

## NYAMBUAN REVOLT OF 1939: TRADITION VERSUS MODERNITY IN TIV LAND OF CENTRAL NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Like the post-World War II cold war between the capitalist West and the socialist East, which though ideological, translated in open crises in several countries, the anti-witch craft revolt, *Nyambuan*, in Tiv land during colonial rule was based on the belief of the Tiv people about what ought to be and what ought not to be in Tiv society, as far as the forces of tradition and modernity were concerned. By its name, the *Nyambuan* had no link to resistance against modernity as introduced by Christianity and colonial rule, but instead, against witchcraft in Tiv society. Yet the battle was against the colonial officials, their Tiv agents and the Church. This paper examines the reason that the *Nyambuan* adherents directed their arsenals against colonial rule. It seeks to explain whether or not, with the exit of colonial rule in the area, the Tiv have fully reintegrated the perceived eroded traditional values into their culture. It finds a continuous surge of modernity in the land, as the world becomes more and more globalised, and the insistence by the people to re-traditionalise. Thus, the two social variables; tradition and modernity remain visible interplays in the cultural, economic and political life of the people in the contemporary era.