

Congo: The Epic History of a People

By David Van Reybrouck

Donwload Read Online

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck

From the beginnings of the slave trade through colonization, the struggle for independence, Mobutu's brutal three decades of rule, and the civil war that has raged from 1996 to the present day, *Congo: The Epic History of a People* traces the history of one of the most devastated nations in the world. Esteemed scholar David Van Reybrouck balances hundreds of interviews with a diverse range of Congolese with meticulous historical research to construct a multidimensional portrait of a nation and its people.

Epic in scope yet eminently readable, both penetrating and deeply moving, Congo—a finalist for the Cundill Prize—takes a deeply humane approach to political history, focusing squarely on the Congolese perspective, and returns a nation's history to its people.

Download Congo: The Epic History of a People ...pdf

Read Online Congo: The Epic History of a People ...pdf

Congo: The Epic History of a People

By David Van Reybrouck

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck

From the beginnings of the slave trade through colonization, the struggle for independence, Mobutu's brutal three decades of rule, and the civil war that has raged from 1996 to the present day, *Congo: The Epic History of a People* traces the history of one of the most devastated nations in the world. Esteemed scholar David Van Reybrouck balances hundreds of interviews with a diverse range of Congolese with meticulous historical research to construct a multidimensional portrait of a nation and its people.

Epic in scope yet eminently readable, both penetrating and deeply moving, Congo—a finalist for the Cundill Prize—takes a deeply humane approach to political history, focusing squarely on the Congolese perspective, and returns a nation's history to its people.

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #98193 in Books
- Brand: Ecco Press
- Published on: 2015-02-17
- Released on: 2015-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.31" w x 6.00" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 656 pages

Download Congo: The Epic History of a People ...pdf

Read Online Congo: The Epic History of a People ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck

Editorial Review

From Booklist
Beyond the retelling of slave and ivory trading, Belgian colonialism, and unstable independence, Van Reybrouck offers the perspective of ordinary Congolese caught in the broad sweep of that nation's turbulent history. The usual historical figures are here, from the adventurer Henry Morton Stanley to Belgian King Leopold II, from liberator Patrice Lumumba to the brutal ruler Mobotu Sese Seko, later overthrown by Laurent Kabila. But also present are elders, some in their hundreds or nineties, recalling their everyday lives in the midst of malaria outbreaks, missionaries, racial designations by colonial whites that exacerbated tribal differences, violence and oppression, economic instability and political upheaval, even the joy of hosting the fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Van Reybrouck draws on interviews and anthropological research to offer dense detail of dress, custom, diet, beliefs—all the ingredients of everyday life. This is a compelling mixture of literary and oral history that delivers an authentic story of how European colonialism, African resistance, and the endless exploitation of natural resources affected the lives of the Congolese. --Vanessa Bush

Review
"This is a magnificent account, intimately researched, and relevant for anyone interested in how the recent past may inform our near future… Van Reybrouck's bibliography alone is worth the cover price. But what distinguishes the book is its clearheadedness." (New York Times Book Review)

"Balancing research with personal testimonies, Van Reybrouck . . . presents a panoramic account of Congo's turbulent past." (New York Times Book Review: Paperback Row)

"A vivid panorama of one of the most tormented lands in the world… A valuable addition to the rich literature that Congo has inspired." (Washington Post)

"Van Reybrouck's carefully researched and elegantly written book takes in the reader with compelling portraits of ordinary people that enrich what would otherwise be a fairly conventional historical narrative." (Foreign Affairs)

"A magnificent, epic look at the history of the region… A monumental contribution to the annals of Congo scholarship." (The Christian Science Monitor)

"[A] detailed and well-researched biography, thoroughly rooted in the lived experience of the Congolese… It is clear that the author is not your typical historian dryly publishing his findings, but a literary artist with a pen almost as sharp as Lumumba's tongue." (ThinkAfricaPress.com)

"... a compelling mixture of literary and oral history that delivers an authentic story of how European colonialism, African resistance, and the endless exploitation of natural resources affected the lives of the Congolese." (Booklist)

