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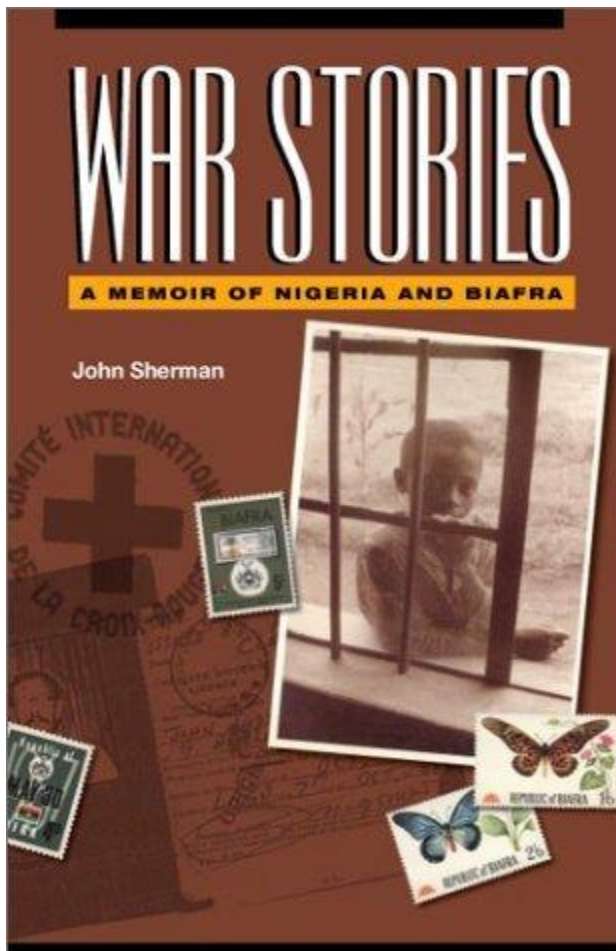
In the 105th installment of our weekly series at emeagwali.com, we present letters pertaining to Philip Emeagwali's war memoir "THUNDER ROAD TO BIAFRA." One million people died during that 30-month Nigeria-Biafra Civil War during which Emeagwali lived from refugee camp in Awka-Etiti to an army barrack in Ndoni to the war front in Oguta.



Thank you for the web site that presented so much information on the Nigerian/Biafran situation. I was a teacher near Port Harcourt when secession occurred, and, after being evacuated, I returned a year later to work with the Red Cross in Lagos, then in the Elele area, serving clinics in Owerri, Ahoada, etc.. I was particularly interested to see Adekunle's comments about the Red Cross and other relief agencies as he did not like us being there, but was forced to do so, by public opinion and by Gowon. I have written a book about my experiences, War Stories: A

Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra. I am hoping to return to Nigeria in the near future to lecture on the situation, from my perspective. I find, as do any of you who are old enough to remember the war, that young Nigerians are eager to learn more about the overall situation. This web site is very helpful in that regard.

John Sherman
shermco @ earthlink.net
June 3, 2003



Editorial Reviews

Book Description

War Stories: A Memoir of Nigeria and Biafra by John Sherman tells the story of an American who served with a food/medical team operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross during the civil war in Nigeria in the late 1960s. It contains flashbacks to the time when the author had been a Peace Corps Volunteer in the same area of West Africa (in 1966-67). The book has 16 pp. of photographs taken by the author during the war and also includes illustrations of some memorabilia of Nigeria and Biafra collected by the author. Front matter includes a chronology of events for Nigeria

and Biafra, 1960-70, and maps of the area, along with a glossary, to provide readers with perspective on the situations described in the book.

The memoir began as a diary kept by John Sherman when he lived in West Africa in the late 1960s. Sherman arrived in Nigeria in September 1966 as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher assigned to a school in the then-Eastern Region of the country. On May 30, 1967, the Eastern Region seceded and became the Republic of Biafra. Civil war soon followed and Sherman was evacuated. He spent the next year with the Peace Corps in Malawi, in southeastern Africa, then returned to Nigeria to work with the International Committee of the Red Cross. At first, he was assigned to work at the airport at Lagos, then the country's capital. Soon, he was sent to work with a food/medical team in an area that had been, briefly, a part of Biafra but was now again in Nigerian hands.

