

Discover the Fascinating Journey of Elections in Nigeria: From Turmoil to Democracy

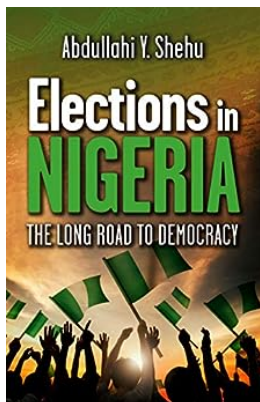


The Birth of Democracy in Nigeria

Elections in Nigeria have come a long way since the nation gained independence from British colonial rule on October 1, 1960. The road to democracy has been fraught with challenges, but the Nigerian people have remained resilient on their quest for a just and transparent electoral system.

From Turmoil to Hope

After independence, Nigeria experienced periods of political instability, military coups, and civil war. It wasn't until the early 1990s that the country started taking steps towards democracy. However, the journey was far from smooth.



Elections in Nigeria: The Long Road to Democracy

by Aaron David Miller ([Print Replica] Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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One of the significant milestones in Nigeria's democratic journey was the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election. This election is widely regarded as the freest and fairest in the country's history, but the results were abruptly cancelled by the military regime. This led to widespread protests, strikes, and civil unrest, marking a turning point in Nigeria's path to democracy.

Roadblocks and Challenges

The road to democracy in Nigeria has been challenging, with various obstacles hindering fair and transparent elections. Some of the main hurdles encountered include:

Corruption

Corruption has plagued Nigeria's political landscape for decades, impacting the credibility of elections. Parties and candidates often use corrupt practices to gain an unfair advantage, leading to widespread disillusionment among the electorate.

Violence and Insecurity

Elections in Nigeria have been marred by violence and insecurity, particularly in regions affected by insurgency and ethnic conflicts. The threat of armed groups, political thuggery, and intimidation has hindered the smooth conduct of elections in many areas.

Electoral Fraud

Instances of electoral fraud, such as ballot box stuffing, voter suppression, and result manipulation, have been a recurring issue in Nigeria. These illegal activities undermine the integrity of the electoral process and erode public trust in the democratic system.

The Path to Transparency and Progress

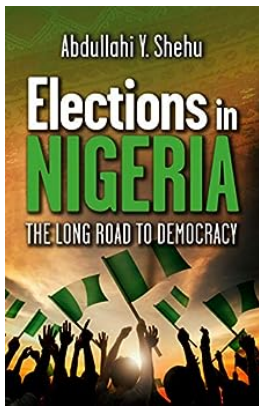
In recent years, Nigeria has taken steps towards enhancing transparency and improving the electoral process. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) plays a crucial role in organizing and overseeing elections, implementing measures to curb fraud and ensure a level playing field for all parties.

Furthermore, technological advancements have been leveraged to enhance the credibility and efficiency of elections. Biometric voter registration and verification systems have been introduced to minimize multiple voting and identity fraud.

A Beacon of Hope for Democracy in Africa

Despite the challenges, Nigeria's democratic progress is significant within the African continent. The country serves as an inspiration for other nations striving for democratic governance and fair elections. The peaceful transition of power in the 2015 presidential election, where an incumbent president was defeated for the first time in Nigeria's history, showcased the potential for change and growth.

In , elections in Nigeria have experienced a tumultuous journey toward democracy. From the turmoil of the past to the hope of the present, Nigeria continues to strive for an electoral system that truly reflects the will of its people. With ongoing efforts to combat corruption, violence, and electoral fraud, the nation aims to strengthen its democracy and inspire others in the pursuit of transparent elections.



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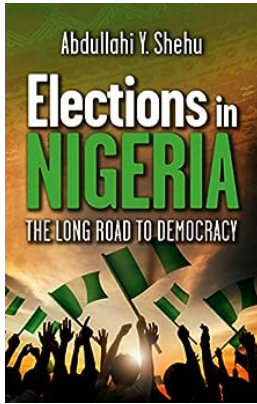
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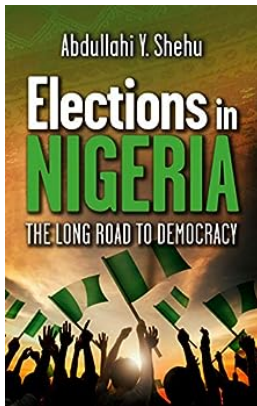


In Nigeria's 2015 election, Muhammadu Buhari defeated incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan, who accepted defeat and stood down – the first time that has happened in Nigeria's history, and a landmark development in the country's troubled progress towards sustainable democracy. How will the democratic process fare in 2019? Professor Shehu's aim is to appraise the practice and progress of democracy in Nigeria and highlight some key issues that have driven electoral choices in the past or are likely to do so this time around. As he puts it, "In Nigeria, experience has shown that whereas every politician seeking election claims to do so to serve the country, in reality most seek public office to serve their selfish interests rather than the national interest... Conducting an election is a routine activity, but conducting one with integrity is a function of true democracy".



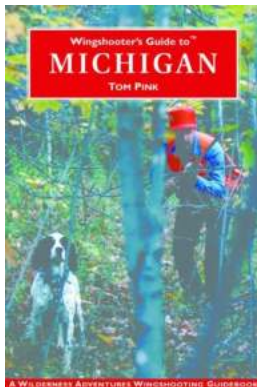
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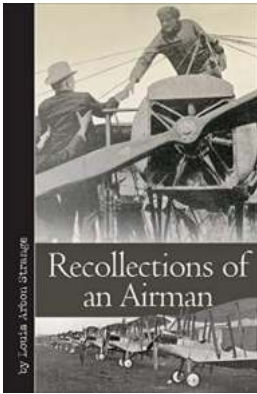
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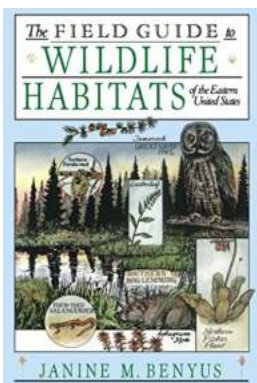
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