

# Chieftaincy And The Politics Of Post War Reconstruction In

Democracy Compromised  
 The Paradox of Traditional Chiefs in Democratic Africa  
 The Ghana Reader  
 Chiefdoms and Chieftaincy in the Americas  
 Traditional Power in Modern Politics, 1890s-1990s  
 Authority and Property in Colonial Ghana, 1920-1950  
 Patrons and Power  
 The Politics of Custom  
 Economies, Histories, and Infrastructures  
 Mediating Legitimacy: Chieftaincy and Democratisation in Two African Chiefdoms  
 Chieftaincy and Politics in Four Niger States  
 Creating a Political Community in Metropolitan Lagos  
 Chieftaincy in Ghana  
 Traditional Chieftaincy Titles and Political Conflicts in Avianwu  
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 The Stool Owns the City  
 Nkrumah & the Chiefs  
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 A Case Study of Chieftaincy in Nandom, Northwestern Ghana  
 Chieftaincy and Politics in Four Niger States  
 A Political History  
 The Politics of Chieftaincy

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## CONNER DAKOTA

**Democracy Compromised** Cambridge University Press  
 Based on extensive research in primary and secondary sources and on field research in Ghana, including more than 40 interviews, and applying her formidable expertise in African history, philosophy, historical anthropology and religious studies, Dr. Louise Muller has produced a superb analysis of the history and transformation of the roles of chieftaincy in the religious institutions, rituals and ideas among the Asante. -- David E. Skinner, Professor of History, African and Islamic Studies, Santa Clara U. (Series: Anthropology of Religion / Religionsethnologie - Vol. 2)

**The Paradox of Traditional Chiefs in Democratic Africa** University of Chicago Press  
 Covering 500 years of Ghana's history, *The Ghana Reader* provides a multitude of historical, political, and cultural perspectives on this iconic African nation. Whether discussing the Asante kingdom and the Gold Coast's importance to European commerce and transatlantic slaving, Ghana's brief period under British colonial rule, or the emergence of its modern democracy, the volume's eighty selections emphasize Ghana's enormous symbolic and pragmatic value to global relations. They also demonstrate that the path to fully understanding Ghana requires acknowledging its ethnic and cultural diversity and listening to its population's varied voices. Readers will encounter selections written by everyone from farmers, traders, and the clergy to intellectuals, politicians, musicians, and foreign travelers. With sources including historical documents, poems, treaties, articles, and fiction, *The Ghana Reader* conveys the multiple and intersecting histories of Ghana's development as a nation, its key contribution to the formation of the African diaspora, and its increasingly important role in the economy and politics of the twenty-first century.

**The Ghana Reader** University of Chicago Press  
 This collection examines the relatively new, and frequently overlooked, political phenomenon in post-colonial Africa of chieftaincy "reinventing" itself. The essays present new research from Ghana, Botswana, and South Africa, providing the broadest geographic African coverage on the topic of African chieftaincy. The nineteen contributing authors, many of them emerging African scholars, are members of the Traditional Authority Applied Research Network (TAARN). Their essays give critical insight into the transformation processes of chieftaincy from the end of the colonial and apartheid periods to the present. Additionally, they examine the realities of male and female traditional leaders in the process of creating anew their legitimacy and their political

offices in an age of great social and political unrest, health issues, and challenges in governance and development. This book is part of an open access pilot project making research freely available to African scholars. Donald I. Ray teaches comparative politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. He has published extensively on the topics of African politics, state-chief relations in Africa (especially Ghana), the politics and policies of development, and political responses to change. He is International Coordinator of TAARN. Tim Quinlan is the research director of the Health Economics and AIDS Research Division (HEARD) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Keshav Sharma is a professor in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the University of Botswana in South Africa. Tacita Clarke works in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary.

**Chiefdoms and Chieftaincy in the Americas** Oxford University Press, USA

This is a wide-ranging comparative study of relationships between the indigenous leadership of traditional states and colonizing Europeans from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. It challenges stereotypes of despotic imperial power in Asian, African, and Pacific colonies and seeks to answer the fundamental question: how were European officials able to govern so many societies over such a long period of time? Colin Newbury examines the politics of pre-colonial state structures, their subversion by merchants and administrators, and the use made of indigenous leaders, and assesses the legacy of these colonial hierarchies.

**Traditional Power in Modern Politics, 1890s-1990s** Duke University Press

Chieftaincy is one of the most enduring traditional institutions in Ghana, which has displayed remarkable resilience from pre-colonial through colonial to postcolonial times. In the past, the role of a chief was to lead his people in war to defend, protect and extend their territories. The modern role is to combat poverty and other social ills: illiteracy, ignorance, environmental degradation, and the depletion of resources. Nowadays, chiefs are under pressure to achieve good governance in their traditional areas. They are challenged to integrate tradition and modernity, a process about which there is considerable debate. They carry out their duties in an increasingly globalised world where the accent is on democracy, human rights, health delivery, employment, human development and regional integration. Their ability to come to terms with these challenges will provide an indication of their relevance and the relevance of the institution to Ghana's long-term development. This massive volume is arguably the most comprehensive and detailed scholarly study of the institution of chieftaincy to appear on the subject to date. The subjects and approaches are wide-ranging, and cover most

aspects of the institution in every geographical area in Ghana. Some thirty contributors from the humanities and social sciences tell the story of chieftaincy past and present from a multitude of perspectives: anthropological, historical, economic, sociological, gender, literary, religious and philosophical.