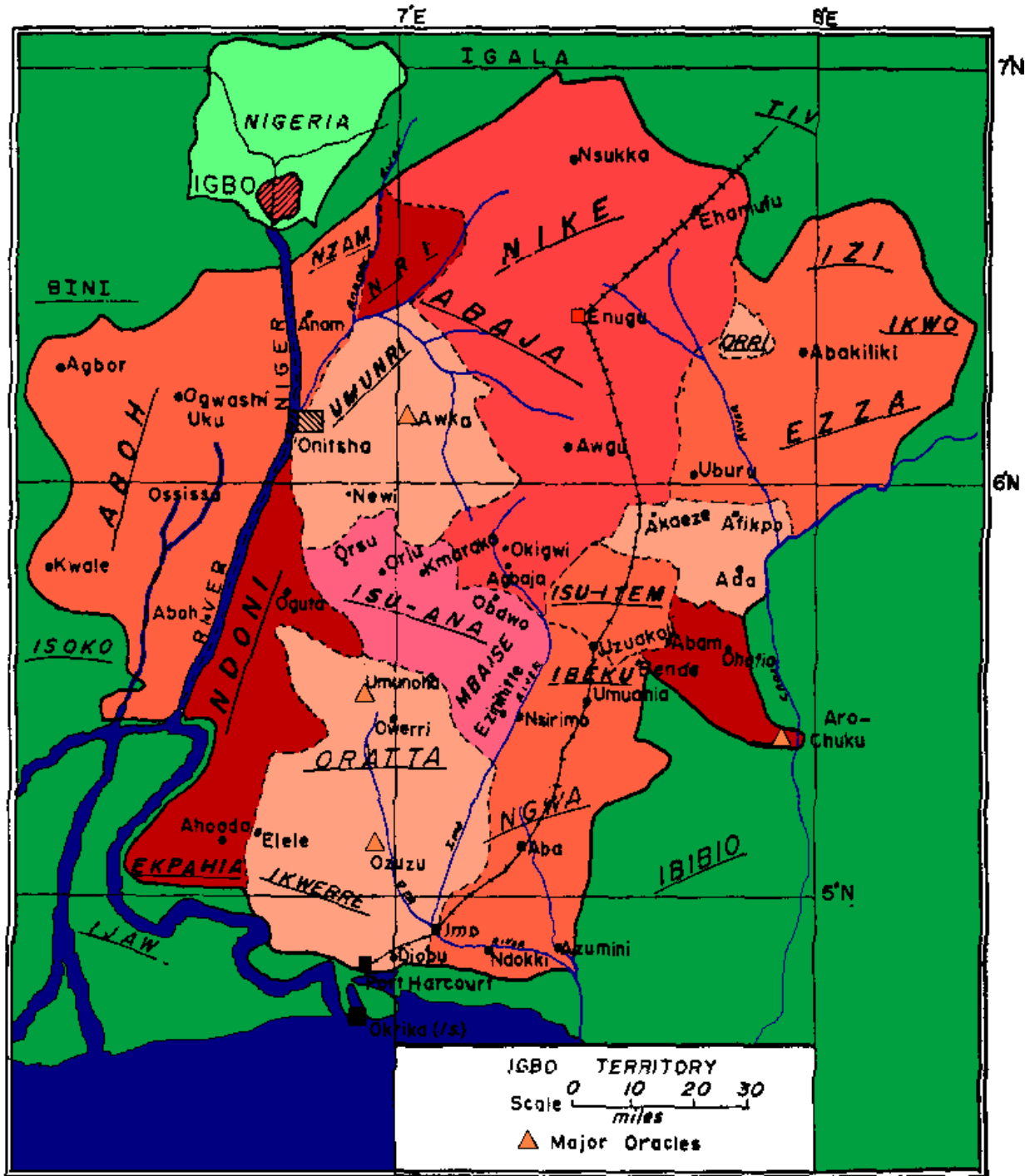
Sherman worked with a doctor and two nurses and several young men who were responsible for distributing the food each day at clinics where they treated hundreds and fed thousands of people who were struggling to survive the horrible conditions brought about by the war.

