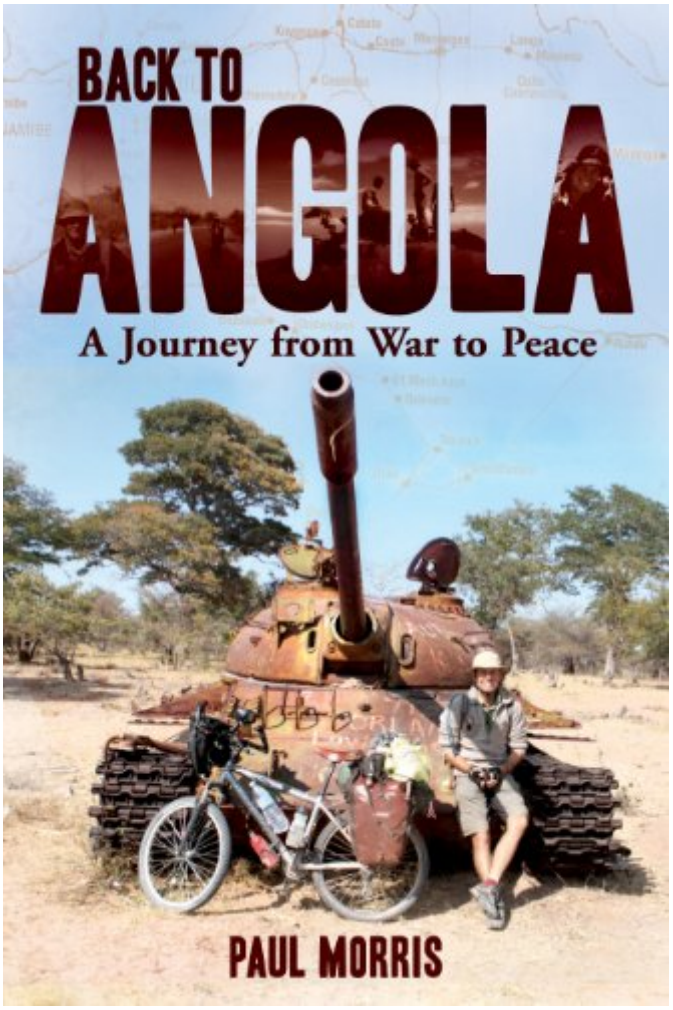
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Back To Angola: A Journey From War To Peace



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Synopsis

In 1987, Paul Morris went to Angola as a reluctant conscript soldier, where he experienced the fear and filth of war. Twenty-five years later, in 2012, Paul returned to Angola, and embarked on a 1500-kilometre cycle trip, solo and unsupported, across the country. His purpose was to see Angola in peacetime, to replace the war map in his mind with a more contemporary peace map, to exorcise the ghosts of war once and for all. Shifting skilfully between present and past, Back to Angola chronicles PaulÃ¢â ¬â„¢s epic journey, from Cuito Cuanavale to the remnants of his unitÃ¢â ¬â„¢s base in northern Namibia, and vividly recreates his experiences as a young soldier caught up in a war in a foreign land. Along the way, the book provides thought-provoking reflections on childhood, masculinity, violence, trauma and friendship. Back to Angola is an honest, intelligent and deeply moving account of war and its effects on an individual mind, a generation of people, and the psyche and landscape of a country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul Morris's 'Back to Angola' is a combination of stories from being in the war and a monthlong cycle tour through southern Angola and northern Namibia. The book alternates betwen these two

stories, with the significance of one being used to compound the significance of the other. I did enjoy the book, however, his writing is not very prosaic, and his style can be somewhat bland and overtly simplistic. At times, it reads like a journal entry: I did this, I saw this, then this happened. There is also A LOT of emotional baggage. This is a powerful spiritual experience for the author, and he makes his feelings and emotions very explicit to the reader. I have never been at war, but Morris makes it clear that it is tremendously psychologically damaging. In short, if you have an interest in cycling touring in Africa, this book is not for you. If you are interested in military history, this book is decent. If you are interested in overcoming thhe psychological scars of being a soldier, this book is excellent.

I was one of the many conscripts who served without fully understanding what we were fighting for. Although I never saw action myself, I was surrounded by many on our Alouette squadron who had. Paul's book is an interesting and painful insight into what our young men experienced through no choice of their own. It also provides some political context of the war, something that we were often denied. Paul has skillfully interwoven his cycling trip and military experiences to create a captivating read.

One of the best books I have ever read. Well constructed and well written. The honesty with which the writer deals with the subject matter is compelling.

Great story! A must read for those who experienced this part of the Angolan conflict. Paul shares his healing and takes us along with him. Well written.

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