

# Review of: "The Past In The Present Carnage In North Central Nigeria: The Role Of Collective Memory On Conflict Persistence"

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The article written by Ezenwa E. Olumba achieves a very productive intellectual exercise in the explanation of the violent process in the contemporary history of Nigeria, especially in the Center-North region, in the Middle Belt. The reader is able to identify the historical question of the perpetuity of violence in this area, which became a constant in the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods, going through independence and the editions of political regimes in modern Nigeria. In addition, the combining of Rational Choice theory and Symbolic Politics theory was of great value for the making of the scientific object, since the author managed to produce a significant theoretical discussion to understand the structural conflicts of his case study. I believe that in the discussion about memory and studies around collectivity, the author could add Michael Pollak's research: "Memory, forgetting, silent" and "Memory and social identity". Despite the strength of collective memory, there are always frames of social memory that select and overshadow important events and facts in the history of a community. The processes of forgetting are also important, as well as those that demarcate the strength of social tradition. In this way, I believe that the reference can be of great value for the author to nuance the manipulated discourse made by the Nigerian elite that produces, in his own words, "grievances and inequities, establishing collective memories that amplify ethnic fears and fears of annihilation among diverse groups and communities". On the other hand, we believe that the author can explain, in some case studies, how agrarian conflicts between herders and farmers develop. I could not identify which were the main conflicts around property rights over natural resources in that region. Who owned the largest share of land in the region? What was the situation of small farmers and the communities that lived there? Did they own the land? Or did they only work for those who held title to the property? Were there communal lands from colonial and post-colonial times? What is the jurisdiction over them? How does the state seek to intervene in these agrarian conflicts? We ask the author to better define what he understands as "eco-violence" and what are its specificities for the region under study. As a last request, I believe that a map is needed identifying the object area of your analysis, also detailing where the perennial agrarian conflicts that you describe so much in the article occur. Anyway, the article must be published in view of the extensive knowledge of the bibliography and the importance of this research for public history, since the scientific knowledge produced by the author can help in solving contemporary problems in the North Central region of Nigeria.