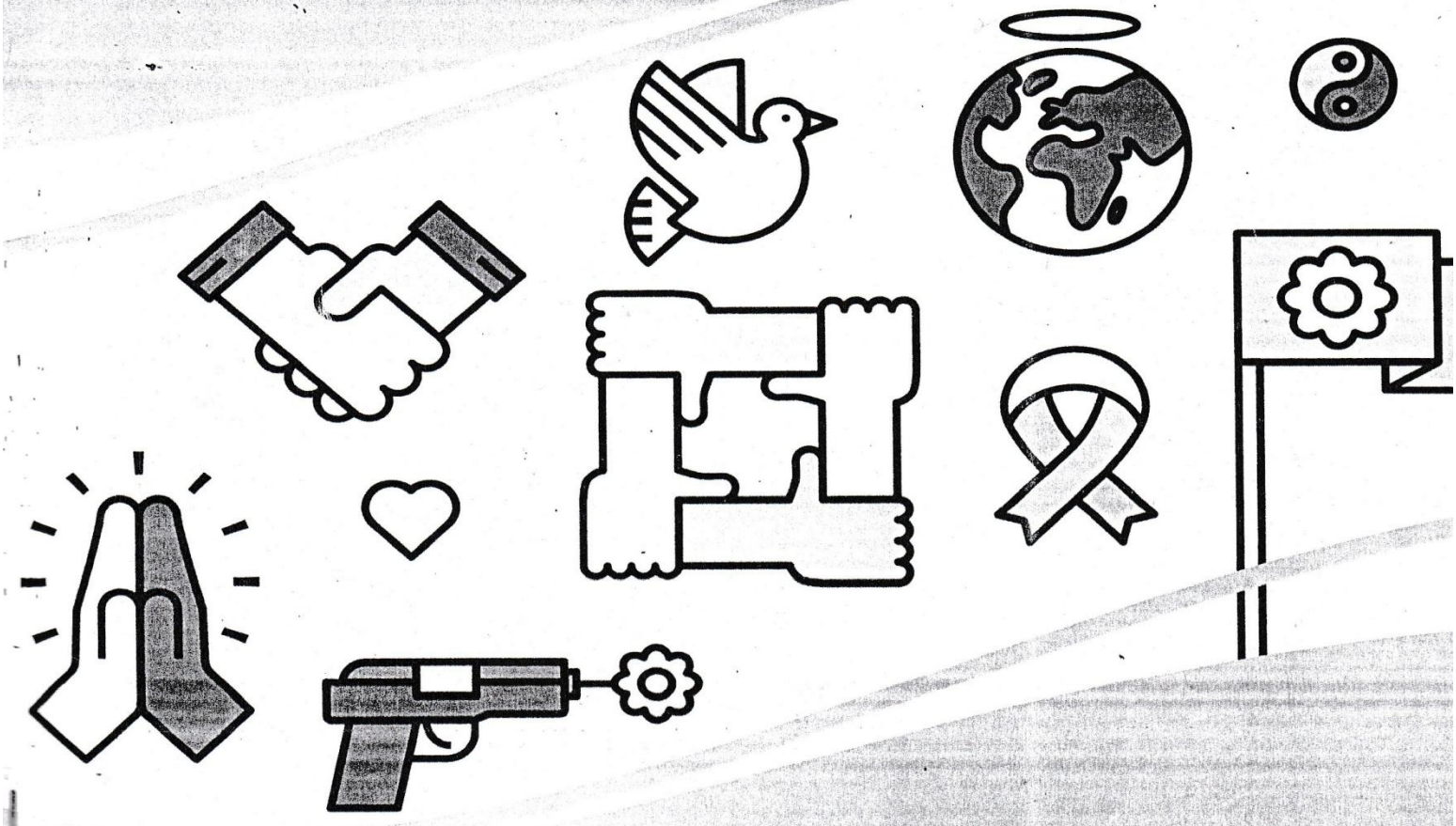
Handbook of Research on

The Impact of Culture in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding



Essien Essien

IGI Global
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Handbook of Research on

The Impact of Culture in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The contemporary conflict scenarios are beyond the reach of standardized approaches to conflict resolution. Given the curious datum that culture is implicated in nearly every conflict in the world, culture can also be an important aspect of efforts to transform destructive conflicts into more constructive social processes. Yet, what culture is and how culture matters in conflict scenarios is contested and regrettably unexplored.

The **Handbook of Research on the Impact of Culture in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding** is a critical publication that examines cultural differences in conflict resolution based on various aspects of culture such as morals, traditions, and laws. Highlighting a wide range of topics such as criminal justice, politics, and technological development, this book is essential for educators, social scientists, sociologists, political leaders, government officials, academicians, conflict resolution practitioners, world peace organizations, researchers, and students.

