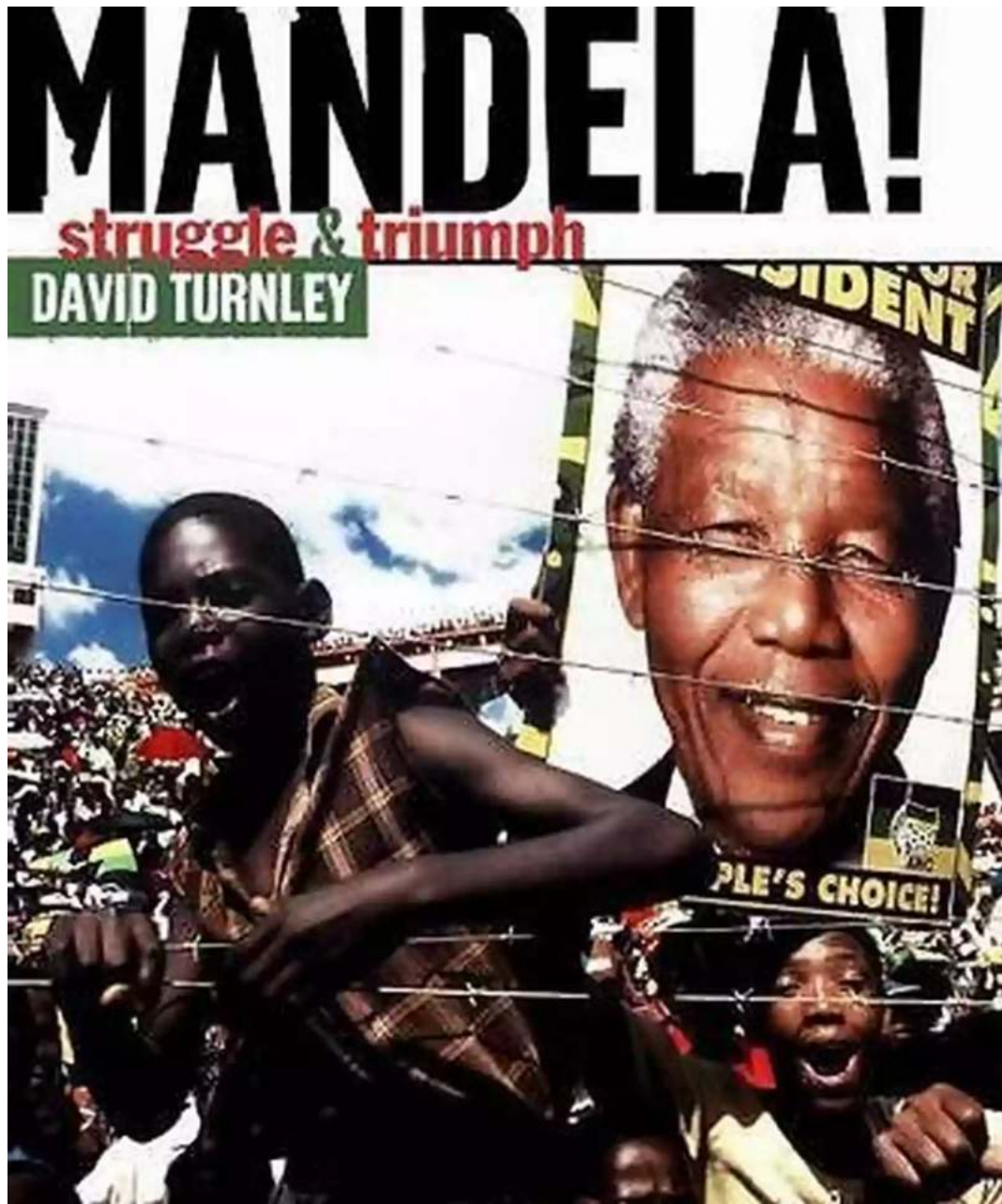


# Nigeria's New History: A Turbulent Century Unveiled



Nigeria, often referred to as the "Giant of Africa," has a rich and complex history that spans centuries. The past hundred years, in particular, have been marked by turbulent events that have shaped the nation's trajectory. From colonial rule to

independence, military coups to democratic transitions, and economic booms to crippling recessions, Nigeria's story is one of resilience, struggle, and hope.

