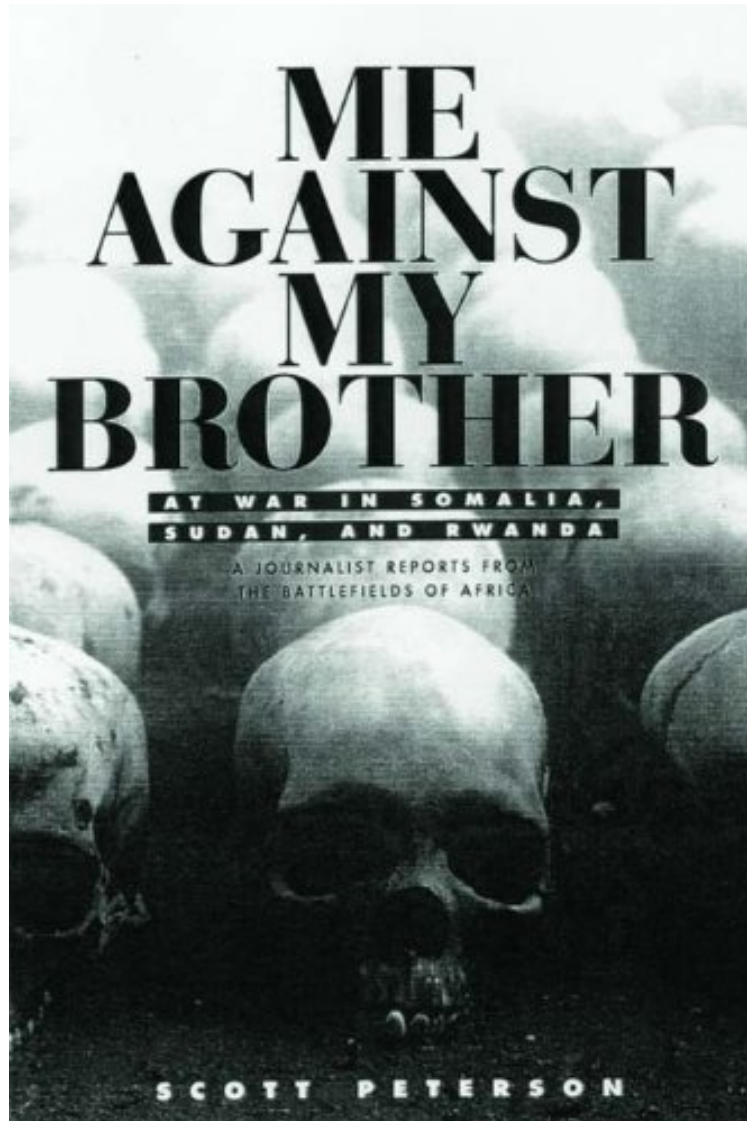


(Free download) Me Against My Brother: At War in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda

Me Against My Brother: At War in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda

Von *Scott Peterson, Scott Peterson*
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Von Scott Peterson, Scott Peterson : Me Against My Brother: At War in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Me Against My Brother: At War in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Collapse Of A ContinentVon GaryWhat can be said about Africa? Can slavery and colonialism provide sufficient explanation for the butchery and systemic collapse we see there today? The answers are unclear, but Me Against My Brother provides yet another chilling account of the implosion of Sub-Saharan Africa, in this case through a war-

