



**Dr. Akin Ogundiran.** “Towns and States in Rainforest West Africa,” in *Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology* (Oxford University Press, 2013), Peter Mitchell and Paul Lane, eds., pp. 855–869. The essay offers a new interpretation of the origins of cities and states in the West African rainforest. Using the results of new archaeological finds in Nigeria and Ghana especially, he shows not only that cities and kingdoms flourished in the rainforest belt of West Africa during the second half of the first millennium A.D., but that these urban centers and states were founded on the principles of community building and cosmopolitanism. The essay offers new evidence and interpretation that debunks the “tribal model” of African history.