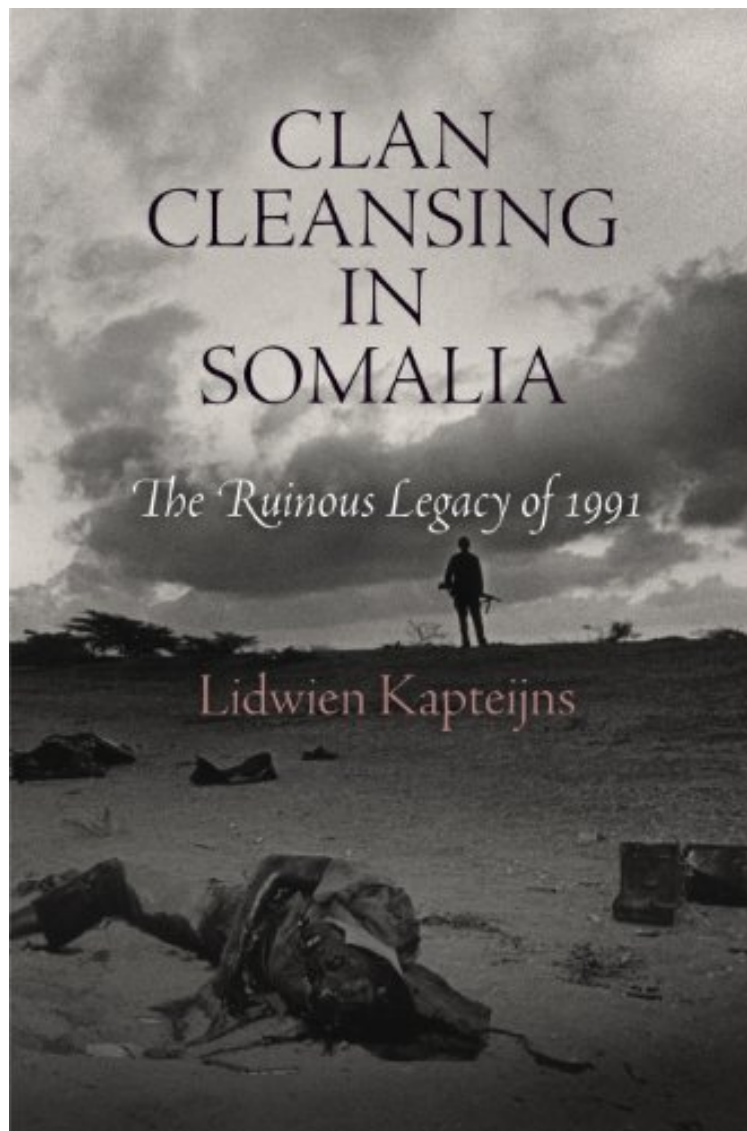


(Download pdf ebook) Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Legacy of 1991 (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights)

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Von Lidwien Kapteijns

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Von Lidwien Kapteijns : Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Legacy of 1991 (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Legacy of 1991 (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant

