

**Tradition VS Progress in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* , *Arrow of God* ,  
and *No Longer at Ease* : A Postcolonial Perspective**

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**Abstract**

This thesis discusses the theme of tradition versus progress in *Things Fall Apart* 1958, *No Longer at Ease* 1960 and *Arrow of God* 1964 by Chinua Achebe within the theoretical framework of postcolonial theory. Leading critics have recently questioned the acclaimed place of Achebe's early works within African literature. Novels that were once celebrated for their reclaiming of precolonial culture have now been condemned as works beholden to the idea of Western modernity. This thesis rereads *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer at Ease*, and *Arrow of God* as three components of a cohesive project that problematizes the dichotomy of tradition/modernity, revealing Achebe's particularly Igbo dedication to dialogue and boundary crossing. Throughout these works, Achebe is preoccupied with the issue of leadership in changing times. The figure of the elder exhibited a concept of power as selfless service, controlling and moderating disruptive forces in precolonial civilization. The trilogy depicts the gradual demise of that function and the rise of the colonial bureaucracy. Without a doubt, this loss is crucial to the novels' conveyed tragedy. However, the thesis contends that they also demonstrate a constant, creative spirit of adaptability in the society shown by Achebe.

Key Words: Postcolonial , Tradition , Progress , Conflict , Igbo People, Achebe