

Should the Xhosa male initiation be abolished?

Abstract

The Xhosa male initiation practice, as it was viewed in the past, is discussed by focusing on its impact upon the initiates, its contribution to the moral upholding of values and its role in promoting the values of *'ubuntu'*. The present circumstances surrounding the initiation practice are also evaluated. The outcry of Church and other leaders, who are calling for the practice to be abolished, is recognized. The author asserts that, because of the importance of this practice to Xhosa culture, calling for its abolition is not a solution. It is suggested that the practice rather be redefined to better contribute to the broader challenges of moral regeneration in South Africa.

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