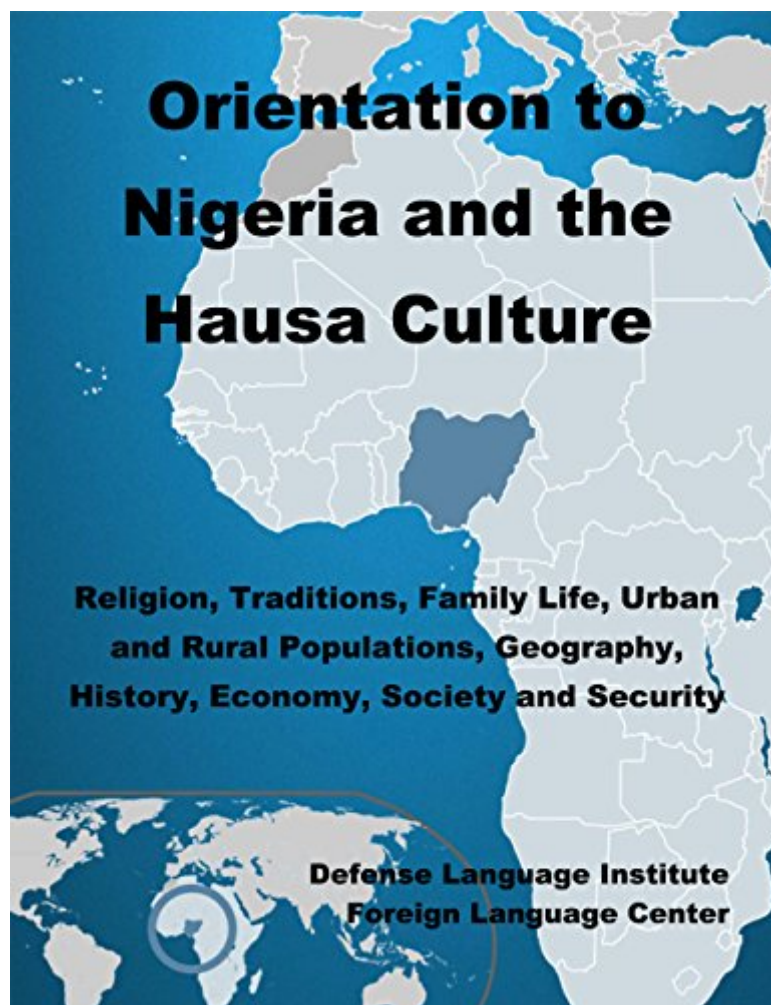




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Orientation Guide To Nigeria And The Hausa Culture: Religion, Traditions, Family Life, Urban And Rural Populations, Geography, History, Economy, Society And Security





Synopsis

The area of West Africa now known as Nigeria once was defined by natural borders: the Atlantic Ocean to the south; the arid Sahel and Sahara to the north; the Niger and the Benue rivers and the three regions they divide; and the near-impenetrable rainforest just north of the ocean. Three major ethnic groups evolved within the three regions: the Yoruba in the southwest, the Igbo in the southeast, and the Hausa in the north. Centuries of European territorial and economic exploitation of Africa led to the continent's division in the late 1800s. Nigeria became a British island among French and German colonies. Many disparate ethnicities combined into an uneasy national enterprise, leaving Nigeria with permanent rivalries, particularly the Muslim north versus the Christian south. A chain of historical circumstances led to dominance of the country by northerners. The discovery of major oil reserves in the Niger Delta in 1956 exacerbated divisions. Much of the tremendous oil revenues disappear into the chasm of corrupt governance and patronage; little goes toward infrastructure and development. A staggering 61% of Nigerians live in "absolute poverty"; it runs as high as 86% in the north. Paradoxically, Nigeria is one of Africa's richest states and one of its poorest. In 1999, Nigeria returned to civilian rule after years of northern-dominated military governments. It remains a country challenged by its "oil curse," its rapidly rising population, and ethnic conflicts. This book, produced by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), provides comprehensive information about Nigeria and the Hausa Culture. Chapter topics include religion, traditions, family life and differences in the lifestyles of urban and rural populations as well as detailed discussion of geography, history and their economy, form of government, society and security and much more. 96 pages; dozens of photos, illustration and charts in full color.

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