study in support of introspection and reconciliation

Von Alfred J. Kwak

On the 17th of January 2013, US Foreign Secretary Hillary Clinton and the newly-elected president of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced that the USA recognized a newly-formed Somali government for the first time since 1991. But in the same week the Somali al-Shabaab movement apparently executed a French national they held since 2009, after French efforts to free him failed. Where does Somalia stand now? Readers like me know little about the collapse of Somalia in 1991, its long gestation and horrific aftermath, except for dramatic TV-footage or novelist Nuruddin Farah's two trilogies about his country of birth. The novel 'Human Love' (2006) by Russian-born, French author Andre Makine (AM) is another book linking fiction with history. His brilliant novel about the Cold War in Africa is supposedly written by a nameless KGB-near Soviet journalist. In its final 30+ pages, he pictures the surge of rebellion against the weakened Somali strongman Syad Barre. AM writes about lengthy, failed Soviet negotiations with members of the Manifesto group to bring about an organized, bloodless transition. In his novel they are said to have been willing to sign a pact with anyone, the USSR, America, the Devil, anyone who would most quickly provide most arms and most funding. And that they came across as insecure of themselves, not tough enough and that soon the real warlords would make themselves felt, men who would not have their hesitations. And adding that neither SU nor US intelligence had a clue about what was happening... Who made up this Manifesto group and who were these real warlords? Dr. Lidwien Kapteijns answers these and many other questions in a carefully-researched study about the dramatic years of 1991-2, examining their historical roots and immediate aftermath. She states her objectives in a strongly-worded Introduction, which some readers may find rather abstract. But the conceptual framework is applied rigorously throughout the study and turns out to really make good sense. By studying Somali poetry, a core cultural tradition, she succeeds in getting a grip on the myths preceding the fall of Barre in 1991. And also, but more discreetly, on its role during the clan-based warfare and the intense suffering of non-combatants which continues to the present day, despite the hopeful signs shown at the start of this review. Another major objective of her study is to convince and offer evidence to opinion leaders in Somalia and in the worldwide Somali diaspora that what happened in 1991 was not a freak incident, but a planned, albeit not inevitable event. Her reconstruction is based on a wide range of available, more or less credible sources, with each assertion carefully backed by sources. Her claim that the assault on Mogadishu was engineered and that its planning had deep roots in earlier state violence against selected parts of its own people, is convincing and backed by numerous sources. In 1991, Somalia was viewed as having a single language, culture and faith, with a mythical forefather whose male children formed clans and sub-clans. The clans and their interaction were Dr. Kapteijns' main units of study; only outsiders like this reader deplore the absence of a diagram showing the clans' position relative to each other. Understandably, only a few examples of hate-narratives and other incendiary statements are included. Her book is based on tons of carefully-chosen data, using different genres of Somali poetry sparingly and in a non-confrontational manner, but to great effect; she has combed the Somali blogosphere, the written press and press releases from Somali and other radio stations and has interviewed eye-witnesses of the events in 1991 in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Yemen and in the Western diaspora in person or by telephone. Dr. Kapteijns tells a complicated story backed by an awesome body of evidence for a work aimed at reconciliation, with many cross-cutting issues and plenty of intelligent questions asked and moral issues to be considered and anticipated. Rich book. Not a word out of place.

Kurzbeschreibung

In 1991, certain political and military leaders in Somalia, wishing to gain exclusive control over the state, mobilized their followers to use terrorwounding, raping, and killing to expel a vast number of Somalis from the capital city of Mogadishu and south-central and southern Somalia. Manipulating clan sentiment, they succeeded in turning ordinary civilians against neighbors, friends, and coworkers. Although this episode of organized communal violence is common knowledge among Somalis, its real nature has not been publicly acknowledged and has been ignored, concealed, or misrepresented in scholarly works and political memoirs until now. Marshaling a vast amount of source material, including Somali poetry and survivor accounts, *Clan Cleansing in Somalia* analyzes this campaign of clan cleansing against the historical background of a violent and divisive military dictatorship, in the contemporary context of regime collapse, and in relationship to the rampant militia warfare that followed in its wake. *Clan Cleansing in Somalia* also reflects on the relationship between history, truth, and postconflict reconstruction in Somalia. Documenting the organization and intent behind the campaign of clan cleansing, Lidwien Kapteijns traces the emergence of the hate narratives and code words that came to serve as rationales and triggers for the violence. However, it was not clans that killed, she insists, but people who killed in the name of clan. Kapteijns argues that the mutual forgiveness for which politicians often so lightly call is not a feasible proposition as long as the violent acts for which Somalis should forgive each other remain suppressed and undiscussed. *Clan Cleansing in Somalia* establishes that public acknowledgment of the ruinous turn to communal violence is indispensable to social and moral repair, and can provide a gateway for the critical memory work required from Somalis on all sides of this multifaceted conflict.

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"Kapteijn's use of Somali-language sources--contemporary poetry, oral interviews, news reports, and radio recordings--is very effective in providing a ground-level view of the violence both at the time of the

'cleansing' and in the survivors' subsequent reflections upon it. This is a most welcome contribution to a literature on the civil war, which has until now been dominated by the analyses of foreign experts and Somali diaspora scholars."--Lee Cassanelli, University of Pennsylvania

"A brilliant book that reopens some of the central questions of Somali history and politics in a compelling manner."--"Journal of African History"

"This book is not only an authoritative research project in Somali studies, but a serious source to be consulted on Somalia's future social repair and reconciliation."--"World Peace Foundation"

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