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Nibo people of Awka

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE IMAGE

A woman of Nibo, present day Anambra State, Nigeria photographed by British government anthropologist Northcote Thomas, c. 1912.

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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Nibo, a town located in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, known for its skilled blacksmiths and craft workers in pre-colonial times.

According to oral traditions, Nibo was founded by an ancestor named Ifite, who led his descendants to settle in the area. This ancestral connection gives rise to the town's name and its cultural identity. Nibo is divided into several quarters or villages, each believed to have descended from the early founders of the town.

Nibo shares cultural and historical ties with neighboring Nri, Awka, Mbaukwu, and other communities in the Awka area. These towns have had a long history of interaction, especially in the areas of trade, cultural exchange, and even inter-marriage. The connection with Awka, a town known for its blacksmithing expertise, also suggests that Nibo might have benefited from or participated in some of these artisanal traditions.

Nibo operates a traditional governance system led by elders and the Eze, the traditional ruler. The Igwe of Nibo plays a significant role in the cultural and social leadership of the community, overseeing festivals, conflict resolution, and the preservation of traditions.

Today, Nibo is a thriving town with modern infrastructure, while still maintaining its traditional heritage. The town participates in the larger sociopolitical framework of Anambra State and Nigeria, with prominent individuals contributing to its development in various sectors.

Igbo History and Culture. – Elizabeth Isichei

The History of the Igbo People – Adiele Afigbo

Anambra State: The Light of the Nation – Okey Ezeh.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuka Odike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explores ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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