



Foreign Intervention in Africa: From the Cold War to the War on Terror (New Approaches to African History)

By Elizabeth Schmidt

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Foreign Intervention in Africa chronicles the foreign political and military interventions in Africa during the periods of decolonization (1956-1975) and the Cold War (1945-1991), as well as during the periods of state collapse (1991-2001) and the "global war on terror" (2001-2010). In the first two periods, the most significant intervention was extra-continental. The United States, the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, and the former colonial powers entangled themselves in countless African conflicts. During the period of state collapse, the most consequential interventions were intra-continental. African governments, sometimes assisted by powers outside the continent, supported warlords, dictators, and dissident movements in neighboring countries and fought for control of their neighbors' resources. The global war on terror, like the Cold War, increased the foreign military presence on the African continent and generated external support for repressive governments. In each of these cases, external interests altered the dynamics of Africa's internal struggles, escalating local conflicts into larger conflagrations, with devastating effects on African peoples.

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Foreign Intervention in Africa: From the Cold War to the War on Terror (New Approaches to African History) By Elizabeth Schmidt Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #907853 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 2013-03-25
- Released on: 2013-05-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .63" w x 5.98" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book is a meticulously researched study that brings together a vast body of literature in a clear and accessible way and is written by one of the leading scholars of her generation. Above all else it underscores how critical foreign intervention has been in shaping the arc of recent history throughout the continent."

Allen Isaacman, Regents Professor, University of Minnesota

"Foreign Intervention in Africa, Elizabeth Schmidt's survey of external meddling in the internal affairs of African countries from the era of decolonization and the Cold War to the present period of the 'war against terror' is a masterpiece. It provides to both academics and the general public a comprehensive and very readable account of foreign interventions and their mostly negative consequences for the target nations. It also offers a new and fascinating analysis of intracontinental intervention by governments seeking to take advantage of state collapse in a neighboring country to loot its natural resources."

Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"Elizabeth Schmidt's welcome work both broadens our field of vision and deepens our historical engagement ... The work is distinguished not only by its comprehensive approach but also by its accessibility, which derives both from the book's organizational clarity and from Schmidt's unencumbered prose ... This book should become a staple in courses on African history, on global issues, or on social development ... It is rare to find such complexity presented with such clarity."

David Newbury, H-Diplo (h-net.org/~diplo/roundtables)

"Readers will find the recommended readings provided for each chapter, the excellent index, and the author's judicious weighing of evidence in complex situations useful."

C. E. Welch, Choice

"An excellent synthesis of the past seventy years of African history and politics. Her book is provocative, thoughtful and passionate. It is a superb book for students, general readers as well as scholars."

Jim Lance, New Books in African Studies

"Charts the impact of foreign interventions across the African continent from the end of the Second World War until 2010 ... All the chapters are clearly written and provide a good level of detail to introduce undergraduate students to the topic ... a well-written book that will no doubt feature prominently on undergraduate reading lists for the foreseeable future."

Andrew Cohen, African Affairs

"[The book's] case studies are fleshed out enough to support Schmidt's central thesis but without getting bogged down in details that might turn away budding academics. The prose itself is clear and crisp and will not present a barrier to the layperson. ... this book should be essential reading for all students of Africa, decolonization, or foreign military interventions. It is an invaluable introduction that will also hold new perspectives even for a veteran reader."

Charlie Thomas, H-Net Reviews

About the Author

Elizabeth Schmidt is Professor of History at Loyola University Maryland. She is the author of Cold War and

Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958 (2007), which received the African Politics Conference Group's 2008 Best Book Award, and Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958 (2005), which received Alpha Sigma Nu's book award for history in 2008. Her 1992 book, Peasants, Traders, and Wives: Shona Women in the History of Zimbabwe, 1870-1939, was awarded a special mention in the Alpha Sigma Nu book competition for history, was a finalist for the African Studies Association's Herskovits Award and was named by Choice an 'Outstanding Academic Book' for 1994.

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