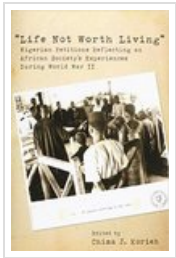


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"Life Not Worth Living": Nigerian Petitions Reflecting an African Society's Experiences During World War II

[Chima J. Korieh](#), *Marquette University*

Description

Studies of the Second World War have not particularly focused on the contribution of African societies or the impact of the war on their lives. The biggest problem faced by the colonial administration was the rising cost of living that became pronounced during the war. The war forced the British to restructure the local economy in order to ensure that the Nigerian population produced the necessary commodities needed to support the British war effort. The government initiated an unprecedented level of mobilization and introduced new regulations and laws to effectively control local production. The African population was visibly distressed with the food crisis, the British management of the local production system, and the insecurity that these engendered.

This book presents unusual but critically important primary sources left by ordinary Nigerians in the form of petitions and supplications to British officials during the war. Written by individuals living in rural and urban areas in Nigeria, these unique documentary sources reflect local reactions and responses to imperial war policies. They provide unparalleled perspective on the war and what happened to ordinary people as a result of British war-time policies in Nigeria. For expert and general audiences alike, the book will be an instructive experience. The "intellectual" path of colonial history is tortured: most is written from a European perspective, but African sources remind us—perhaps surprisingly—about the darker sides of colonial policy and African experiences during the war. This work contributes to all areas of colonial studies, indigenous literary traditions, and discourses on African colonial experience. Moreover, the project serves as a poignant and timely reminder that Africans were central to the Allied war effort and challenges the dominant Western-centered narrative of the war that places less emphasis on the contributions of the African population and the impact of the war on their society.

This book is part of the African World Series, edited by Toyin Falola, Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities, University of Texas at Austin.

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World War I and World War II brought about changes for minorities and women because these conflicts led to. During World War II, many Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were relocated to detention centers primarily because they. 2. were seen as a security threat. To help pay for World War II, the United States government relied heavily on the. The experiences of African Americans serving in the military forces during World War II influenced their postwar decision to. 3. increase efforts to end racial discrimination. Which wartime policy toward Japanese Americans was upheld by the Supreme Court in its 1944 ruling in *Korematsu v. United States*? Russia - Veterans News. The Russian president Vladimir Putin offers a comprehensive assessment of the legacy of World War II, arguing that "Today, European politicians, and Polish leaders in particular, wish to sweep the Munich Betrayal under the carpet. The Munich Betrayal showed to the Soviet Union that the Western countries would deal with security issues without taking its interests into. Korieh, Chimah J., "Life Not Worth Living:" Nigerian Petitions Reflecting an African Society's Experiences During World War II (Durham NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2014). Mabogunje, Akin L., "Stranger Communities: A. The Ijebu," in: Lloyd, Peter C., Mabogunje, Akin L. and Awe, Bola (eds.), *The City of Ibadan* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967), 85–96.