

Origins and Migrations of the Enuani People of South Central Nigeria Reconsidered

E. N. Mordi and P. O. Opone***

Department of History & International Studies, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria

**GSM: 08036761418, *E-mail: emmanumordi@yahoo.com*

***GSM: 08037412132, **E-mail: pauloshag@yahoo.com*

KEYWORDS History. Inter-Group. Relations. Identity

ABSTRACT This paper is a micro study of the Enuani, a west Niger Igbo subgroup in South Central Nigeria. The study is based on oral traditions collected and documented from the area over time, supplemented with archival sources and local histories written by the people of the area. It identifies the people and area in question and examines the genesis and dynamics of conflicting claims about their origins as well as the forces that sustain them. In doing this, it hopes to shed more light on the vexed issue of Enuani ethno-cultural identity and to contribute to a deeper understanding of the state formation process in pre-colonial Nigeria. The paper concludes that given the various strands of primary, secondary and tertiary movements, which settled the Enuani area, wholesale attribution of their origin to one source or area is at variance with the reality on ground and with the evidence. The evidence and reality on ground point to mixed origins from Igboland east of the Niger, from already established settlements within or neighbouring Enuani area, from Benin, Igala and Yorubaland. There is also evidence of population movements from the area to people other areas, including Benin and Igboland east of the Niger.