**Authority and Property in Colonial Ghana, 1920-1950** Sub-Saharan Pub & Traders

Originally published in 1986, this urban political ethnography focusses on Mushin, a large suburb of metropolitan Lagos, Nigeria. It explores the mechanisms which bridge the various social categories to bring about political interaction. The book traces the development of Mushin from a collection of rural villages to its full status as a political community. It analyses structures and processes and the ways in which, since the 19th century, the system has responded to colonial, civilian and military regimes. It examines the tactics ordinary people use to meet their needs and the ways in which political aspirants manipulate the system to acquire and wield power.

**Patrons and Power** BRILL

This book questions the notion that South Africa can exert effective political leverage over its economically dependent neighbors while itself remaining free of regional influences. Originally published in 1987. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

**The Politics of Custom** OUP Oxford

Includes bibliographical references and index.

**Economies, Histories, and Infrastructures** Routledge

In his new book, the eminent anthropologist Wyatt MacGaffey provides an ethnographically enriched history of Dagbon from the fifteenth century to the present, setting that history in the context of the regional resources and political culture of northern Ghana. *Chiefs, Priests, and Praise-Singers* shows how the history commonly assumed by scholars has been shaped by the prejudices of colonial anthropology, the needs of British indirect rule, and local political agency. The book demonstrates, too, how political agency has shaped the kinship system. MacGaffey traces the evolution of chieftaincy as the sources of power changed and as land ceased to be simply the living space of the dependents of a chief and became a commodity and a resource for development. The internal violence in Dagbon that has been a topic of national and international concern since 2002 is shown to be a product of the interwoven values of tradition, modern

Ghanaian politics, modern education, and economic opportunism. *Mediating Legitimacy: Chieftaincy and Democratisation in Two African Chiefdoms* Sub-Saharan Pub & Traders  
Chieftaincy in Ghana is an extensive account of the many roles of chiefs in modern society. A. Kodzo Paaku Kludze provides detailed accounts and analyses of the law practices, rituals, and customs of chieftaincy. Kludze begins his study with a historical account bringing his analyses to the present, and speculates on the future of chieftaincy in its formal and informal roles in the changing social milieu. The author's close personal background and association with chieftaincy allows him to shed light on the mysterious practices and supernatural connections. Kludze offers an authoritative and comprehensive study of chieftaincy in the context of the modern social, political, and legal institutions of Ghana.

*Chieftaincy and Politics in Four Niger States* African Books Collective

This collection of essays examines the relatively new, and frequently overlooked, political phenomenon in post-colonial Africa of chieftaincy "re-inventing" itself. The traditional authority of chiefs has been one of Africa's missing voices who are now bringing new resources to the challenges that AIDS, gender, governance, and development pose to the peoples of Africa. This publication presents new research in Ghana, Botswana and South Africa, providing the broadest geographic African coverage on the topic of African chieftaincy. The nineteen authors, many of them emerging scholars from Africa, are all members of the Traditional Authority Applied Research Network (TAARN). Their essays give critical insight into the transformation processes of chieftaincy from the end of the colonial/apartheid periods to the present. They also examine the realities of male and female traditional leaders in re-inventing their legitimacy and their political offices in the age of great social and political unrest, health issues and governance and development challenges.

University of Virginia Press

The political conflict that has taken the most violent form and proved costliest in human lives in Ghana in the last half century has been a chieftaincy dispute in the northern kingdom of Dagomba, known as the Yendi skin dispute. The major loss of life took place in 1969 but the dispute has continued to trouble Ghanaian politics and has affected the careers of national leaders under both civilian and military regimes. It is one of the most complex, explosive and intractable disputes in a country noted for conflicts over chieftaincy. Mr Staniland examines the political history of Dagomba, one of the most important pre-colonial states in what is now Ghana, from its partition between the British and the Germans in 1899. He analyses the attitudes and policies of successive governments towards chieftaincy and 'traditionalism', and the effects which outside control has had on dynastic politics.

**Creating a Political Community in Metropolitan Lagos**

Boydell & Brewer

Based on selected papers presented at the international conference on Indigenous Political Structures and Governance in Africa, held in the University of Nigeria in 2001. Drawing from the works of leading scholars of the subject, this volume explores the interaction between indigenous, socio-political structures and African state politics. Focusing on the imaginative response of indigenous structures to the expansion of political space in the 20th Century, it analyses the implications of these grassroots

institutions for modern state formation.

