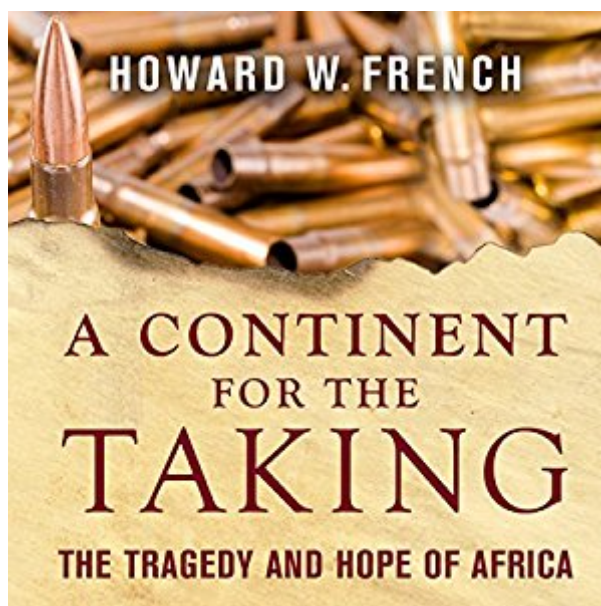


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A Continent For The Taking: The Tragedy And Hope Of Africa



Synopsis

In *A Continent for the Taking*, Howard W. French, a veteran correspondent for The New York Times, gives a compelling firsthand account of some of Africa's most devastating recent history - from the fall of Mobutu Sese Seko, to Charles Taylor's arrival in Monrovia, to the genocide in Rwanda and the Congo that left millions dead. Blending eyewitness reportage with rich historical insight, French searches deeply into the causes of today's events, illuminating the debilitating legacy of colonization and the abiding hypocrisy and inhumanity of both Western and African political leaders. While he captures the tragedies that have repeatedly befallen Africa's peoples, French also opens our eyes to the immense possibility that lies in Africa's complexity, diversity, and myriad cultural strengths. The culmination of 25 years of passionate exploration and understanding, this is a powerful and ultimately hopeful book about a fascinating and misunderstood continent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent documentation, and reads like a novel. The first-person style really puts you on the scene. A more accessible book than others on the same subject, where the overabundance of details and references make them confusing and tiresome.

Few people in the West understand the impact of colonization on indigenous people. World powers drew lines between neighbors, and brought their conflicts to the continent to play out in proxy. The fragmentation of their lands will be healing for a long time.

Africa is a continent that the west has ignored. French's volume provides an intimate introduction to some of the problems faced in Africa. More importantly, the book provides an outstanding critique of how the complacency of the west has contributed to the problems that Africa faces. Perhaps this volume will contribute to a more open and honest dialogue about the moral responsibility that Europe and the United States have to counter the exploitation of the continent. But what I like most about French's volume is that it is told from the first person perspective. You know his biases and his emotions. But you also know his commitment to seeing justice in Africa. An excellent book.

This book, combined with "The Shadow of the Sun" by Ryszard Kapuscinski illuminates a part of the world that most Americans who think they follow current events well (like myself?) really don't know much about. I recommend reading the Kapuscinski book first as it will give you a better understanding of the events related in Mr. French's book. Both are excellent and worth reading to understand what happens in Africa.

Howard French done a great job of informing us on the history and challenges of the governments and people of Africa. Would recommend it to all who care to be educated.

Fantastic book. Through personal anecdotes linked to historical fact, French elegantly summarizes the political/economic/human condition in Africa.

The book was great. A bit confusing at the end with so many names, and tribes and countries (new names and old).

Concise book. A very personal account of French's experience but included useful historical context. Enjoyed reading the book immensely and would recommend it to anyone looking for a current account of political affairs in Africa.

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