

MARGINALIZED PEACE: POST-WAR RECONCILIATION AND THE IGBO REINTEGRATION DECIMAL IN NIGERIA

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The post-war policy of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria (FMG) was lauded as a magnanimous move toward reintegrating the people of defunct Biafra—the Igbo. Fifty years after the supposed reconciliation and reintegration, Igbo agitation for disengagement from the Nigerian state constitutes one of the most dangerous threats to its corporate existence. Using a historical-analytical method, this article traces the underlying currents of the Igbo reintegration question in Nigeria to the pre-war Igbo phobia, which arguably culminated in a thirty-month violent confrontation. Given the top-down approach of liberal peace, which the Nigerian government embraced in its post-war policy, real reconciliation suffered a marginalization that has impeded reintegration. Biafranism in the twenty-first century, arguably, is a quest for true reconciliation that never occurred, despite the laudable post-war policies of the 1970s.

INTRODUCTION

Reconciliation is a concept that is popular in post-conflict environments, especially with the assumption that it restores peace and harmony between and among conflict parties. But adopting different modes of reconciliation has not ensured peace in most post-conflict zones around the world. In many cases, reconciliation packages hinder and relegate peace, or form the *casus belli* for fresh engagement in violent confrontation.¹ The Nigeria-Biafra

PEACE RESEARCH

The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies

Volume 54, Number 2 (2022): 1-27

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