correspondent's view of recent and ongoing mayhem in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda. The book also provides an excellent overview of the West's fumbling, well-intentioned and frequently counter-productive efforts to relieve the massive suffering, most of which is the direct result of tribal conflict, the deliberate engineering of famine by African warlords, and the manipulation of international relief organizations by clans hell-bent on extermination. The story of Western intervention in these conflicts should be required reading for all advocates of humanitarian assistance. The United States, after a misguided, frequently incompetent and murderous fiasco in Somalia, not only disengaged from such pursuits, but actively discouraged other Western nations from intervening in Rwanda, just as the Hutu were sharpening their machetes against the Tutsi. When the RPF invaded from Uganda, ending the mindless slaughter and creating a Hutu exodus out of Rwanda, the West saw only another refugee crisis and proceeded to feed and REARM the Hutu killers, hiding in all too-familiar style behind a human shield of starving and truly innocent Hutus. So, 50 years after the Holocaust in Europe, which we are constantly lectured never to forget, which must never be allowed to happen again, the West not only ignores one of the largest genocides of the Century, but actively feeds and rearms the killers afterwards. The reaction to Rwanda was probably instrumental in our murderous involvement in the former Yugoslavia. This is policy as reaction and counter-reaction, evolving towards...what? Finally, the story of Sudan is perhaps the most chilling of all in its implications for Africa's future. Originally a justified revolt of the South against a harsh and (again) homicidal Islamic government in the North, the Southern resistance splits and re-splits along tribal lines, each clan staging the usual massacres of innocents, herding them through the desert to attract food-relief, most of which goes to feed the armies. Multiply these stories throughout Africa, mix in AIDs and rampant corruption, then ask yourself: can Africa survive? Personally, I think the answer is no. For anyone interested in the collapse of civilizations, I highly recommend this book.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beautifully Written but with Disturbing Moral EquivalencyVon Ein KundeI'm about one fourth of the way through this frightening and disturbing book. I commend the author for writing about his experiences and salute his writing skills. But...I'm a little disturbed at the constant application of moral equivalency between the United States and United Nations' actions in Somalia and those of the Somali gunmen. I accept that the US and UN made grave mistakes in Somalia, mistakes that cost at least several thousand lives. But these mistakes pale in comparison to the crimes committed by the Somalis, particularly by the likes of General Aidid. I find it particularly offensive when the author alleges that American soldiers, in the wake of a helicopter attack on a house occupied by Aidid's top advisors, shot survivors without mercy. That is a very grave allegation, and the author never tries to substantiate it. Another thing the author should have stressed about the Somalia debacle is the fact that the Somali gunmen were the ones who drew first blood. They were the ones who killed --and mutilated! -- twenty-five Pakistani peacekeepers in July 1993. Yet the author blames the UN's decision to go after Aidid and not the other clans for causing this hideous act. His thesis is that if the UN had gone after all the clans and tried to make them disarm, the Somalis would have accepted it. Maybe. And maybe there still would have been violence. And maybe in this book the author would have condemned that decision to go after all the clans as being too ambitious. Maybe. Bottom line: a very good read if you go in realizing it is the epitome of "Monday morning quarterbacking"0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well worth reading irrespective of policy beliefsVon Oliver ChubbMr Peterson does an amazing job of bringing the reader to an understanding of the tragedy that occurred in the three countries that he focuses upon Somalia, Rwanda and Sudan)but he does so without pushing the reader over the edge into compassion fatigue. His book is also extremely useful for understanding some of what actually happened at the time; for the first time I actually have an understanding of the dynamic that existed between the Tutsi and Hutus. His inclusion of Sudan is remarkable and notable given that it is one of the most overlooked conflicts in American eyes, yet well worth understanding. Mr Peterson also makes clear the paradox that relief agencies face in alleviating suffering when their efforts can actually prolong conflict. The excellent writing was the only thing that kept me going through the more emotionally disturbing sections. Finally, the photo insert, while unsettling, was an extremely important addition to the whole experience of reading the book.

KurzbeschreibungAs a foreign correspondent, Scott Peterson witnessed firsthand Somalia's descent into war and its battle against US troops, the spiritual degeneration of Sudan's Holy War, and one of the most horrific events of the last half century: the genocide in Rwanda. In *Me Against My Brother*, he brings these events together for the first time to record a collapse that has had an impact far beyond African borders. In Somalia, Peterson tells of harrowing experiences of clan conflict, guns and starvation. He met with warlords, observed death intimately and nearly lost his own life to a Somali mob. From ground level, he documents how the US-UN relief mission devolved into all out war - one that for America has proven to be the most formative post-Cold War debacle. In Sudan, he journeys where few correspondents have ever been, on both sides of that religious front line, to find that outside "relief" has only prolonged war. In Rwanda, his first-person experience of the genocide and well-documented analysis provide rare insight into this human tragedy. Filled with the dust, sweat and powerful detail of real-life, *Me Against My Brother* graphically illustrates how preventive action and a better understanding of Africa - especially by the US - could have

averted much suffering. Also includes a 16-page color insert..deSomalia dominates more than half of this shocking account, and well it might, for without the fall-out from the American intervention, the genocide in another, Rwanda, may have been averted. It's a shuddering thought, and utterly condemnatory of American foreign policy in Africa, a point which Scott Peterson, newspaper correspondent and photographer, is at pains to narrate. The manner in which "God's Work" was executed was appalling. Defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory with a display of arrogance and incompetence beyond moral or political mandate, turning a mercy mission into an aggressive situation, peace-keeping into peace-enforcement. As a result of Bloody Monday in Mogadishu in 1993 (part of Operation Restore Hope), in which he nearly lost his life (four other Western journalists subsequently did, along with at least 54 Somalis), Peterson believes that US Admiral Jonathan Howe could, should, have been charged with war crimes. That he wasn't is at the heart of why the Americans will not sign up for an international criminal court. In the civil war of Sudan, Peterson found the most depressing malaise. More people had died (1.5m) in the Sudanese war than in Bosnia and Somalia combined, as the barren North fought the lush South, Arab arrayed against Christian, with famine snapping at their heels. Life is cheap, but food is dear, especially when aid unflinchingly reaches only the mouths of the oppressors. The 1994 Rwandan massacre saw about half, maybe two thirds, of the number of casualties, but the rate of killing was five times greater than even the Nazis managed fifty years before. Extremist Hutus armed themselves with machetes and hacked their way, with Old Testament vengeance, through their Tutsi neighbours and moderate Hutus, while members of the UN Security Council fell over themselves to avoid terming it "genocide". Peterson's anger is palpable, and his eloquent, well-paced analysis, based on innumerable interviews as well as his own experiences, refuses to draw a veil over the horror. Meticulously researched, haunting, and urgent; if journalism is the first draft of history, then Scott Peterson's testimony makes a harrowing yet invaluable contribution. --David Vincent.co.uk

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