Topics Covered

- Anti-Social Behavior
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Gender
- Healthcare
- Industrialization
- Politics
- Religion
- Social Interaction
- Technological Development

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Handbook of Research on the Impact of Culture in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

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A volume in the Advances in Religious and Cultural Studies (ARCS) Book Series

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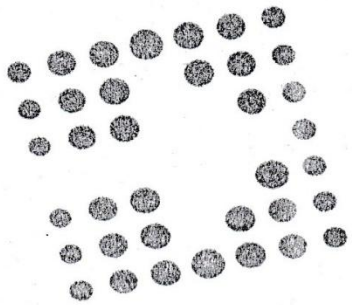

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Mission

In the era of globalization, the diversity of the world and various cultures becomes apparent as cross-cultural interactions turn into a daily occurrence for individuals in all professions. Understanding these differences is necessary in order to promote effective partnerships and interactions between those from different religious and cultural backgrounds.

The **Advances in Religious and Cultural Studies (ARCS)** book series brings together a collection of scholarly publications on topics pertaining to religious beliefs, culture, population studies, and sociology. Books published within this series are ideal for professionals, theorists, researchers, and students seeking the latest research on collective human behavior in terms of religion, social structure, and cultural identity and practice.

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Chapter 3
Female Genital Mutilation and the Influence of Traditional Cultural Practices Against Women: Experience From Ibibio, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria 26
AniediAbasi Okon Ekpatt, University of Uyo, Nigeria

Female circumcision is central to African traditional religion and entails transgression of fundamental rights. However, the rationale for female circumcision seems to be consistent in most African societies, and is based for the most part on myth, ignorance of biological and medical facts, religion, and culture. The thinking and argument in many communities is that the clitoris is perceived variously as repulsive, filthy, foul smelling, dangerous to the life of the emerging newborn, and hazardous to the health and potency of the husband. This study therefore is an attempt to respond to the thesis that despite the right to freedom of religion or belief, including its manifestations, the right of ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups to enjoy their culture, the religio-cultural ritual of female circumcision as a rite of passage in Africa is shrouded with some traditional practices that has reconfigured the moral basis of female circumcision.

Chapter 4
Culture: Evaluation of Concepts and Definitions in Relation to Conflict and Peacebuilding 45
Mbosowo Bassey Udok, University of Uyo, Nigeria

Human existence as a whole is attached to a culture. Every human is a member of a group that acts within the framework of patterns of behavior that is unique or peculiar to the group. Each group determines the component of her culture, and culture builds an identity for the group. This chapter is poised to examine definitions of culture across cultural backgrounds to show similarities and differences in articulating the subject matter. It explicates the components of culture which include the product and technical knowledge of human beings in a given environment. The work plunges into the characteristics of culture as socially based. Here, culture is seen as a creation of society and shared among members of the same society and learned through associations with others in the group. The work concludes that though there is no universally acceptable definition of culture, the impact of culture cannot be undermined as its influence is felt across disciplines and communities.

Chapter 5
Nkuho Institution and Marital Conflict Prevention Among the Efik People 64
Ubong Ekpenyong Eyo, University of Calabar, Nigeria

The marriage institution with its complexity is not exempted from conflict. In the world where emphasis is on conflict resolution, the Efik people speak of marital conflict prevention more than conflict resolution and management. Marital conflict if not prevented or resolved can become inimical to both present and future generation apart from its fire engulfing the entire community. Though female circumcision (which is associated with Nkuho) has been abolished, it is the opinion of this chapter that the educational spirit behind this institution is still a veritable too in preventing marital conflict. The chapter made use of ethno-methodological approach with content analysis to aver that in preventing marital conflict among Efik people, Nkuho institution can be a veritable tool of conflict prevention and peace building. This work has shown that Nkuho institution has something positive to offer to the modern world, especially as it concerns marital conflict prevention.

therefore, cannot thrive in any society without the culture of the people and that of the religion mixing. Every religion is borne out of a culture of the people. The study is an attempt to reveal that religious culture and tradition laid the foundation of educational development in Nigeria, for example, the establishment of mission schools and the development of Nigerian indigenous language.

Chapter 14
Culture of Global Terrorism: Islamic State Insurgency in Historical Perspective 2010–2019..... 234
Ubongabasi Ebenezer Israel, University of Uyo, Nigeria

Terrorism has become one of the most recurring decimals across the globe, creating tension in every quarter. This anomaly has necessitated both state and non-state actors to engage in concerted efforts to curtail it. Hence, this study seeks to evaluate the prevalent acts of terror perpetrated by the Islamic State group across their area of jurisdiction for about a decade now. The work traces its emergence, linking it with its spread and recent plethora of activities. The research makes use of secondary sourced materials. The chapter suggests a global cultural re-orientation, especially among young people, good governance in the Middle East, commitment over terror war by stakeholders, etc. The author believes that this essay would serve as an invaluable resource to enhance scholars of conflict in the war against terror as well as serve as a stimulating factor for further studies on the issue.

