

HISTORY AND HISTORICAL SOURCES OF THE BULSA (NORTHERN GHANA)

Volume 1

Edited by Franz Kröger

2025

HISTORY AND HISTORICAL SOURCES OF THE BULSA (NORTHERN GHANA)

Volume 2

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Preface

It is somewhat unusual to produce two volumes on “Bulsa History and Historical Sources” consisting of quotations, copies and scans. It is intended not so much as a new publication, but as an unprinted reference work. Therefore, and also because of the big number of texts, it was not possible to contact all the authors for permission to quote their works.

The following groups were envisaged as the expected readership:

- 1) scholars, especially historians and ethnologists specializing in the Bulsa,
- 2) educated Bulsa and neighbouring groups.

Frequent visits and extensive comments on historical posts in Bulsa social media groups reveal that most of the educated Bulsa are extremely interested in the history of their own ethnic group. However, their access to essays and books that have not been uploaded on the internet is very limited, so the two volumes presented here may fill a gap.

In line with the somewhat unusual edition of the texts, a few comments regarding form and content are appropriate here.

- a) Form: With regard to the external form of the texts, for example in the spelling of Buli words, the form of quotations, headings, footnotes and so on, it was not possible to achieve consistency. Since the final page count for the entire volume was not determined until later, other types of structure were considered. I decided to use the alphabetical bibliography as the table of contents, too. For users looking for literature on a specific topic or era, an index-like list was added.
- b) Contents: The terms “history” and “historical” were used here in a very wide sense. Economic development, social changes, the history of the Christian Churches etc., have been included.

Some excerpts refer to important events of Bulsa history, some appear to be a little trivial (eg. in the article “Events”) and are more suited to give colour to other sober, matter-of-fact texts. The collection concentrates on published and unpublished secondary historical sources. In Ghana primary sources can mainly be found in the National Archives of Ghana (NAG) in Accra, in Britain in the National Archives of the U.K. (Kew, Greater London). Part of them I have edited on the website <https://Buluk.de/new> (>Bulsa History > Archives).

For some articles it will perhaps be necessary for the reader to obtain the complete original sources for his scholarly researches to better understand the context.

The selection of texts is somewhat arbitrary. It is limited by the editor's accessibility to available texts. Many Bulsa regret that there are a lot of manuscripts that have not yet been published, for example exam papers, rough drafts of articles and so on.

I hope that the collection of sources offered here will be frequently used for works on Bulsa history and will help acquiring a deeper understanding of Bulsa history and culture.

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