

Review of: "Kingship, Karaole and the Question of Loyalty in Colonial Akoko-Yoruba, 1900-1960"

Erond L. Damanik¹

¹ Universitas Negeri Medan

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for this interesting article. This article from Africa is interesting to read, and equally interesting when describing the people and history and culture of Asians during the colonial and post-colonial periods. This article draws attention by describing the role of communal ties in the pre-colonial era and local rulers as true agents for the continuity of kinship ties. According to the author, although it is unreasonable to say that colonial rule succeeded in shifting the institutions and personalities of traditional rulers throughout colonial territories in Africa, traditional political institutions were able to survive the various stages of mutation experienced by colonial rule through their adaptive dynamism and resilience. For example, Karaole is one of the many forms of political manifestation of power used to ensure communal stability and cohesion. With discussions centered on colonial rule to inform the (re)interpretation of the karaole greeting form by Akoko-Yoruba traditional rulers as a means to an end.

By describing the evaluation, greetings in the form of karaole are one of the instruments of power politics used by Akoko-Yoruba traditional rulers to validate their agency and personality while ensuring stability in their territory. This emphasizes the importance of loyalty being a matter of convenience and not coercion as was the case in the original royal institutions. In that sense, it is safe for traditional rulers, especially kings, to rethink ways to remain in power while still getting support from members of the royal family and the people. This was part of an effort to maintain political power and honor in the colonial era as well as balance kinship.