

# Replication, Scission, and Territory among the Rukuba (Nigeria)\*

JEAN-CLAUDE MULLER

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This contribution shall deal first with the establishment of new Rukuba villages out of an initial hiving off process from the 'parent' village, and, second, with the scission from the 'parent' village of some groups of people that went to settle within another village's territory.

Rukuba society does not readily fall into one or the other of the main categories of recognized political structures found among agriculturalists in Africa. Rukuba society is neither a society based on lineages (FORTES 1953; MIDDLETON and TAIT 1958), nor a kingdom (FORTES and EVANS-PRITCHARD 1940: *passim*). Similarly, Rukuba society cannot be put into any of the subsequent categories mentioned by MIDDLETON and TAIT (1958: 3), namely government by age-grades or age-sets or government by village councils and/or associations.

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