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Book Note

Khadiagala, Gilbert M. ed. 2006. *Security Dynamics in Africa's Great Lakes Region*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. xii + 231pp. ISBN 1-58826-419-X (hb), ISBN 1-58826-444-0 (pb). Price \$49.95 (hb), \$19.95 (pb).

Reviewed by Bjørn Møller [14 May 2007]

This book explores security and other links among African Great Lakes states (Rwanda, Burundi, the DR Congo, and Uganda) as well as the role played by external actors such as Belgium, France, the United States, South Africa, and the United Nations. The book is introduced by an article by Filip Reyntjens on Rwanda's slide toward authoritarianism since its 1994 genocide. Although a renowned expert on the Great Lakes, the author's credibility suffers from his unmistakable anti-Tutsi bias. Seeking to attribute blame for the genocide evenly between the two ethnic groups, he misses that it was obviously an attempt by Hutu extremists to annihilate the Tutsi minority. The article is recycled, previously appearing in *African Affairs* and almost simultaneously in an anthology on *The Political Economy of the Great Lakes Region in Africa* edited in 2005 by Stefaan Marysse and himself (see separate review of that book on the EPSJ web site).

René Lemarchand reviews Burundi's peace process against the background of genocide (in 1972) and civil war (since 1993) and against the constant conflict in its northern neighbor, Rwanda. On account of persistent involvement by the international community, he is reasonably optimistic about prospects for lasting peace following the implementation of the Arusha Accords, a referendum on a new constitution, and the holding of democratic elections.

Mwesiga Baregu provides an analysis of the sequence of civil wars and foreign interventions in the DR Congo. Even though he is correct in labeling the intervention by Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe as a collective security operation under SADC provisions, this is only part of the story. For example, the author fails to mention the well-documented economic exploitation of the Congo, particularly by Zimbabwe's military and political elite. This point is, however, scrutinized by Gérard Prunier in his chapter on the economic dimensions of the Congo war, in which he states that "Zimbabwe ... intervened on the government's side purely for economic reasons" (p. 109). Rwanda and Uganda participated in the looting of Congo's riches as well. Even the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA (in collaboration with Uganda) took part in the sport, dismantling an entire electric power plant in order to transport it to southern Sudan and reassemble it (*sic*). (In contrast, neither Angola nor Namibia supported Kabila's government for overt economic reasons.) Despite this looting, Prunier is unsure about "the bottom line" as far as Rwanda and Uganda are concerned; both spent a lot on and gained a lot from the war, but the net effect is not known.

Chris Landsberg's chapter looks at South Africa's role in furthering peace in Burundi and Congo (e.g., via the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the subsequent deployment of peacekeepers). Although not engaged in illegal activities, Pretoria was not driven by purely altruistic motives but rather by a wish to promote peace and stability as a precondition for its trade and investments in the region. Adekeye Adebajo provides a critical survey of the U.N.'s role in the various conflicts in the region ever since the messy deployment of peacekeepers to the conflict in the Congo in 1960.

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