Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s acclaimed second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2006), presents characters thrown in the tumultuous years of the Biafran war in the 1960s which broke out soon after Nigeria gained independence from Great Britain. The title refers to the flag of the short-lived Republic of Biafra, the rising sun becoming a symbol of incompleteness and division. Divided into four parts, the novel depicts lives of the main characters coming from disparate backgrounds who painfully experience the burden of difference. One of the characters, a historian and engaged academic teacher, criticizes the eurocentric dominance of the academic debate and triumphs that the hegemony of the British Empire is over. Little does he realize, however, that the colonial centre corrupts long after the official power has waned. Political conflict breaks out between the Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa and Fulani people. Adichie depicts a world of conflicting cultures where identity is endowed with negative properties. Combative confrontations between various ethnic groups turn into atrocious acts of violence. The idealized future never materializes: the post-colonial world, impatiently awaited by Nigerians, brings tension, violence and bitter ethnic struggle. Many of the issues raised by Adichie’s novel, which offers a powerful re-examining of the historical past, are still present today.