"Van Reybrouck's extensive account reveals the depth and breadth of exploitation, particularly under Belgian colonial rule, and how Congo's story is one fraught with the toxic cycle of 'desire, frustration, revenge.'" (Publishers Weekly)

"Van Reybrouck makes a good case for the importance of Congo to world history and its ongoing centrality

in a time of resurgent economic colonialism, this time on the part of China. (Kirkus Reviews)

“a monumental history . . . more exciting than any novel.” (NRC Handelsblad)

“An unbelievable tour de force.” (Humo)

“An absolute masterpiece!” (VPRO Radio)

“Breathtaking.” (Trouw)

“Van Reybrouck tells his story . . . through numerous astute and intelligent voices of the Congo citizens and storytellers. . . . [Van Reybrouck] is not just an historian but a significant ethnographer who deeply cares about the people whose history he is narrating.” (Rain Taxi)

“If you are looking to read one book on Congo this year, this is it. David Van Reybrouck combines deep historical investigation with extensive ethnography. The result is an illuminating narrative.” (Mahmood Mamdani, Director of the Makerere Institute of Social Research and author of Good Muslim, Bad Muslim)

“A well-documented and passionate narrative which reads like a novel. [..] As an eye, a judge, and a witness, a talented writer testifies.” (V.Y.M. Mudimbe, author of The Invention of Africa)

“Congo is a remarkable piece of work. Van Reybrouck [keeps] a panoramic history of a vast and complex nation accessible, intimate and particular.” (Michela Wrong, author of In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz)

From the Back Cover

The gripping saga of one of the world's most devastated countries

The Democratic Republic of Congo currently ranks among the world's most failed nation-states, second only to war-torn Somalia. David Van Reybrouck's *Congo: The Epic History* of a People traces the history of this devastated nation from the beginnings of the slave trade through the arrival of Sir Henry Morton Stanley, the ivory and rubber booms, colonization, the struggle for independence, and the three decades of Mobutu's brutal rule. Van Reybrouck also examines the civil war—the world's deadliest conflict since the Second World War. Still raging today after seventeen years, the Congolese war is driven, in part, by the demand for the rare-earth minerals required to make cell phones.

Van Reybrouck has balanced hundreds of interviews with meticulous historical research to construct a many-dimensional portrait of the rich and convoluted history of Congo. Taking pains to seek out the Congolese perspective on the country's history, Van Reybrouck creates a panoramic canvas wherein the child soldiers whom he encounters in the eastern rebel territories talk candidly about their choices and misfortunes, and where elderly Congolese—some of them more than one hundred years old—reminisce about their lives in a country where the average life expectancy has dropped to forty-five.

Vast in scope yet eminently readable, both penetrating and deeply moving, *Congo* does for Africa what Robert Hughes's masterful and novelistic *The Fatal Shore* did for Australia. Van Reybrouck takes a deeply humane approach to political history, focusing squarely on the Congolese perspective and returning a nation's history to its people. Published to rave reviews in Belgium and the Netherlands in 2010, Congo has now been gracefully translated by the exceptional Sam Garrett, most recently the translator of Herman Koch's bestselling *The Dinner*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Rowe:

The book Congo: The Epic History of a People can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the best thing like a book Congo: The Epic History of a People? Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim in which book can give many data for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you can give for each other; you can share all of these. Book Congo: The Epic History of a People has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

John Herrera:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider any time those information which is inside the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you have it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Congo: The Epic History of a People as the daily resource information.

Stephen Stovall:

Reading a book being new life style in this season; every people loves to study a book. When you examine a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these us novel, comics, and soon. The Congo: The Epic History of a People provide you with new experience in examining a book.

Tyler Woodley:

A lot of guide has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, witty, novel, or whatever simply by searching from it. It is named of book Congo: The Epic History of a People. You can add your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make you happier to read. It is most critical that, you must aware about guide. It can bring you from one place to other place.

Download and Read Online Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck #FP2XGL95E6O

Read Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck for online ebook

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck books to read online.

Online Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck ebook PDF download

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck Doc

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck Mobipocket

Congo: The Epic History of a People By David Van Reybrouck EPub