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Issues of Ethnic Tribes in Central Africa: Case of Indigenous Forest People

Ghezzal Sihem

Abstract: The study focuses on postcolonial identity of one of the less recognized country of the West Central Africa, but a very well-known one for its anthropological ideology based on its long history with the French colonialism, the Gabon. More precisely, where tribalism was instrumental in inflicting those divisions, as perpetuated by the formation of homelands between the various ethnic groups that had coexisted for centuries and during the French colonial power, but had been turned against one another, and it had become the norm after the postcolonial period of independence. As a result, this study will attempt to reveal a different side of an African country in which ethnic minorities face violence and life deterioration, as well as the destruction of their livelihood due to insecurity in their own country, such as communal conflicts, extreme poverty, and a lack of basic needs. This is what motivates many anthropologists and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working on behalf of these marginalized peoples to research and advocate for legislation that defend indigenous peoples' rights from any key challenges that threaten their identity or citizenship as different groups. This study is notable because it deals with a Francophone society that is divided into ethnic groups, each with their own languages and cultures, after the country gained independence in the 1960s. Because of variations between ethnic groups and tribes, among other things, these communities require complete and tangible attention from international corners, including the African Commission, in order to raise their case and stop being neglected, and to be able to make their own decisions.

Key words: Postcolonial identity, Gabonese ethnicity, Anthropology, tribalism, Forest peoples