## The Birth of a Nation

The twentieth century witnessed Nigeria's journey towards independence from British colonial rule. At midnight on October 1, 1960, Nigeria officially became an independent nation, sparking immense joy and hope among its citizens. The country's first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, delivered a powerful speech emphasizing unity and the need for sustainable development. However, challenges soon emerged as ethnic and religious tensions tested the nation's newfound unity.



## Nigeria: A New History of a Turbulent Century

by Richard Bourne (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2694 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 346 pages



## Military Coups and Political Instability

The years following independence were marred by military coups and political instability. In 1966, Nigeria experienced its first coup, setting in motion a series of military takeovers that would shape the nation's political landscape. The country faced a brutal civil war from 1967 to 1970 when the southeastern region declared

itself the independent Republic of Biafra. The war resulted in significant loss of life and left scars that would take years to heal.

## **Return to Democracy and Struggles for Power**

The late 1970s saw Nigeria's return to a civilian government, ushering in a period of relative stability. However, this stability was short-lived, as corruption, mismanagement, and economic decline plagued the nation. Military rule returned in the 1980s and early 1990s, leading to further political repression and economic stagnation. It wasn't until 1999 that Nigeria once again transitioned to democracy, bringing hope for a brighter future.

## **Economic Booms and Crippling Recessions**

Nigeria's history in the 21st century has been marked by economic highs and lows. The discovery of vast oil reserves in the 1950s brought immense wealth to the nation, but it also fueled corruption and economic inequality. Oil booms led to periods of rapid growth, but the country's heavy reliance on oil exports left it vulnerable to global market fluctuations. The nation has faced numerous economic recessions, including the recent downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Hope for the Future**

Despite the challenges Nigeria has faced over the past century, the nation remains resilient. Efforts are being made to address corruption, promote economic diversification, and improve governance. Nigeria's youth, who make up a significant portion of the population, are advocating for change and actively engaged in shaping the nation's future. The potential for Nigeria to become a global powerhouse and an example of successful African development is undeniable.

Nigeria's history is a reflection of the triumphs and struggles faced by many nations on their path to development. Through periods of colonial rule, military coups, political instability, economic booms, and recessions, Nigeria has remained resilient. Today, the nation stands at a crucial juncture, with immense potential and various challenges. As Nigeria enters a new century, it is up to its leaders and citizens to shape its future, striving for unity, peace, and prosperity.



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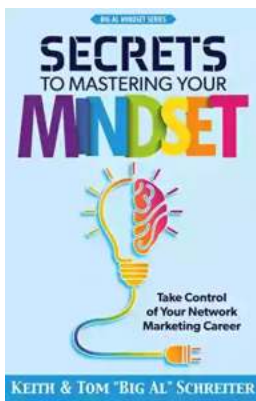
'If you want to understand Nigeria's history in one succinct go, this is a very good choice.'

Noo Saro-Wiwa

Known as the African Giant, Nigeria's story is complex and often contradictory. How, despite the ravages of colonialism, civil war, ongoing economic disappointment and most recently the Boko Haram insurgency, has the country managed to stay together for a hundred years? Why, despite an abundance of oil, mineral and agricultural wealth, have so many of its people remained in poverty?

These are the key questions explored by Richard Bourne in this remarkable and wide-ranging account of Nigeria's history, from its creation in 1914 to the historic 2015 elections and beyond.

Featuring a wealth of original research and interviews, this is an essential insight into the shaping of a country where, despite the seemingly dashed optimism that was raised at independence, there still remains hope 'the Nigeria project' may still succeed.



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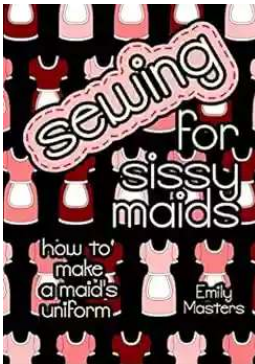
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