Clark, F. John (Ed.). **2002.** <u>The African Stakes of the Congo War</u>. **Palgrave (Macmillan). New York, New York. Cloth Price: US$55.**

The book originates from a conference entitled "Conflict and Peace-Making in the Great Lakes Region" which took place in Entebbe, Uganda from July 10-12, 2000. The book consists of thirteen chapters which represent contributions from twelve individuals. The editor contributed the introductory chapter and chapter nine. The volume is an eclectic collection of essays which attempt to shed some light on the motivation and strategies employed by those involved in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Civil Wars.

By focusing on the theoretical aspects of the Congo war, the editor hopes that the readers, the majority of whom he thinks would be students of African politics and international relations, political scientists, and social theorists, would find the book useful. There is no question that the book can be of use to the general public because it is written in plain language.

In chapter one, John Clark examines the "Causes and Consequences of the Congo War." This chapter provides various theoretical frameworks that are hoped to inform debates about the Congo war. Questions about the evolution of politics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are raised and the author interrogates the sources and manifestations of the war in Congo. The second chapter, by Crawford Young, presents the Congo War as a "Patch in a Quilt" of the wars in Africa. Young offers a very succinct historical perspective as he asks the question. Are there broad social process or developments that have given rise to this new trend in Africa? International policies have exacerbated the African condition. The instability in African states may have been caused by exogenous forces. World economic processes have been transforming African countries and Young argues that the impacts of globalization can be seen all across Africa. The collapse of states in Africa is a primary concern of Young's chapter but more importantly, Young places the impact of the Cold War and the withdrawal of American support on the internal trajectory of the politics in Congo in the right perspectives.

This book clearly traces the history of the crisis in Congo and engages the reader in the discussion of "post-Mobutu" regimes in the Congo. Eras of different rulers are examined and the roles these rulers played are put into clear and concise perspectives.

However, it must be noted that many countries were involved in the Congo War. For example, Turner's chapter discusses Angola's role in the Congo War while Rupiya's chapter takes a look at the political and military involvement of Zimbabwe in the second Congo War. The vicious cycle of Africa's civil unrest is debilitating and destructive to the sustainability of political, social and economic systems of Africa.

The third section of this book opens up discussion on the "Contestants of the Kabila Regimes." Osita Afoaku's chapter explains the origins, motivation and strategies of Congo's rebels. The involvement of Ugandan and Rwandan governments in the creation of the rebellion toward

Kabila's government is explained. Anti-Kabila's movement heightened with the deliberate involvements of the Rwandan and Ugandan governments. Timothy Longman's rationale for Rwanda's engagement in the Congo embellish many of the arguments put forward by Afoaku. The chapter by Longman focuses on "humanitarian interests and ethnic solidarity," "security concerns," "economic interests," "Tutsi Conspiracy" and the strategies employed the Rwandan government in the second Congo War. He concludes that there were a multiplicity of motives in Rwanda's intervention in Congo since 1998.

The fourth and last part of the book examines the phenomena of the ambivalent states, early outcomes and nonstate issues in the Congo. Chris Landsberg chapter on the impossible Neutrality? South Africa's Policy in the Congo War traces South Africa's foreign policy impact on the Congo War while Augusta Muchai's chapter' on the proliferation 0f arms in the Congo argues that arms from outside of the Congo exacerbates the Congo War.

Taken in totality, the chapters in this book have provided sound explanations of the War in Congo. These chapters appear to be well grounded in theoretical and historical underpinnings of the war and this reviewer thinks that the contributors have done a good job in articulating the contexts under which the Congo War should be examined. Like many of the wars in Africa, Congo's Wars have endogenous and exogenous "role players" and this book gives in-depth analysis of the roles played by the different interest groups involved. It is highly recommended as a reference text and a book for Africanists and scholars interested in understanding the conflicts in the Congo and Africa in general.

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