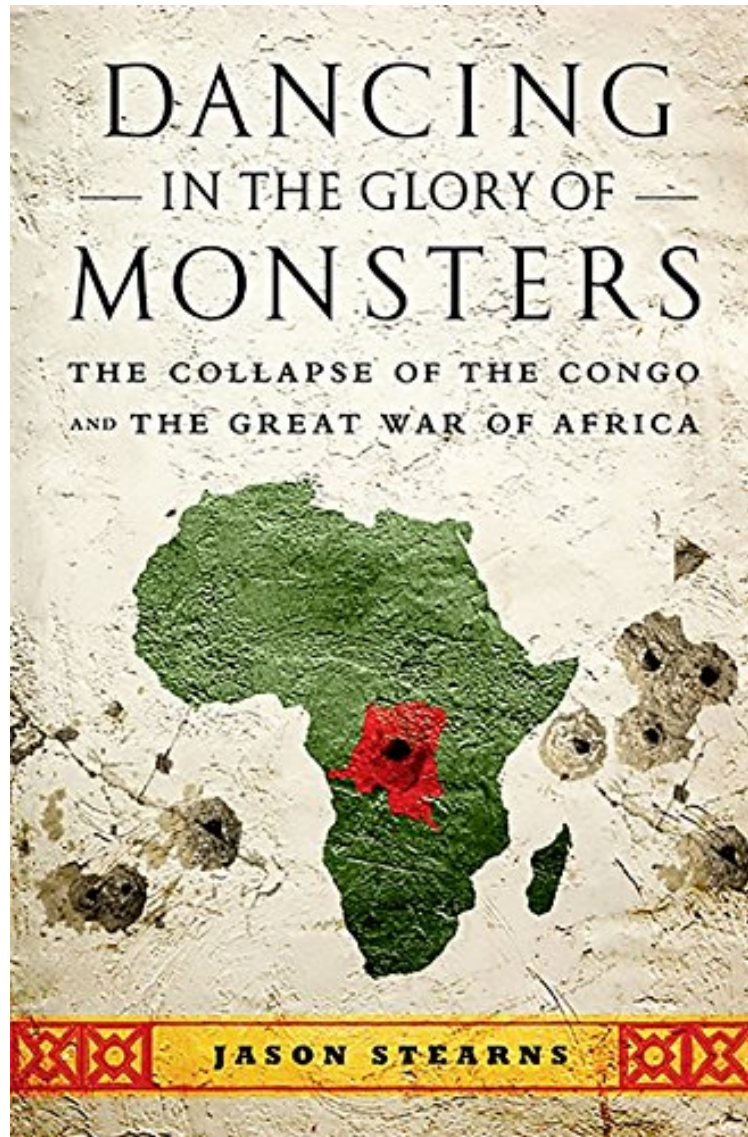


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Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa

Jason Stearns

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#30838 in Books Jason Stearns 2012-03-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 1.25 x 5.50l, .90 #File Name: 1610391071416 pagesDancing in the Glory of Monsters The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa | File size: 21.Mb

Jason Stearns : Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. worthwhile read
By Benji
A really useful background book to understanding the complexities of the terrible ongoing strife in the DRC. Very well researched and written in a very easy-to-read style, it offers personal accounts of the war from all sides. Disappointing that the sexual violence, an issue DRC has become infamous for, warranted only a few lines, with a dire lack of interviews of women and survivors. Also, books that give historical and socio-political backgrounds should not always bow to the pressure to come up with recommendations. That part of the book came across as a hurried simplistic section which could have been left out without compromising the rest of the book.
An important read nonetheless for anyone trying to unravel the complexities of the Great Lakes region and the role of African countries and the international players in this ongoing tragedy.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important insight into the complexities of this vast African ...
By Hamish
An important insight into the complexities of this vast African country at war with itself. It is more than just about the brutality and exploitation of former colonial masters, the book brings home the horrific violence that the various tribal groupings continue to exercise on each other. This book helps one appreciate the humanitarian work being done by a handful of dedicated people and the well-nigh impossible task facing international peacekeepers in a huge complex country with few roads, a broken railway system and endemic disease.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A deep dive into the history of the DRC
By JazzLover7
I didn't know what I was getting into when I purchased book. It is complex but engaging. But it held me to the end. If you care about Africa, here's a great book that gives you an idea of what happened.

A Best Book of the Year- The Economist the Wall Street Journal
At the heart of Africa is the Congo, a country the size of Western Europe, bordering nine other nations, that since 1996 has been wracked by a brutal war in which millions have died. In *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*, renowned political activist and researcher Jason K. Stearns has written a compelling and deeply-reported narrative of how Congo became a failed state that collapsed into a war of retaliatory massacres. Stearns brilliantly describes the key perpetrators, many of whom he met personally, and highlights the nature of the political system that brought these people to power, as well as the moral decisions with which the war confronted them. Now updated with a new introduction, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters* tells the full story of Africa's Great War.

“Covering the devastating effects of these deadly contests on the Congolese infrastructure, Congolese institutions, and people's lives, Stearns informatively reports on affairs for students of African politics.”
Booklist “He is a cracking writer, with a wry sense of understatement... Mr. Stearns has spoken to everyone—villagers, child soldiers, Mobutu's commanders, Kabila's ministers, Rwandan intelligence officers. In these conversations he found gold, bringing clarity—and humanity—to a place that usually seems inexplicable and barbaric. ‘Dancing in the Glory of Monsters’ is riveting and certain to become essential reading for anyone looking to understand Central Africa.” -Wall Street Journal
“Stearns is more concerned with the perceptions, motivations, and actions of an eclectic mix of actors in the conflict—from a Tutsi warlord who engaged in massive human rights violations to a Hutu activist turned refugee living in the camps and forests of eastern Congo. He tells their stories with a judicious mix of empathy and distance, linking them to a broader narrative of a two-decade-long conflict that has involved a dozen countries and claimed six million victims.” -Foreign Affairs
“The best account [of the conflict in the Congo] so far.... The task facing anyone who tries to tell this whole story is formidable, but Stearns by and large rises to it.” —Adam Hochschild, New York Times Book “[A] tour de force, though not for the squeamish.” —Washington Post
“This is a serious book about the social and political forces behind one of the most violent clashes of modern times—as well as a damn good read.” —Economist
“[P]erhaps the best account of the most recent conflict in the Congo.” —Foreign Policy
“A serious, admirably balanced account of the crisis and the political and social forces behind it... perhaps the most accessible, meticulously researched, and comprehensive overview of the Congo crisis yet.” —Financial Times
“Impressively controlled account of the devastating Congo war... The book's greatest strength is the eyewitness dialogue; Stearns discusses his encounters with everyone from major military figures to residents of remote villages (he was occasionally suspected of being a CIA spy)... An important examination of a social disaster that seems both politically complex and cruelly senseless.” -Kirkus