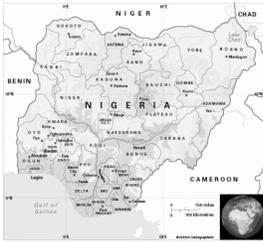


Buchi Emecheta: *The Joys of Motherhood*

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ENGL / WMST 3330
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Nigeria



- Emecheta: *The Joys of Motherhood* (USA publ. 1979)
 - Overview of British colonization period
 - The Nigerian Women's War: 1929-1930
- Nigerian Education for Women
 - 2003: ~43% of all women can read
 - ~55% of all Nigerians can read—rural & urban
 - 2003: 76% of girls educated only through fourth grade
2003: ~29.2% girls enrolled for education beyond the age of 11 years
 - 2006: ~81.3% of women ages 15-24 can read

Modern Nigerian Women

- Marriage in Nigeria:
 - Monogamous marriage registered under the civil marriage law,
 - Islamic marriage
 - Customary marriage
 - Customary Igbo marriage
 - Yoruba marriage & family
 - 42.6% of married women are in polygamous union
 - Median age of first marriage is 16 years
- Woman's average age of intercourse is 15.9 years
- 2007: Female genital mutilation in Nigeria
- Poverty & Women
- Bush Administration "Gag Rule"
 - Obama revokes gag rule.
- Only ~3.8% use of modern contraceptives
- Lagos: ~ 50,000 Nigerian women die annually from maternal mortality.
 - ~800 women die per 100,000 live births
- Abortion is illegal
 - 2006: Infant mortality rate 98.6%
- A woman will have ~6 children in her lifetime.

Joys of Motherhood: Igbo Life

- Chi: ancestor who keeps watch.
 - Nnu Ego's "chi" is ndichie--a returner (9, 23, 27)
- Marriage arrangements (30-1, 36)
 - Bride price & children (17, 34)
 - Polygamy means more children (32, 34)
 - Wife-beating (35)
- Suicide's shameful for community (60)
- No man is ugly (71)

Problems caused by Imperialism

- "age of the white man" (37)
 - Beggars (93)
- Poverty & infant mortality rates (48, 54-5)
 - Problems of poverty: potable water, sewage disposal, ignorance of sanitary practices lead to diseases such as cholera.
- Separate spheres (52, 86, 88)
- Marriage options & virtue (72, 75, 107)
- Male superiority / roles (50, 83, 80, 94)