Sherman's book brings the reader uncomfortably close to the horrors of war, especially how it affects those least responsible for the war -- the children. The team he served with attempted to save the lives of hundreds of children every day, many of whom were suffering from kwashiorkor -- extreme malnutrition.

The book shows Sherman's evolution from being pro-Biafran (he had attempted to return to Biafra, but was unable to get there, so he joined the Red Cross on the Nigerian side of the civil war) to someone who saw the good and evil on both sides and who quickly understood the futility of all war, particularly the one he became so personally involved in.

From the Author

This is, unfortunately, a timely book. Sadly, a book about war and the futility of war is always a timely topic. Although the story I tell took place 35 and more years ago, I am confident that readers too young to remember the events will, nonetheless, benefit from the story and learn a piece of history that, at the time, held the world's attention. Those who do remember can relate to the tragedy described in the book. Being a memoir, it is a highly personal view of a broader situation, but readers of the book who were not aware of the events described have found it compelling.



Books on Biafra

Compiled by

Dan Obi Awduche

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

AUTHOR Ojukwu, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu

TITLE Because I am involved

PUBLISHER Ibadan : Spectrum Books Ltd., 1989

AUTHOR Ojukwu, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu,

TITLE Principles of the Biafran revolution : as enunciated by General C. Odumegwu Ojukwu.

PUBLISHER Cambridge, Mass. : Biafra Review, 1969

AUTHOR Ojukwu, Emeka Odumegwu

TITLE Biafra; selected speeches and random thoughts of C. Odumegwu Ojukwu, with diaries of events.

PUBLISHER New York, Harper & Row <1969>

AUTHOR Madiebo, Alexander A.

TITLE The Nigerian revolution and the Biafran war

PUBLISHER Enugu, Nigeria : Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1980

[**Note:** Madiebo was the general officer commanding the Biafran army]

AUTHOR Nwankwo, Arthur Agwuncha and S. Udochukwu Ifejika,

TITLE The making of a nation: Biafra

PUBLISHER London, C. Hurst, 1969.

AUTHOR Nwankwo, Arthur Agwuncha

TITLE Nigeria: the challenge of Biafra

PUBLISHER London, R. Collings, 1972.

AUTHOR Forsyth, Frederick,

TITLE The Making of a Nation: The Biafran story.

PUBLISHER Baltimore, Penguin Books [1969]

AUTHOR: Forsyth, Frederick, 1938-

TITLE: Emeka

Edition: Reprinted with corrections 1992

PUBLISHER: Ibadan, Nigeria : Spectrum Books ; Jersey, Channel Islands, UK : Safari Books (Export), 1992.

AUTHOR Azikiwe, Nnamdi

TITLE Origins of the Nigerian Civil War

PUBLISHER Apapa : Nigerian National Press, 1969

AUTHOR Opia, Eric Agume

TITLE Why Biafra? : Aburi, prelude to Biafran tragedy

PUBLISHER San Rafael, Calif. : Leswing Press, c1972.

AUTHOR Chima, Alex.

TITLE Future lies in a progressive Biafra: a socio-economic history of the republic of Biafra.

PUBLISHER London, Alex Chima, 1968.

AUTHOR Odogwu, Bernard, 1936-

TITLE No place to hide : crises and conflicts inside Biafra

PUBLISHER Enugu, Nigeria : Fourth Dimension, 1985.

[**Note:** Odogwu was head of Biafra's secret service unit]

AUTHOR Achuzia, Joe O. G.

TITLE Requiem Biafra / by Joe O.G. Achuzia.

PUBLISHER Enugu, Nigeria : Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1986.

