

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910136646203321
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Titolo	Christianity, Islam, and Orisa-Religion : Three Traditions in Comparison and Interaction // J.D.Y. Peel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oakland, California, : University of California Press, 2016 Berkeley, CA : , : University of California Press, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	9780520961227 0520961226
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (310 p.)
Collana	The Anthropology of Christianity ; ; 18
Disciplina	200.9669/2
Soggetti	Christianity - Nigeria, Southwest Islam - Nigeria, Southwest Orisha religion - Influence Orisha religion - Nigeria, Southwest Yoruba (African people) - Religion RELIGION / Comparative Religion
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 235-288) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Abbreviations Appearing in the Text and Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part I -- 1. History, Culture, and the Comparative Method: A West African Puzzle -- 2. Two Pastors and Their Histories: Samuel Johnson and C. C. Reindorf -- 3. Ogun in Precolonial Yorubaland: A Comparative Analysis -- 4. Divergent Modes of Religiosity in West Africa -- 5. Postsocialism, Postcolonialism, Pentecostalism -- Part II -- 6. Context, Tradition, and the Anthropology of World Religions -- 7. Conversion and Community in Yorubaland -- 8. Yoruba Ethnogenesis and the Trajectory of Islam -- 9. A Century of Interplay Between Islam and Christianity -- 10. Pentecostalism and Salafism in Nigeria: Mirror Images? -- 11. The Three Circles of Yoruba Religion -- Glossary of Yoruba and Arabic Terms Appearing in the Text and Notes -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	A free ebook version of this title is available through Luminos,

University of California Press's open access publishing program for monographs. Visit www.luminosoa.org to learn more. The Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria are exceptional for the copresence among them of three religious traditions: Islam, Christianity, and the indigenous orisa religion. In this comparative study, at once historical and anthropological, Peel explores the intertwined character of the three religions and the dense imbrication of religion in all aspects of Yoruba history up to the present. For over 400 years, the Yoruba have straddled two geocultural spheres: one reaching north over the Sahara to the world of Islam, the other linking them to the Euro-American world via the Atlantic. These two external spheres were the source of contrasting cultural influences, notably those emanating from the world religions. However, the Yoruba not only imported Islam and Christianity but also exported their own orisa religion to the New World. Before the voluntary modern diaspora that has brought many Yoruba to Europe and the Americas, tens of thousands were sold as slaves in the New World, bringing with them the worship of the orisa. Peel offers deep insight into important contemporary themes such as religious conversion, new religious movements, relations between world religions, the conditions of religious violence, the transnational flows of contemporary religion, and the interplay between tradition and the demands of an ever-changing present. In the process, he makes a major theoretical contribution to the anthropology of world religions.
