

The book's main contribution is empirical research that supports and supplements existing knowledge on health and well-being, not an authoritative account of this subject matter.

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Life Laid Bare: the survivors in Rwanda speak by JEAN HATZFELD,
translated by LINDA COVERDALE

New York: Other Press, 2006. Pp. 244, US \$14.95 (pb).

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The author, an international reporter, has written three books on post-genocide Rwanda. *Machete Season: the killers in Rwanda speak* looks at the 1994 genocide from the perspective of incarcerated Hutu suspects; *La Stratégie des Antilopes* describes the situation in Rwanda after the government released 40,000 Hutu involved in the genocide from prison. The present book, originally published in French in 2000, consists of statements by fourteen Tutsi who witnessed the horrors and brutalities of the genocide, but miraculously survived it.

Hatzfeld gathered the survivors' statements in the 1990s from Tutsi living in the town and district of Nyamata, an area south of Kigali where Hutu slaughtered five out of six Tutsi. Two of the mass murders took place in churches where thousands of Tutsi had sought refuge. The statements came from ten females, aged 17–45, and four males, aged 12–60. Most had lived and socialised with Hutu before April 1994, and none suspected that Hutu neighbours would turn on them so viciously. Actually, most of the brutality was inflicted by the *interahamwe*, young Hutu men who, armed with government-supplied machetes, gleefully hunted down and slashed their Tutsi victims so as to cause maximum suffering.

Hatzfeld probably worked from an interview schedule because certain themes are addressed by almost all the survivors. One is the interviewees' own explanation for the genocide. Most attributed the cause in significant part to greed. 'On April 10 [1994] ... some neighboring Hutus came to our house ... to order us out, because they wanted to take it over ...' (fourteen-year-old male, p. 49). Two male teachers stressed the Hutu farmers' desire for scarce farmland. A female farmer claimed that the Hutu agreed to exterminate Tutsi 'so that they could loot their houses, ride their bicycles, eat their cows' (p. 88). Another male teacher stressed that the *interahamwe* began by attacking prosperous Tutsi businessmen, 'because even from the start they were preoccupied with getting rich' (p. 97).

A 25-year-old female shopkeeper offered a different explanation: 'it's our physiognomy that is the root of the problem: our longer muscles, our more delicate features, our proud carriage' (p. 41). However, a forty-year-old female shopkeeper rejected all of the above explanations. She could find no rational reasons why the Hutu, with whom she and other Tutsi shared so much in life, 'suddenly went on a rampage like wild beasts' (p. 130).

Forgiveness and justice were two additional themes discussed. Some of the survivors wanted those involved in the genocide to confess and ask relatives of murdered Tutsi for forgiveness, even though they said they could not forgive. Most demanded justice; they wanted the *genocidaires* to undergo some appropriate

punishment. Practically all said their ability to trust others was lost or markedly diminished. A few were worried that genocide could reoccur.

With its sobering first-person accounts, this book complements the many social scientific analyses of the Rwandan genocide. It presents the human perspective that only those who experienced the unimaginable horrors of Rwanda's hell can offer.

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Peacekeeping in Sierra Leone: the story of UNAMSIL by FUNMI OLONISAKIN

Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008. Pp. 205, US \$49.95 (pb).

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This lively narrated story of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone includes a wealth of insight and information on the key challenges and opportunities that the mission has faced since its inception. After the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front signed the Lomé Peace Agreement on 7 July 1999, the UN deployed peacekeepers alongside the ECOMOG troops to supervise the ceasefire agreement and the disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of the factions' combatants. In the book's initial part, Olonisakin sheds light on the serious flaws in UNAMSIL's initial deployment. Certain national contingents lacked adequate logistics and communication equipment, or a proper understanding of the range of tasks required in order to implement the mission's mandate. Moreover, the Nigerian military observers of UNAMSIL were reluctant to cooperate with the Indian Force Commander Vijay Jetley; this was because, even though Nigeria had sacrificed many lives in peace enforcement tasks in Sierra Leone, the international community did not grant the Nigerian military contingent a leading role in UNAMSIL. As a result, the relationship between the Indian and Nigerian elements of the mission became tense, only to worsen when Jetley accused Nigerian peacekeepers of connivance with the RUF mining activities. Olonisakin sheds positive light on the Nigerian military presence in Sierra Leone, whilst underlining the lack of political skills of the outspoken Jetley. This crisis was eventually resolved with the withdrawal of the Indian contingent, but the mission's internal problems were keenly exploited by the RUF, who took hundreds of peacekeepers as hostages. At this stage, the popularity of UNAMSIL amongst the people of Sierra Leone was at its lowest point, and in the local press acronyms like U-NASTY were common.

Paradoxically, the May 2000 hostage crisis was a turning point which paved the way for a modification of UNAMSIL's mandate, and the implementation of an innovative stick and carrots approach. The appointment of Richard Holbrooke as US Permanent Representative to the United Nations was key to securing the release of US funds for UNAMSIL, and the UK military presence 'over-the-horizon' proved to be an effective strategy to deter spoilers of the peace process. At the UN headquarters, a panel chaired by Lakhdar Brahimi on UN peacekeeping reform was instrumental in underlining the need for peace enforcement to deal with spoilers, and UNAMSIL subsequently conducted successfully coordinated peace enforcement operations. Last but not least, the