[**Note:** Achuzia was one of the more renowned Biafran field commanders]

AUTHOR Ademoyega, Adewale

TITLE Why we struck : the story of the first Nigerian coup

PUBLISHER Ibadan (Nigeria) : Evans, 1981

[**Note:** Ademoyega was one of the five majors that initiated Nigeria's first military coup]

AUTHOR Gbulie, Ben.

TITLE Nigeria's five majors : coup d'etat of 15th January 1966, first inside account.

PUBLISHER Onitsha, Nigeria : Africana Educational Publishers (Nig), c1981

AUTHOR Mainasara, A. M

TITLE The five majors : why they struck

PUBLISHER Zaria [Nigeria] : Hudahuda Publishing Co., 1982.

AUTHOR Nwigwe, Henry Emezuem.

TITLE Nigeria - the fall of the First Republic

PUBLISHER London, Motorchild Press, [1972]

AUTHOR Azikiwe, Nnamdi

TITLE Peace proposals for ending the Nigerian civil war.

PUBLISHER London : Colusco, 1969

AUTHOR Gbulie, Ben.

TITLE The fall of Biafra

PUBLISHER Enugu, Anambra State, Nigeria : Benlie, 1989

AUTHOR Wiseberg, Laurie Sheila

TITLE The international politics of relief : a case study of the relief operations mounted during the Nigerian civil war (1967-1970)

PUBLISHER Thesis - University of California, Los Angeles, 1973.

AUTHOR Lloyd, Hugh G et al TITLE The Nordchurchaid airlift to Biafra, 1968-1970. An operations report.

PUBLISHER Copenhagen, 1150 Kobenhavn K., Folkekirkens Nodhjalp, Eksp.: Kobmagergade 26, 1972

AUTHOR East-Central State (Nigeria). Ministry of Works, Housing, and Transport

TITLE Report on war damages to roads, bridges, waterworks and equipment in the East Central State of Nigeria.

PUBLISHER Enugu, Printed by the Govt. Printer 1970

AUTHOR Ozalla, M. Odogwu.

TITLE Ojukwu's new type democracy

PUBLISHER Lagos (Committee of Ibo Intellectuals) 1969

AUTHOR Ozalla, M. Odogwu.

TITLE Ojukwu's "self-determination"; a reappraisal in the light of international politics

PUBLISHER (Apapa 0, Printed by the Nigerian National Press 1969.

AUTHOR United States. Congress. House. Committee on Foreign Affairs. Subcommittee on Africa.

TITLE Report of the Special Coordinator for Nigerian Relief. Hearing, Ninety-first Congress, first session. April 24, 1969.

PUBLISHER Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1969

AUTHOR Asika, Ukpabi.

TITLE No victors, no vanquished.
PUBLISHER (Enugu) East-Central State Information Service 1968
AUTHOR Graham-Douglas, Nabo B.

TITLE Ojukwu's rebellion and world opinion
PUBLISHER London : Galitzine, Chant, Russell and Partners, 1968
AUTHOR Eastern Nigeria. Ministry of Information.

TITLE Nigerian crisis 1966: (Eastern Nigeria viewpoint)
PUBLISHER Enugu, Eastern Nigeria. Ministry of Information. 1966.
AUTHOR Ugobelu, Egbebelu.

TITLE Biafra war revisited : a concise account of events that led to the Nigerian civil war
PUBLISHER Atlanta, GA : ProPrints of Atlanta, 1992
AUTHOR Enonchong, Charles.

TITLE I know who killed Major Nzeogwu! : an investigation into the most secret cover-up of the Nigerian Civil War
PUBLISHER Lagos : Century, 1991
AUTHOR Idahosa, Patrick E.

TITLE Truth and tragedy : (a fighting man's memoir of the Nigerian Civil War)
PUBLISHER Ibadan : Heinemann Educational Books, 1989
AUTHOR Obikeze, Dan S. and Ada A. Mere.

TITLE Children and the Nigerian Civil War : a study of the rehabilitation programme for war-displaced children
PUBLISHER Nsukka : University of Nigeria Press, 1985.
AUTHOR S.C. Nwoye & E. Ikegbune.