**Chieftaincy in Ghana** Princeton University Press

How are we to explain the resurgence of customary chiefs in contemporary Africa? Rather than disappearing with the tide of modernity, as many expected, indigenous sovereigns are instead a rising force, often wielding substantial power and legitimacy despite major changes in the workings of the global political economy in the post-Cold War era—changes in which they are themselves deeply implicated. This pathbreaking volume, edited by anthropologists John L. Comaroff and Jean Comaroff, explores the reasons behind the increasingly assertive politics of custom in many corners of Africa. Chiefs come in countless guises—from university professors through cosmopolitan businessmen to subsistence farmers—but, whatever else they do, they are a critical key to understanding the tenacious hold that "traditional" authority enjoys in the late modern world. Together the contributors explore this counterintuitive chapter in Africa's history and, in so doing, place it within the broader world-making processes of the twenty-first century.

**Traditional Chieftaincy Titles and Political Conflicts in Avianwu**

The Politics of Chieftaincy Authority and Property in Colonial Ghana, 1920-1950

Chieftaincy is one of the most enduring traditional institutions in Ghana, which has displayed remarkable resilience from pre-colonial through colonial to postcolonial times. In the past, the role of a chief was to lead his people in war to defend, protect and extend their territories. The modern role is to combat poverty and other social ills: illiteracy, ignorance, environmental degradation, and the depletion of resources. Nowadays, chiefs are under pressure to achieve good governance in their traditional areas. They are challenged to integrate tradition and modernity, a process about which there is considerable debate. They carry out their duties in an increasingly globalised world where the accent is on democracy, human rights, health delivery, employment, human development and regional integration. Their ability to come to terms with these challenges will provide an indication of their relevance and the relevance of the institution to Ghana's long-term development. This massive volume is arguably the most comprehensive and detailed scholarly study of the institution of chieftaincy to appear on the subject to date. The subjects and approaches are wide-ranging, and cover most aspects of the institution in every geographical area in Ghana. Some thirty contributors from the humanities and social sciences tell the story of chieftaincy past and present from a multitude of perspectives: anthropological, historical, economic, sociological, gender, literary, religious and philosophical.

**African Chieftaincy in a New Socio-political Landscape**

Oxford University Press

The Politics of Chieftaincy examines debates over authority and property in Accra, Ghana, during the peak decades of British colonial rule. Between 1920 and 1950, imperial policies marginalized educated elites, local authorities, and landowners in favor of Ga chiefs, whom the British authorities viewed as more loyal to the empire. Conflicts erupted throughout the city over chieftaincy, succession, and land, producing new political movements and local institutions. Drawing on a broad range of archival records of chieftaincy and litigation cases from this era, Naaborko Sackeyfio-Lenoch demonstrates how these disputes

opened new arenas for Accra's residents to engage in dialogue about the efficacy of chieftaincy and the meaning of political authority and property. Despite the prominence of chieftaincy in the lives of the people of Accra, Sackeyfio-Lenoch shows that they were able to critique their political traditions and adapt their institutions to new local, national, and global pressures. The volume offers then a vital case study of Africans' responses to colonialism, modernity, and globalization, and provides an important lens for understanding urban and political processes in Africa during the first half of the twentieth century. Naaborko Sackeyfio-Lenoch is associate professor of African history at Dartmouth College.

*Chiefship, Capital, and the State in Contemporary Africa*

Cambridge University Press

An analysis of how traditional power structures in Nigeria have survived the forces of colonialism and the modernization processes of postcolonial regimes.

**The Politics of Chieftaincy in Ghana, 1951-60** Western African Studies

Heritage work has had a uniquely wide currency in Africa's politics. Secure within the pages of books, encoded in legal statutes, encased in glass display cases and enacted in the panoply of court ritual, the artefacts produced by the heritage domain have become a resource for government administration, a library for traditionalists and a marketable source of value for cultural entrepreneurs. The Politics of Heritage in Africa draws together disparate fields of study - history, archaeology, linguistics, the performing arts and cinema - to show how the lifeways of the past were made into capital, a store of authentic knowledge that political and cultural entrepreneurs could draw from. This book shows African heritage to be a mode of political organisation, a means by which the relics of the past are shored up, reconstructed and revalued as commodities, as tradition, as morality or as patrimony.

**The Stool Owns the City** Peter Lang Gmbh, Internationaler Verlag Der Wissenschaften

Democracy Compromised

is about traditional authorities (chiefs of various ranks) in a democracy. The book addresses mainly two integrally related questions. First, how despite their role in the apartheid state, traditional authorities have not only survived, but have won unprecedented powers in rural governance in South Africa's democracy, and, secondly, how they derive their authority. It argues that chieftaincy has always been contested and that it has throughout its history since the advent of colonialism been dependent on the support of the state. Their role in the land allocation process is central to our understanding, not only of the survival of traditional authorities, but on how they derived their authority. The book will be of particular interest to academics, researchers, students, activists and policy makers.

*Nkrumah & the Chiefs* Ohio State University Press

Many contemporary studies of African chieftaincy are devoted to unraveling "chiefly tradition". These studies have tried to unmask chieftaincy as an artifact of modernist projections of colonial rule, missionary activity, and postcolonial state formation. African chiefs and their authority have often been focal points of social and political power, and in the creation and subjugation of ethnic groups. Research on chieftaincy reveals continuities and discontinuities that are highly pertinent to understanding African societies today.

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