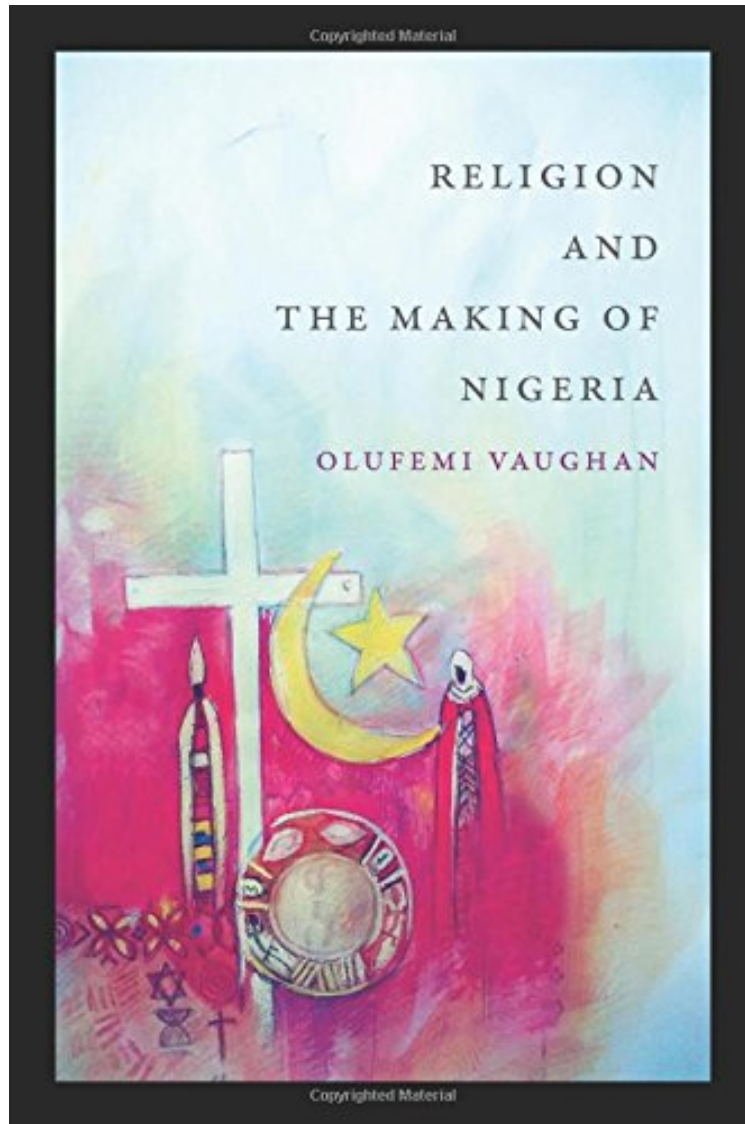


[E-BOOK] Religion and the Making of Nigeria (Religious Cultures of African and African Diaspora People)

## Religion and the Making of Nigeria (Religious Cultures of African and African Diaspora People)

*Olufemi Vaughan*

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In *Religion and the Making of Nigeria*, Olufemi Vaughan examines how Christian, Muslim, and indigenous religious structures have provided the essential social and ideological frameworks for the construction of contemporary Nigeria. Using a wealth of archival sources and extensive Africanist scholarship, Vaughan traces Nigerias social, religious, and political history from the early nineteenth century to the present. During the nineteenth century, the historic Sokoto Jihad in todays northern Nigeria and the Christian missionary movement in what is now southwestern Nigeria provided the frameworks for ethno-religious divisions in colonial society. Following Nigerias independence from Britain in 1960, Christian-Muslim tensions became manifest in regional and religious conflicts over the expansion of sharia, in fierce competition among political elites for state power, and in the rise of Boko Haram. These tensions are not simply conflicts over religious beliefs, ethnicity, and regionalism; they represent structural imbalances founded on the religious divisions forged under colonial rule.

Olufemi Vaughan cuts through the noise of postcolonial discourses to get to the root of contemporary Nigeria's problems: the colonially aborted Islamic religious march toward domination of Nigeria's middle belt and northern regions. This book stands out among other efforts; it clearly articulates the role of religion in state-making in sub-Saharan Africa especially in Nigeria. It will be welcomed by historians, religious scholars, sociologists, and literary critics who desire to understand the intersection among the different narratives and visions of colonialists in Nigeria.