TITLE Biafrana at Nsukka : a list of materials on the Nigerian Civil War available at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Library (University of Nigeria, Nsukka).
PUBLISHER Nsukka : University of Nigeria Library, 1983
AUTHOR O'Malley, Patrick.

TITLE "No such country" : footnotes on the Nigerian civil war
PUBLISHER (Zomba) : University of Malawi, History Dept., 1984
AUTHOR Ngoh, Victor Julius

TITLE The United States and the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-1970 : an analysis of the American policy toward the war
PUBLISHER Thesis (Ph. D.) -- University of Washington, 1982.
AUTHOR Uwanaka, Charles U

TITLE Nigerian civil war : causes, events (1956-1967)
PUBLISHER Ebute-Metta : De Mediator Press, 1981.
AUTHOR Ekwensi, Cyprian

TITLE Divided we stand : a novel of the Nigerian Civil War
PUBLISHER Enugu, Nigeria : Fourth Dimension, 1980.
AUTHOR Akinyemi, A. B.

TITLE The British press and the Nigerian civil war : the godfather complex (NIIA monograph series. no. 2)
PUBLISHER Oxford University Press, 1979
AUTHOR Uku, Skyne R

TITLE The Pan-African movement and the Nigerian civil war
PUBLISHER New York : Vantage, 1978
AUTHOR Urhobo, Emmanuel.

TITLE Relief operations in the Nigerian civil war
PUBLISHER Ibadan, Nigeria : Daystar Press, 1978

AUTHOR Cohen, Robin.

TITLE "A greater south": or what might have happened in the Nigerian Civil War.

PUBLISHER University of Birmingham, Faculty of Commerce and Social Science, Series C, no. 22. 1971

AUTHOR Uwechue, Raph.

TITLE Reflections on the Nigerian civil war; facing the future. With forewords by Nnamdi Azikiwe & Leopold Sedar Senghor.

PUBLISHER New York, Africana Pub. Corp. 1971

AUTHOR Panter-Brick, S. K. ed.

TITLE Nigerian politics and military rule: prelude to the Civil War

PUBLISHER University of London; 1970

AUTHOR Obasanjo, Olusegun.

TITLE My command : an account of the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-1970

PUBLISHER Ibadan, : Heinemann, 1980.

[**Note:** Obasanjo was one of Nigeria's field commanders during the war. He became head of state after the assassination Muritala Mohammed in the late '70s]

AUTHOR Obasanjo, Olusegun.

TITLE Not my will

PUBLISHER Ibadan : University Press Ltd., 1990

AUTHOR Obasanjo, Olusegun.

TITLE Nzeogwu : an intimate portrait of Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu

PUBLISHER Ibadan : Spectrum Books, 1987

AUTHOR Aguolu, Christian Chukwunedu

TITLE Nigerian Civil War, 1967-1970; an annotated bibliography.

PUBLISHER Boston, G. K. Hall, 1973.

AUTHOR Affia, George B.

TITLE Nigerian crisis, 1966-1970: a preliminary bibliography

PUBLISHER University of Lagos, Yakubu Gowon Library <1970>

AUTHOR Cervenka, Zdenek

TITLE The Nigerian war, 1967-1970. History of the war; selected bibliography and documents.

PUBLISHER Frankfurt am Main, Bernard & Graefe, 1971.

AUTHOR Amadi, Elechi, 1934-

TITLE Sunset in Biafra: a civil war diary.

PUBLISHER London, Heinemann Educational, 1973.

AUTHOR Akpan, Ntiefong Udo.

TITLE The struggle for secession, 1966-1970; a personal account of the Nigerian Civil War

PUBLISHER London, F. Cass <1972, c1971>

AUTHOR Achebe, Chinua.

TITLE Christmas in Biafra and other poems.

EDITION [1st ed.]

PUBLISHER Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1973.

AUTHOR Emecheta, Buchi.

TITLE Destination Biafra : a novel

PUBLISHER London ; New York : Allison & Busby ; New York, N.Y. : Distributed by Schocken Books, 1982

AUTHOR Ike, Vincent Chukwuemeka, 1931-

TITLE Sunset at dawn : a novel about Biafra

PUBLISHER London : Collins and Harvill Press, 1976.

