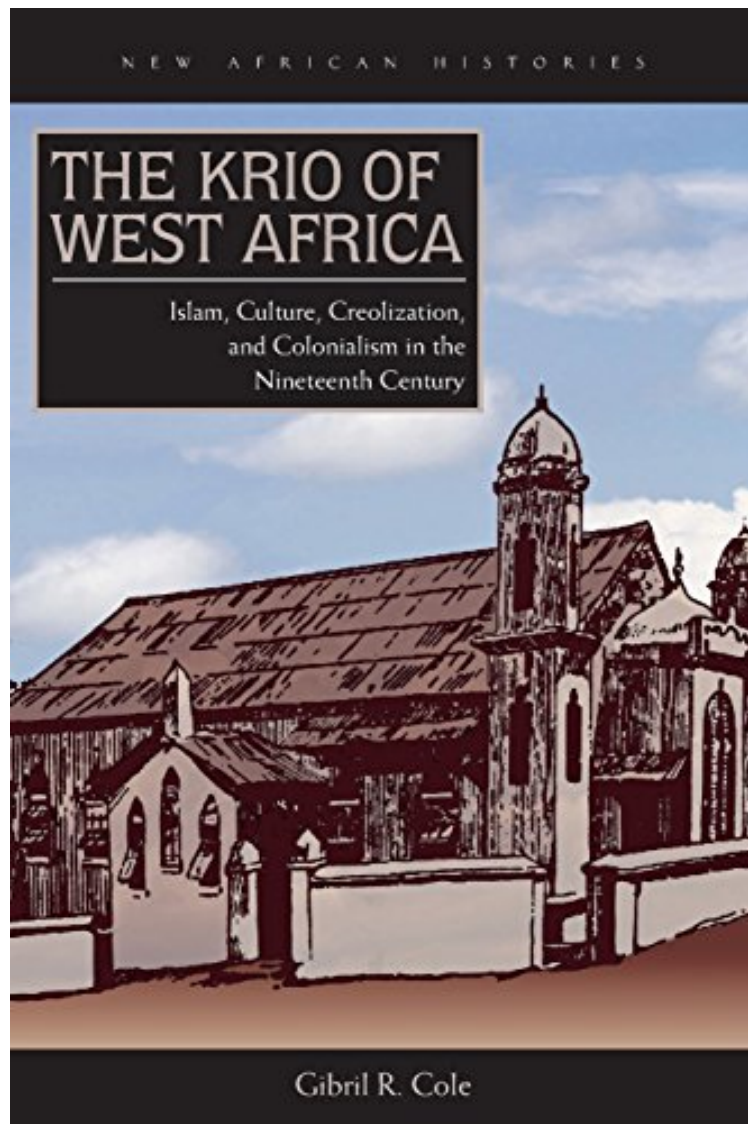


[Ebook pdf] The Krio of West Africa: Islam, Culture, Creolization, and Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century (New African Histories)

## The Krio of West Africa: Islam, Culture, Creolization, and Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century (New African Histories)

*Gibril R. Cole*

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**Gibril R. Cole : The Krio of West Africa: Islam, Culture, Creolization, and Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century (New African Histories)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Krio of West Africa: Islam, Culture, Creolization, and Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century (New African Histories):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read!By Robert T LardgeThis book succeeds in very clearly illustrating among other things, using the author's words, "that African Muslims played a crucial role in the evolution of Krio society, which included vital contributions to the social, economic, and political landscapes of nineteenth-century Sierra Leone and West Africa." Utilizing extensive research, the author takes us on a journey of the Krio as a Liberated community in the Freetown peninsula in 1787, through a period of intense persecution of the Muslims within the Liberated community, to the period of educational reform and cooperation and accommodation in relations between the Muslim Krio and the colonial regime in the nineteenth century. We are regaled with illuminating and intimate details, and are left with a thorough and satisfying knowledge of the interesting history of the Krio. The book read like a novel to me. I believe that it will be good for those curious about the history of the Krio, and those who may want a comprehensive history of the Krio during the period the author examined. I highly recommend this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book of great depthBy Vicky FExcellentlly written, thoroughly researched book. It's great for college classes and also just an enjoyable read for history buffs and Africanists. I learned so much!

The Krio of West Africa: Islam, Culture, Creolization, and Colonialism in the Nineteenth Century, is an engaging history of Sierra Leone that departs from previous scholarship. Taking issue with those who have tended to describe the Krio as essentially a Christian and Westernized ethnic group, [Cole] suggests that the Krio identity, forged in nineteenth-century Freetown, transcended ethnicity, culture, and even religion. Indeed, his study focuses not on Christians, but on the hitherto understudied Muslim Krios, a group he portrays as marginalized within the marginalized . This informative book fills an important space on the shelves of Sierra Leonean history. American Historical ReviewThe Krio are the descendants of freed slaves whose language and culture were partly shaped by their experiences in the West Indies, North America, England, and West Africa. This book looks at the lived experiences of ex-slaves and their progeny who settled Freetown, Sierra Leone; their dispersion in what became a far-flung Krio diaspora in West Africa; and how they sought to make a better life in their new home by engaging in commerce through the use of retrofitted slave ships along the West African Atlantic littoral. The book thus demonstrates the complex nature of the interactions between the new arrivals (the ex-slaves) and the older populations that began to produce a shared sense of identity beyond the oft-repeated narrative of abolition, admiralty, and the relocation of the trans-Atlantic ex-slave population in West Africa. By focusing on Islam in the making of Krio society in Sierra Leone, this book also helps recontextualize creolization in West Africa and elsewhere. The book offers a nuanced examination of West African history in the postabolition and colonial periods, including a critical look at the slave trade after 1807, the era of steamboat commerce, and the role of educated West African Krio across diverse transcolonial borders in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its exploration of the Islamic presence in precolonial Sierra Leone is a departure from the hitherto restricted scholarly approach to the study of the encounter between Christianity and Islam in the region. Accessible enough to be used as a broad introduction to the history of a West African society for undergraduates, it is also innovative enough, theoretically and empirically, to be of value to scholars.

The Krio of West Africa is not only a long-overdue and welcome addition to the historical literature on Sierra Leone, but also a breath of fresh air for treating an important subject located in the *longue dure* of Sierra Leones past rather than privileging the aberration that much of the countrys postcolonial history has been. My prediction is that Coles monograph will become a benchmark for studying the complex histories of other indigenous ethnic groups of Sierra Leone.International Journal of African Historical Studies