

A Geographic Analysis of the Pattern of Integration between the Discrete Communities in Ile-Ife.

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Abstract:

This is a politico geographic study of the pattern of integration of the different discrete communities of Ile-Ife. The study identified that two distinct groups, Elus and Oduduwas, existed in the earliest days of Ile-Ife. The Elus were in the area before the Oduduwa group, the two groups were not united until the arrival of a third group, under Oranmiyan, which succeeded in defeating first, the Oduduwas and later the Elus. Oranmiyan organised the defeated groups and his own followers into five communities of Iremo, Ilode, More, Ilare and Okerewe. Much later, new arrivals in Ile-Ife were settled in the Modakeke area. Sabo-Eleyele is the newest of the communities.

Analysis of the pattern of integration of the seven communities was based on social, marriage, business, market, educational and religious interactions of 2742 people selected from all parts of Ile-Ife. Modified form of Soja's Transaction flow model and Bouldings Image Matrix were used in the analysis. The number of registered voters in each ward for the 1979 parliamentary elections was used as surrogate for its population.

The differences between the potential and the actual transaction flow into each of the wards for each of the ward in respect of the eight variables were ranked to derive the image of each community in respect of each variable. The image scores were ranked and the ranks summarised to get an overall image score for each of the wards. On this basis, Iremo was identified as the community to which others are greatly attracted whilst Modakeke was the one with least attraction.

The findings confirm the hypothesis that communities with the same time of arrival were much more integrated inspite of their earlier history of disagreements and political conflicts.

Keywords: pattern of integration/ discrete communities of Ile-Ife/ population

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