



Religious Syncretism and Cultural Adaptation in Côte d'Ivoire's African Diasporas

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Abstract

Religious syncretism and cultural adaptation are significant phenomena in Côte d'Ivoire's African diasporas, reflecting the complex interplay of indigenous beliefs, colonial influences, and contemporary societal dynamics. The research employs ethnographic methods, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with members of the African diaspora. Data analysis is guided by thematic coding and grounded theory. A key theme identified was the blending of traditional Yoruba rituals with Catholic practices, particularly in urban settings where religious syncretism has evolved into a vibrant cultural expression among migrants from West Africa. This study contributes to our understanding of how diaspora communities negotiate and adapt their religious identities within new socio-cultural environments, offering insights into the mechanisms of cultural hybridization. Future research could investigate the role of intergenerational transmission in maintaining syncretic practices and explore the impact of globalization on contemporary religious expressions among African diasporas in Côte d'Ivoire.

Keywords: *African diaspora, syncretism, cultural hybridity, ethnohistory, comparative religion, postcolonial studies, anthropology*

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