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Title: Religion and social change in West Africa: an introduction to the sociology of religion

Author: [Assimeng, Max](#)

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Abstract: This book examines the positive and disruptive implications of the imported religions of Christianity and Islam for social structure in West Africa and also probes the extent to which newly proliferating religious sects and cults enable West Africans to adjust to the imperatives of social change. Special attention is paid to the cases of Ghana and Nigeria. Topics discussed include the social bases of religious behaviour; the structure of traditional religion among the Akan of Ghana and the Igbo of Nigeria; aspects of socioreligious change involving the restructuring of identity; the contemporary religious situation (including an examination of the nature, types, and functions of religious sects); a Ghanaian case study of witchcraft beliefs and practices; and the impact on religion of the tensions that West African social structures have been experiencing.

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