

'This book will take its rightful place in the roster of historical studies on the late colonial and early post-colonial phase. ... a valuable contribution to the history of Chad, and to the history of Roman Catholic involvement in the region, written through the lens of the institutional history of the Jesuit Order missioning in Chad.'

Walter E.A. van Beek, Leiden University

At a time when most African countries were moving towards independence and African nationalism was on the rise, the Vatican speeded up the Church's indigenization agenda in an effort to secure its survival in sub-Saharan Africa. Following the collapse of its colonial empire, France was also attempting to reassert its influence on the continent. This book reveals how different Catholicities (the Vatican and different Jesuit missions) and different Christianities (Roman Catholicism and different Protestant missions) competed for the evangelization of French Africa during the mid-20th century. They shared a common aim: to convert African Traditional Religionists and different groups of Muslims to Christ, and to contain the spread of Communism and other areligious ideologies. Showing how this competition for faith helped build the Church in French West Africa and Africanize the church alongside missionary Christianity in postcolonial Africa, Enyegue also explores the reaction of a rising African clergy and leadership to this diverse and competing global agenda of Christianization, especially after Chad and Cameroon became members of the Jesuit Vice-Province of West Africa in 1973.

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