

**Program:**

6-6:30: Reception

6:30-7:30: remarks by panel

- Brief introductions: Amb. Martin Indyk
- 6:30-6:45: Dr. John Paden
- 6:45-7:00: Amb. Princeton Lyman
- 7:00-7:20: Gen. Muhammadu Buhari

7:20-8:00: open discussion (co-moderators: Lyman & Gambari)

8:00-8:05: closing thanks by Amb. Indyk

8:05-8:30: book signing outside

## Remarks About the Book

Transitions from military to civilian rule are amongst the most trying -and often turbulent- stages of governance. In large and diverse countries, local values are key factors in the success or failure of such a process. The cultural contours of political values can make or break the democratic experiment. Thus, understanding grassroots civic cultures, and how they can serve as the foundations of democratic federalism, require great attention and study.

At the same time, the questions of whether and how Islam is compatible with democracy are not just an academic matter, but of crucial policy importance. However, while the focus of US attention on the Muslim world has been on the cauldron of the Middle East, such questions may best answered from the lived experiences of Muslim communities around the world.

Nigeria, set within the non-Arab Muslim communities of West Africa, is a critical case study to answering such questions. By far the largest country in Africa, Nigeria has a population of about 138 million, of whom about half are Muslim and half Christian or traditional, making it a key faultline. At the same time, Nigeria is one of the most strategically important states in the world. It plays a regional power role in West Africa and is also the seventh largest producer of oil in the world.

As our guide to understanding these dynamics, we are lucky to benefit from John Paden's *Muslim Civic Cultures and Conflict Resolution: The Challenge of Democratic Federalism in Nigeria*. Prof. Paden takes us inside the world of Nigerian religion and politics, with a focus on the ways Muslim civic cultures, ranging from the emirates of the far north to the more individualized patterns of the southwest, deal with matters of leadership and conflict resolution. The book provides a case study context for the current international concern with issues ranging from Shari'a law and communal violence, to the war on terrorism. More broadly, this book will be essential reading for anyone trying to understand the dynamics of Muslim civic cultures and conflict resolution. We are delighted that it is part of our new series at Brookings Institution Press on U.S. policy toward the Islamic world.

## **Panel Bios :**

Note: UN Secretary General (Kofi Annan) just called an emergency meeting for 5:30 PM today, and thus Undersecretary Gambari is unable to join and sends his deepest regrets.

Before beginning, I would also like to welcome the distinguished guests in the audience, including ambassador from Nigeria, Dr. George Obiozor.

### **Professor John N. Paden**

- Prof. Paden is currently the Clarence Robinson Professor of International Studies, and Professor of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University.
- A well published author with over seven books focusing on Africa and Nigeria, including *Religion and Political Culture in Kano* (winner of the Herskovits Prize) and *The African Experience* (four volumes)
- John has served as an international monitor for the Nigerian presidential elections in 1999 and 2003. He was also part of a team which helped plan the new Nigerian federal capital at Abuja.

### **Ambassador Princeton Lyman**

- Amb. Lyman is the former U.S. ambassador to South Africa and Nigeria and former assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs.
- Lyman served for over three decades in the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, completing his government service as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs.
- He is currently with the Council on Foreign Relations, directing a Council-sponsored Task Force on U.S. policy toward Africa.

### **General Muhammadu Buhari**

- Former head of state for Nigeria from 1983-1985 and was a presidential candidate in the 2003 Nigerian elections.
- General Buhari holds many awards and honors, holding 7 service medals and 3 honorary degrees, including one in Science and one in Law
- He is widely known for his integrity, trust, and patriotism. He is seen as a leading statesman in both Nigeria and beyond

**Topics speakers we would like the speakers to address:**

1. What should the priorities for U.S. Policy be towards the Nigeria, particularly the North?
2. What lessons can the rest of the Muslim world glean from the experience of Nigeria in its path to democracy?
3. With the 2007 elections just around the corner, what issues need to be focused on?