

Spiritual Beliefs

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Background Info

- Ibo religion is influenced by Christianity
- Ibo religion wasn't influenced by missions until 1847
- Many follow a syncretistic version of Christianity
- Polytheistic Religion, believed in multiple smaller gods throughout religion
- Believed in one supreme god
- Small group of Ibo Jews exist



Roles of Ancestors and Spirits

- Spirits were also considered as greater beings
- Some spirits are believed to be selfish, evil, and impersonal
- Spirits are personal to the person which the spirit is inhabited by
- People can keep their goodwill to spirits by treating them right
- Important Spirits: Mbaktu and Agwo (wealth) Aha Njoku(yam) Ikoro(drum spirit)
- People can use spirits and deities to gain strength and protection
- Spirits and Deities reflect people



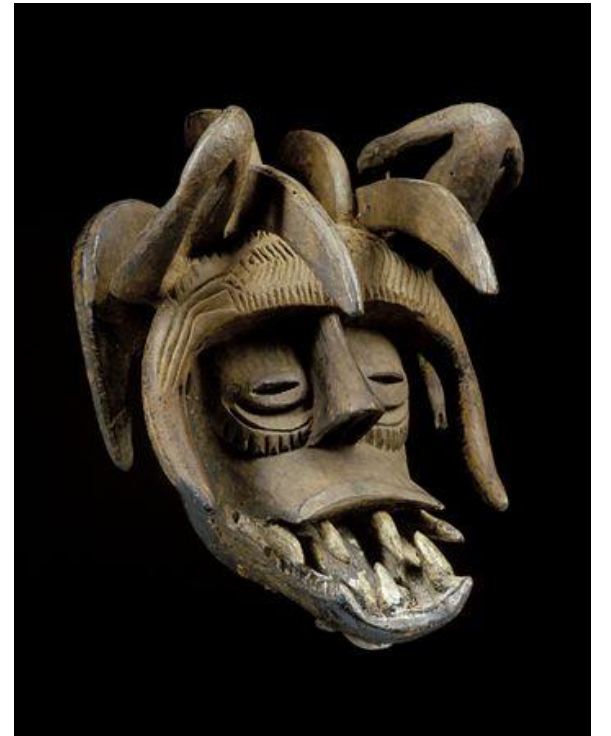
Supreme God

- Igbo believe that there is only one supreme being exists
- Ibo religion was polytheistic and believed in multiple gods
- Ibo's supreme god was a high god that was all good "source of good"
- Supreme God was "withdrawn" and got no direct sacrifices or shrines dedicated to his service
- Did not interfere with human affairs
- Creative role: Chi Okike



Concept of Chi

- Chi means the "Great Spirit" and is used to mention the high god
- Igbo people believe chi is the maker of the cosmos and minor gods
- According to traditional Igbo prayers Chi and the sun had a central connections
- Believed to inhabit every individual
- Every person's chi descends directly from god
- Sacrifices are made for Chi
- In a way is like a personal prophet



Religious Beliefs Regarding Death

- Believed that people who lived honest lives didn't die of illness and they deserved a full burial, where they could reincarnate
- Those who did die of illness would be believed to be inhabitant of a evil spirit
- After death you could either become an ancestor or reincarnate
- Happy spirits would have religious practices and ceremonies around them with offerings
- Sacrifices were made in order to protect from misfortune, forgiveness of sins and assistance



Citations

- Widjaja, Michael. "Igbo Language and Igbo Culture." *Igboguide.org*, www.igboguide.org/HT-chapter6.htm.
- "Igbo - Art & Life in Africa - The University of Iowa Museum of Art." *Art & Life in Africa - The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art*, africa.uima.uiowa.edu/peoples/show/Igbo.
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