AUTHOR Frederick L. Shiels (Editor)

TITLE Ethnic separatism and world politics

PUBLISHER Lanham, MD : University Press of America, c1984.
 AUTHOR Schabowska, Henryka.
 TITLE Africa reports on the Nigerian Crisis : news, attitudes and background information : a study of press performance, government attitude to Biafra and ethno-political integration
 PUBLISHER Uppsala : Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, 1978.
 AUTHOR Parise, Goffredo.
 TITLE Biafra.
 PUBLISHER Milano, Libreria Feltrinelli, 1968.
 AUTHOR Waugh, Auberon.
 TITLE Biafra: Britain's shame
 PUBLISHER London, Joseph, 1969.
 AUTHOR Mok, Michael.
 TITLE Biafra journal.
 PUBLISHER New York, Time-Life Books [1969]
 AUTHOR Sullivan, John R.
 TITLE Breadless Biafra
 PUBLISHER Dayton, Ohio, Pflaum Press, 1969.
 AUTHOR Oluleye, James J.
 TITLE Military leadership in Nigeria, 1966-1979
 PUBLISHER Ibadan : University Press Ltd., 1985.
 AUTHOR Ekwe-Ekwe, Herbert
 TITLE The Biafra war : Nigeria and the aftermath
 PUBLISHER Lewiston, N.Y., USA : E. Mellen Press, c1990.
 AUTHOR De St. Jorre, John
 TITLE The brothers' war; Biafra and Nigeria
 PUBLISHER Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1972.
 AUTHOR Nafziger, E. Wayne.
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 AUTHOR Stremmler, John J.
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 PUBLISHER New York, Third Press <1972>
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 TITLE The Nigerian civil war, 1967-1970; a case study in the efficacy of international law as a regulator of intrastate violence
 PUBLISHER Southern California Arms Control and Foreign Policy Seminar, 1972>
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 PUBLISHER Frankfurt am Main, Bernard & Graefe, 1971.

AUTHOR Saro-Wiwa, Ken
 TITLE On a darkling plain : an account of the Nigerian civil war
 PUBLISHER London : Saros, 1989.

AUTHOR Balogun, Ola
 TITLE The tragic years : Nigeria in crisis, 1966-1970 PUBLISHER Benin City, Nigeria : Ethiope Pub. Corp., 1973.

AUTHOR Niven, Rex, Sir
 TITLE The war of Nigerian unity, 1967-1970
 PUBLISHER Totowa, N.J., Rowman and Littlefield <1971, c1970>
 AUTHOR Ogbemudia, S. O.
 TITLE Years of challenge PUBLISHER Ibadan : Heinemann Educational Books, 1991.

AUTHOR Thompson, Joseph E.
 TITLE American policy and African famine : the Nigeria-Biafra War, 1966-1970
 PUBLISHER New York : Greenwood Press, 1990.

AUTHOR Ogbudinkpa, Nwabeze Reuben
 . TITLE The economics of the Nigerian Civil War and its prospects for national development
 PUBLISHER Enugu, Nigeria : Fourth Dimension Publishers, 1985.

AUTHOR Mezu, Sebastian Okechukwu
 . TITLE Behind the rising sun
 PUBLISHER London, Heinemann, 1971.

AUTHOR Nwapa, Flora
 TITLE Never again
 PUBLISHER Trenton, N.J. : Africa World Press, 1992.

AUTHOR Iroh, Eddie.
 TITLE The siren in the night
 PUBLISHER London : Heinemann, 1982.

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 TITLE External intervention in African conflicts : French-speaking West Africa in the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-70
 PUBLISHER African Studies Center, Boston University, 1976.

AUTHOR Cronje, Suzanne
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 PUBLISHER Lewiston, NY : E. Mellen Press, c1990.

AUTHOR Kirk-Greene, A. H. M. (Anthony Hamilton Millard)
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 PUBLISHER London, Oxford University Press, 1971.

AUTHOR Awolowo, Obafemi
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