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Discussing Influence of Igala on Riverine Communities in Anioma: *A Blend of Commerce and Culture*

By Chukwunwike Ossai

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The relationship of Anioma with the Igala people is being displayed in some social and political institution influenced by the Igala and Igbo, these influences are particularly felt in Anioma riverine communities like Aboh, Okpai, and Illah.

Some of the influences left a few notable marks because towns like Okpai and Oko were in a little way subjected to the Attah at some point.

The overlap of cultural display can also be found in traditions, like the story of Nnebisi Ahaba marrying from Attah's household, making Illah and Ahaba to create a relationship with the Attah Igala.

Although these relationships did not alter with the broader Igbo language and the identity of those Anioma areas.

Also, the influence of the Igala traders, trading along the Niger bridge was more commercial, rather than political.

The presence of Igala traders in villages like Ebu facilitated the cultural blending between Anioma and Igala.

Igala influence may not have penetrated the interior of Anioma but on the riverine towns of Anioma, it left marks through economic interactions with shared traditions and it shows the diverse cultural heritage of these Anioma communities that welcomed elements from distinct origins while still maintaining their old Igbo language and



culture.

Ohadike, D. C. (1994a). Anioma: A social history of the western igbo people. Ohio University Press.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chukwunwike Ossai

An enthusiast in tech with deep passion for studying and showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of southern Nigeria . Combining my skill with my obsession towards African history and traditions to create contributions that impacts the digital space.



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