



Ozi Ikòrò

AFRICAN HISTORY · CULTURE · INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Old Dynamic Of Ndi Igbo and Wildlife

By Chukwunwike Ossai

Ozikoro.com · Historical Studies · 2 min read

FEATURE
IMAGE

A young Gorilla killed by two Ibo [Igbo] boys from Asaba, Southern Nigeria, West Africa, 1906. Smithsonian Institution National Anthropological Archives.

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

Ozi Ikòrò
OLD DYNAMIC OF NDI IGBO AND WILDLIFE

Old Dynamic Of Ndi Igbo and Wildlife

By Chukwunwike Ossai · Historical Studies · Ozikoro.com

On a single day in 1906 in Ahaba, Southern Nigeria, West Africa, Two Igbo boys killed a young gorilla.

In 1906, Southern Nigeria was under the British colonial rule. Which brought changes in land uses, governance, and how culture works because of colonial policies.

The boys' killing of the gorilla shows how complex the relationship between people and wildlife was at that time. Gorillas aren't just animals; they are part of the culture, spirit, and, most often, even business of local communities.

In many African Cultures, including the Igbo people, animals like gorillas are meaningful, either as symbols or for spiritual reasons. However, people can also see them as a threat or trouble, especially when human areas expand into where the animals live. Economic Aspects: During that time, hunting wasn't only for consumption and trade. The meat of wild animals, including gorillas, can make sales, or the animal parts can be used for traditional medicine or as souvenirs for colonial people.

In the early 20th century, they cut down trees and destroyed habitats because of colonial farming policies and cash crop plantations like palm oil. This kind of thing brings humans and gorillas close, causing more problems.

The colonial people had rules for protecting wildlife, which sometimes conflicted with local practices. However, the enforcement of these rules varies, and animal hunting is still common in local traditions.

This kind of event can cause different reactions in the community. The community might see the boys as brave or skillful or as breaking cultural rules if the gorillas are respected or protected by local customs. Depending on how things are, the boys might face community judgment or praise.

This small event represents the bigger story of how humans affect nature, which is part of a worldwide story in which colonial expansion causes big changes in nature. The Killing of the gorilla shows the start of more trouble between humans and nature in West Africa, where traditional ways of knowing and using nature meet with new, sometimes opposite, colonial ideas about land and resources.

It reminds us of how Ndi Igbo and wildlife interacted in history through culture, economy, and changes in the environment during colonial times in West Africa.

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.



Ozi Ikòrò

History worth reading.

African history · culture · indigenous knowledge
