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**ETHNICITY, REGIONALISM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WAR OF ALICE AUMA
LAKWENA IN UGANDA, 1986 TO 1988**

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Abstract

This article analyzes the rise and fall of the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) of Alice Auma Lakwena from the perspective of ethnicity and regionalism in the politics of Uganda. It is a departure from popular views that the HSM was a religious organization in pursuit of spiritual revival. The author conducted interviews in northern and eastern Uganda, attended Lakwena's burial and reviewed a lot of literature on ethnicity and militarism in Uganda, with particular interest on the war in northern part of the country. He contends that ethnic and regional divides in Uganda were responsible for the rise and collapse of the HSM rebellion and that the HSM was intimately bound up with Acholi's perception of their societal and ethnic identity.

Key words: Ethnicity, Regionalism, Identity, Military, Ethnocracy, Acholi
