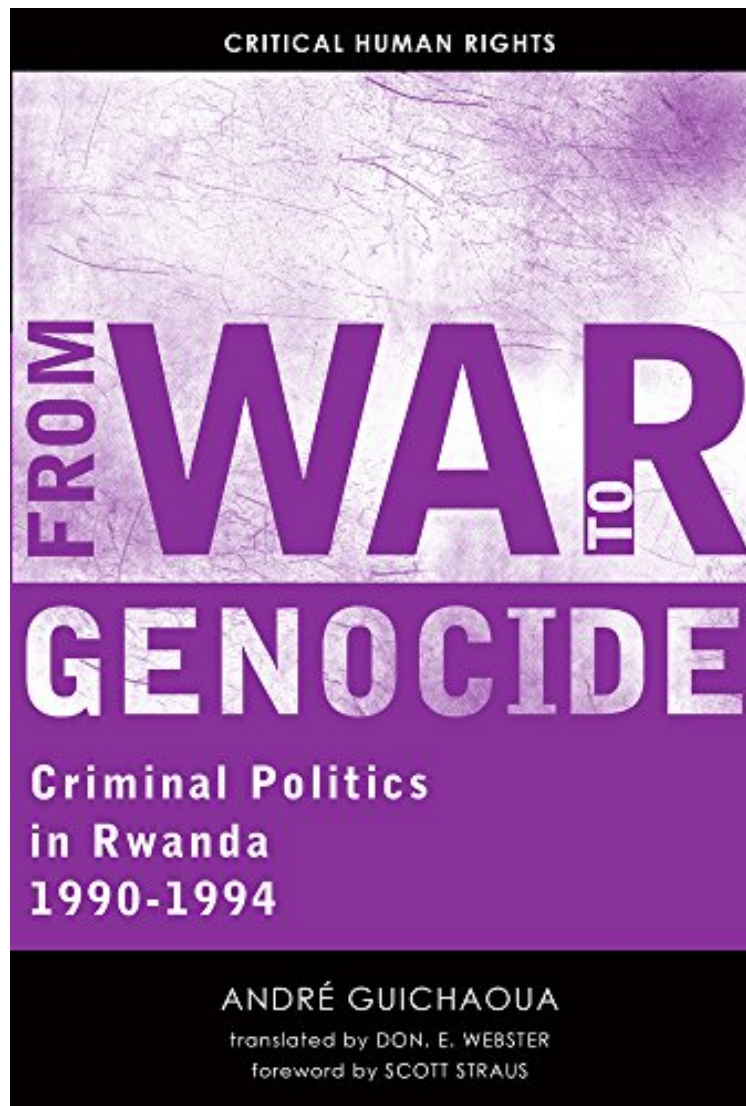


(Download free pdf) From War to Genocide: Criminal Politics in Rwanda, 1990-1994 (Critical Human Rights)

From War to Genocide: Criminal Politics in Rwanda, 1990-1994 (Critical Human Rights)

André Guichaoua

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André Guichaoua : From War to Genocide: Criminal Politics in Rwanda, 1990-1994 (Critical Human Rights) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From War to Genocide: Criminal Politics in Rwanda, 1990-1994 (Critical Human Rights):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A revised explanation of events in Rwanda leading to genocideBy

Mark Bennett In the aftermath of events in Rwanda in 1994, many have attempted to explain exactly what happened and why it happened. Many people tried to make sense of the road from political turmoil to mass murder. Explanations ranged from tribal hatred to planned extermination. But none seemed to totally explain what happened. This book, by a former participant in the international tribunal on Rwanda offers up both a comprehensive analysis of the politics of Rwanda leading up to the massacres and what I found to be a far more credible explanation as to what happened and why. He manages to show the very human side of a small elite running a small one-party state. It also provides a great deal of insight into a type of African state. It was more than a one-party dictatorship. It was a comprehensive system designed to co-opt every individual and every institution into one unified system flowing down from one leader. Everyone had to be part of one big "family". People would be tied to the system through rewards of cash and jobs. As they rose, in politics and business, they would find themselves micro-dictators ruling over a growing set of people who depended on them for jobs and money the same way they depended on them from the man at the top. By the late 1980s, the system had somewhat perfected itself in terms of stability and continuation. But due to external demands for democracy and a civil war, the leadership began to tinker with the system. There were also problems with commodity prices which led to decreased government revenue which led to the government seeking more economical ways of co-opting opponents. Forming hate groups and violent political gangs was a more financially efficient means than government jobs. A peace deal was struck in the civil war, but neither side believed in it. Each positioned itself to use the "peace" to prepare for a new war which each thought it could quickly win. But then the dictator of the country who personally controlled everything was assassinated by the other side in the civil war along with key leaders in the army. A very rigid state had essentially been decapitated and with no clear succession, the bosses lower down the chain began to fight each other. They started killing each other through assassinations. The violence then spread ever wider with violence sometimes being encouraged on the theory that if everyone were complicit in it, nobody could be held accountable for it. In trying to form a new government, the political class tried to stop the violence inward by redirected it outward toward Tutsis. They unleashed unlimited violence on civilians to give themselves breathing space to negotiate a new political hierarchy. It didn't work of course. The violence they seemingly unleashed in an unthinking way enabled their opponents to overthrow them. Trying to "save" their authoritarian one-party state, they had destroyed it. It becomes the old story of a government fixing its internal problems by redirecting violence and anger outward. But the case of Rwanda took the process to the absolute extreme. There are lessons here as well about how important a clear succession is in authoritarian single-party states. The narrative represents a revision of the old ideas of what happened. But the author brings an enormous amount of information and in particular information about firsthand participants to the table. In many ways, it's a really amazing piece of work and a great political study.

In April 1994 Rwanda exploded in violence, with political, social, and economic divisions most visible along ethnic lines of the Hutu and Tutsi factions. The ensuing killings resulted in the deaths of as much as twenty percent of Rwanda's population. Andr Guichaoua, who was present as the genocide began, unfolds a complex story with multiple actors, including three major political parties that each encompassed a spectrum of positions, all reacting to and influencing a rapidly evolving situation. Economic polarities, famine-fueled privation, clientelism, corruption, north-south rivalries, and events in the neighboring nations of Burundi and Uganda all deepened ethnic tensions, allowing extremists to prevail over moderates. Guichaoua draws on years of meticulous research to describe and analyze this history. He emphasizes that the same virulent controversies that fueled the conflict have often influenced judicial, political, and diplomatic responses to it, reproducing the partisan cleavages between the former belligerents and implicating state actors, international institutions, academics, and the media. Guichaoua insists upon the imperative of absolute intellectual independence in pursuing the truth about some of the gravest human rights violations of the twentieth century.

A landmark in the historiography of the Rwandan genocide. No serious scholar writing about the genocide can afford to ignore this trailblazing contribution. Ren Lemarchand, author of *The Dynamics of Violence in Central Africa*