



Beyond The Stream: Islam & Society In A West African Town

By Robert Launay

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The Dyula are Muslim traders who form a religious and ethnic minority in Koko, an urban neighborhood in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Although on the fringes of the Islamic world, for centuries they have maintained ties to the universal Islamic tradition while adapting their everyday religious rituals to their local context. Through a well-integrated analysis of the history and culture of the region, Launay evaluates the ways in which Muslims on the frontiers of the Islamic world define and redefine their beliefs, practices, and rituals as they face a series of challenges to Islam and what it means to "be Muslim." He elucidates the interaction among the universal Islamic tradition, anchored historically in the Arab Middle East; the local variations wrought by Islamic practice; and the profound, continual changes in the way Islam is lived, wherever it is professed.

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