

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

Alexander Shipilov¹

¹ Institute of World History

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for an interesting article devoted to the transformation of kingship in Yorubaland in the wake of the colonial era. The topic addressed is crucial for an understanding of both the socio-political dynamics of the respective part of modern Nigeria and the region in general. I would, however, like to suggest several clarifications and/or revisions to help the reader better grasp the importance of the discussion. First, as the concept of Karaole is central to the article's analysis of Yorubaland's power politics, it appears that more can be said to explain and perhaps illustrate the way in which this concept was reflective of kingship development in the colonial era. Second, more specific illustrations and examples could be brought up to substantiate the trends indicated. And finally, the bulk of the citations seem to refer to rather modern publications, whereas bringing up relatively contemporary sources in describing the colonial era challenges to the kingship institution in Yorubaland could benefit the narrative (and provide the aforementioned illustrations), or alternatively, an explanation could be provided as to why the author has chosen the particular modern publications (i.e., if they are reflective of the older oral history tradition relevant for the pre-colonial and colonial eras). Overall, the paper appears to offer many valuable insights and contributions to the topic at hand, and I can recommend it for publication with the suggested revisions considered.