Chapter 15
Religious and Cultural Conflicts: A Critical Appraisal of the Scottish Mission Activities Among the Efik People of Old Calabar 249
Ekpenyong Nyong Akpanika, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Culture and religion are two important parts of human life that are highly emotional. People do everything to protect, defend, and keep their cultural and religious heritage no matter how primitive others may think it is. Failure to recognize the religious and cultural worldview of a people in the evangelization of such society often leads to a conflict of allegiance. This study is a critical appraisal of the Scottish missionary activities among the Efik people of Old Calabar, Nigeria. The effect of neglecting these cultural elements that would have acted as a bridge to the full acceptance of Christianity among the people was neglected. This rigid attitude was challenged by the emergence of some Independent African Churches that came as a substitute for the mission churches. The need for a new perspective on the interaction of culture and religion is therefore required if the world is to survive the current global religious conflicts.

Section 4
Religion, Leadership, and Peacebuilding

Chapter 16
Theological Response to the Culture of Necrogamy in Ibibio Land 268
Mbosowo Bassey Udok, University of Uyo, Nigeria

This chapter investigates the practice of necrogamy known as udo okpo by the Ibibio people in the light of theology. In Ibibio community, udo okpo as a practice has a long history till today. It is used as a means of facilitating human exploitation and sanctioning economic and financial hardship in the society. The practice has violated the fundamental human right of citizens especially the victim of udo okpo practice. The chapter adopts descriptive/survey methods of investigation making use of personal interview and participant observation. Findings reveal that instead of social integration of families by marriage, udo

okpo practice brings about disunity among the affected families. With the use of theological methods namely, liberation theology, and cultural hermeneutics, the chapter portrays that cultural practices that dehumanize or put people in bondage are not the will of God for his creation. The chapter recommends that the church, government, and non-governmental organizations should organize educational programmes for the citizens on how to handle sociocultural practices.

Chapter 17

Religio-Cultural Contributions to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding: Inputs From Exodus 23:5 284
Gerald E. Umoren, University of Uyo, Nigeria

In the face of incessant conflict in today's society, coupled with the recurrent difficulty at attaining the needed peace building, this chapter seeks to examine the impact of a Judeo-Christian culture in conflict resolution. Building on the interpretation of Exodus 23:5, this chapter proposes not only to project the findings of its exegesis as a cultural perspective, but also to weigh how much this religio-cultural perspective has already impacted on, or could currently and hitherto contribute to peace building and conflict resolution. Employing the historical critical method from an analytical point of view, this chapter progresses from a simple exegetical analysis of the text to an evaluation that leaves useful recommendations for the future. The conclusions of the chapter would hold a lot of relevant implications for conflict resolution and peace studies today and beyond.

Chapter 18

The Dialogic Dimension of Ubuntu for Global Peacebuilding 302
Effiong Joseph Udo, University of Uyo, Nigeria

Ubuntu is an African moral force and worldview that has held its primal societies peacefully together. It is interesting to observe that contemporary awareness of this concept in scholarship particularly associates Ubuntu with potentials to inspire global dialogue and peace efforts aimed at achieving harmonious human coexistence. Surprisingly though, this irenic dimension of Ubuntu has not received any systematic discourse as the literature on the concept shows. Accordingly, employing the human relations approach, this chapter draws on the pervasive literature on the intersections of Ubuntu and dialogue and particularly explores the intrinsic dialogic dimensions of Ubuntu for global peacebuilding efforts. Its basic presupposition is that the emphasis placed on the value of human relationship and peaceful coexistence by both concepts not only requires a systematic discourse, but also shows that indigenous cultural resources are available and viable for local and global conflict resolution efforts.

Chapter 19

Religious Approaches to Conflict Prevention: A Comparative Analysis of Islam and Confucianism 323
Emmanuel Williams Udoh, University of Calabar, Nigeria

The aim of this work is opening up a new area of research on conflict prevention. A conflict is a form of disagreement that is capable of resulting in violence. There has been so much waste of lives, properties, and resources all over the world as a result of the uncontrollable conflict that has resulted in violence. It has become necessary to deal with the problem before it escalates into violence, hence the need to seek ways of preventing rather than ways of resolving conflict. The work adopted a qualitative research methodology with a literary approach using books, journal articles, and internet sources to gather data.