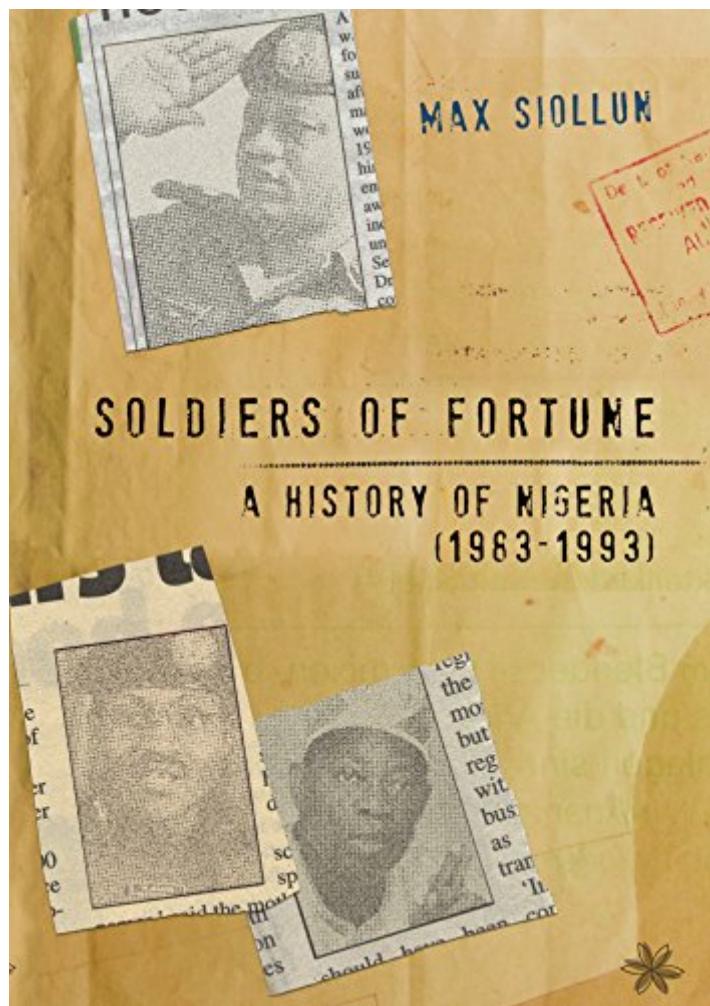


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Soldiers Of Fortune: A History Of Nigeria (1983-1993)



Synopsis

â ^This book is the story of Nigeriaâ ™s political journey between December 31, 1983 and August 27, 1993. This is the story of how things fell apart.â ™The years between 1983 and 1993 were momentous for Nigeria. Military rule was a time of increased violence, rampant corruption, coups, coup plotting and coup baiting. It moulded the conditions and character of Nigeria today, forcing seismic changes on the political, economic and religious landscape that nearly tore the country apart on several occasions. Soldiers of Fortune is a fast-paced and thrilling narrative of the major events of the Buhari and Babangida era. The book draws on previously uncovered observations from interviews conducted with insiders (including a former member of the Brigade of Guards and Nigerian Airways personnel who witnessed the attempted kidnap of Umaru Dikko), to compile step-by-step dramatic reconstructions of disputed events and intrigues. Siollunâ ™s fresh perspective challenges preconceived views to reveal the true story behind controversies of the period: the annulment of the June 12 election, the dubious execution of Mamman Vatsa, the foiled kidnapping of Umaru Dikko, the Orkar coup and the inconclusive case of the assassination of Dele Giwa. Historian Max Siollun gives an intimate, fly-on-the-wall portrait of the major events and dramatis personae of the period. He paints a vivid picture of leaders such as Ibrahim Babangida, whose â ^amiable personality, effusive charm and warm bonhomieâ ™ distracted from his determined grip on power, political cunning and retention of detested laws. Siollun also relates anecdotes from how â ^pillow talkâ ™ had a role in the 1983 coup, to the troubled final hours of the condemned Mamman Vatsa, childhood friend of Babangida. We are reminded of the important role played by civilians in supporting and sponsoring successive coups, and as such, we are forced to reassess apparent heroes such as the business tycoon, M.K.O Abiola. Alongside its close-up, dramatised narrative, Soldiers of Fortune also provides clear and detailed analysis of the period, revealing Nigeriansâ ™ complicity in the corruption of everyday life. It makes use of charts, lists and neatly delineated sections to pick apart the complex and often murky details of military rule, effectively demonstrating how the key events and protagonists of the period had a long-lasting impact which still resonates throughout Nigeria today. Both gripping and informative, Soldiers of Fortune is a must-read for all Nigerians and Nigeria-watchers. Its dramatic narrative style and clear attention to detail will engage casual, journalistic and academic readers alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A must read for anyone remotely interested in contemporary Nigerian history spanning 1983-1993.

If you ever wanted to know what made the Nigerian Military do some of the things they did, this book is for you. If you ever wondered why the modern Nigerian State seems to go from failure to failure, most of the answers you were looking for are in this book. If you think that military intervention is something that has a place in Nigeria's political dynamic, after reading this book, you'll be convinced beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt that such notions are misguided. If you must read one book in December, make it this one.

The book raises more questions than answers. Regarding June 12, 1993, Ibrahim Babangida was deceived by Sani Abacha who deceived Moshood Abiola. There is nothing in the book suggesting that Babangida had prepared for post presidency but we are told that a set of politicized soldiers refused Abiola his mandate. The personal animosity between David Bonaventure Mark and Moshood Abiola could not be related to contract issues alone. Both men are renowned for their prodigious appetite for money, which extends to women. Surely an interview with any of their girlfriends, concubines, mistresses or eventual wives could have shed more light. All in all, perhaps a third book covering Abacha's dictatorship of Nigeria may reveal more.

We've continued to repeat mistakes that led the Nation Nigeria to where we find ourselves

economically and politically in the 21st century and this is because we've refused to know our history. This book will tell the history of the leadership failure of the country from an unbiased perspective and hopefully trigger a sincere passion for change.

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