

# Germany returns Benin Bronzes to Nigeria

Around 1,100 priceless artefacts are to be handed back, more than a century after they were looted by British soldiers from a once-powerful kingdom in west Africa

## BENIN BRONZES

Thousands of brass, bronze and ivory sculptures and carvings stolen by British colonial expedition from royal palace of **Kingdom of Benin** – present-day Nigeria – in 1897

Following auctions at start of 20th century, bronzes ended up in museums and private collections in Europe and North America



▲ Relief plaque depicting king (oba) and four attendants (16th century), from Ethnological Museum in Berlin

British Museum, which holds largest collection (900 Benin Bronzes), claims it is prevented by UK law from returning them



Bronzes to be housed in forthcoming  
**Edo Museum of West African Art  
(EMOWAA)** in Benin City



Pictures: Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ethnologisches Museum / Claudia Obrocki; Adjaye Associates

Sources: DW, BBC, *Empires to Remember* by Leonhard Harding

© GRAPHIC NEWS