Burgess and McCain focus on the status and role of Christian communities in central and northern Nigeria in the face of violence and discrimination. In the core northern states where Shari'a law is enforced, Christians face severe restrictions on religious practice and vigilante violence. In the border region, they confront widespread destruction of church property and extensive killings at the hands of the Boko Haram insurgency. While these attacks have led some Christian youth to lash out in reprisals against Muslims, Christian leaders have undertaken creative initiatives of conflict prevention, interfaith dialogue, and peacemaking. In addition, churches remain extensively involved in ministries of assistance to widows and orphans, healthcare, development projects, skills training, and micro-enterprises. Repression and violence have generally sparked increasing political engagement by Christians, though in some contexts insecurity has led to evacuation and a diminished Christian presence.