. Adeniyi.


The sixth section has three chapters, with an opening contribution by Ebenezer Adedeji Omoteso, whose chapter thirty-one examines “Yoruba Gods on Brazilian Stage: A Thematic