

Editor's Note: Framed as a history of the Asagba family, the book by Dr. Joseph O. Asagba, THE UNTOLD STORY OF A NIGERIAN ROYAL FAMILY, is a valuable introductory text on the history of Okpe. Dr. Asagba captured some of the most critical elements of Okpe History, beginning from the migration of Prince Igboze of Benin to the founding of the Okpe Kingdom by his grandsons. We recommend the book to all Okpe and non Okpe interested in Okpe History. A synopsis of the book is provided below, together with the places where it can be purchased.

THE UNTOLD STORY OF A NIGERIAN ROYAL FAMILY
by H.R.H. Prince Joseph O. Asagba, Ph.D.
(Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, Inc., 2005)

This book presents the story of a ruling family of Okpe Kingdom and its political power in Nigeria. It traces the origins and history of the Okpe people and discusses their social and political organization. Topics include:

- The Okpe revolution of the 17th century that led to the assassination of HRM Ezezi I, the first Orodje (King) of Okpe
- British colonial rule of the Okpe Kingdom during the late 1800s through 1960
- Civil war between the Okpe and Olomu of Itsekiri in the 1800s and the palm oil trade rivalry
- Okpe-Itsekiri collaboration in the slave trade, and slavery in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Okpeland.

It also examines the political role played by the traditional chiefs, the role of feminists who campaigned for women's rights to participate in the all-male council of elders, and the effort by HRM Ezezi II to promote the democratic system of government within the Udogun Okpe (Okpe Supreme Council). It concludes with the story of the uncrowned king of Okpe Kingdom, including a brief history of the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-70, the reign of HRM Orhoro I, and the story of the author's candidacy for the Orodjeship of Okpe King, after the death of Orhoro I. Postscripts include Nigeria oil policy, the Muslim-Christian strife, and human rights abuses.

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