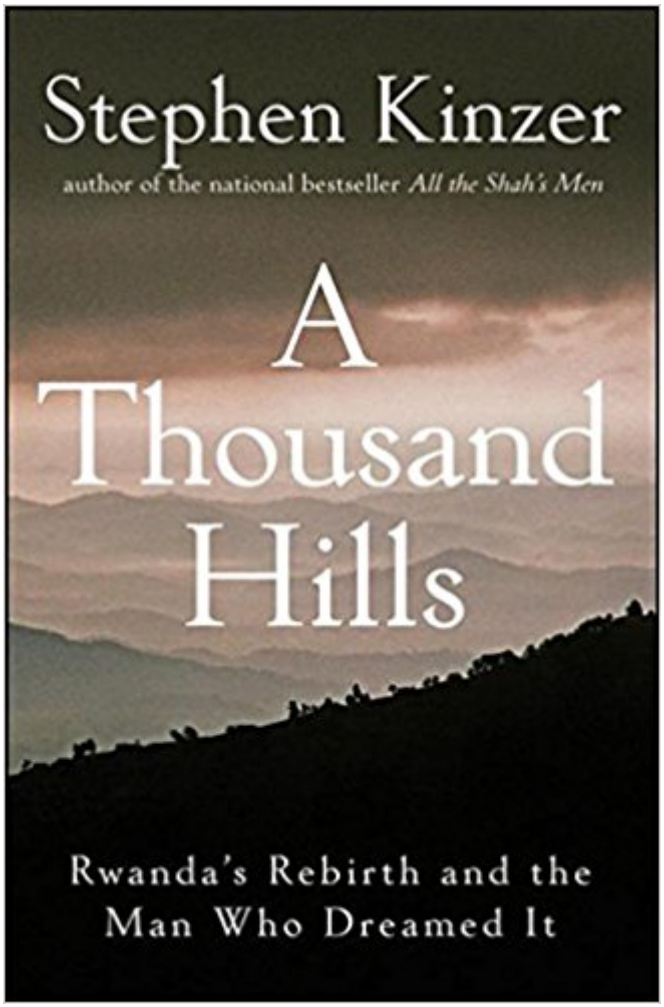
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A Thousand Hills: Rwanda's Rebirth And The Man Who Dreamed It



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Synopsis

A Thousand Hills: Rwanda’s Rebirth and the Man Who Dreamed It is the story of Paul Kagame, a refugee who, after a generation of exile, found his way home. Learn about President Kagame, who strives to make Rwanda the first middle-income country in Africa, in a single generation. In this adventurous tale, learn about KagameÃ¢â ¬â„¢s early fascination with Che Guevara and James Bond, his years as an intelligence agent, his training in Cuba and the United States, the way he built his secret rebel army, his bloody rebellion, and his outsized ambitions for Rwanda.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best of the Month, June 2008: Fourteen years after the 1994 genocide that claimed 800,000 lives in 100 days, Rwandans continue the daily work of rebuilding their shattered country. In light of recent reports that one in four people suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder--which Rwandans aptly describe as ihahamuka or "breathless with fear"--how is recovery even possible? In search of answers, foreign correspondent Stephen Kinzer traveled extensively throughout Rwanda where he observed an astonishing economic and political transformation based surprisingly on Asian models, and the implementation of unconventional reconciliation efforts. The author also conducted extensive interviews with Rwanda’s enigmatic president, Paul Kagame. The result of Kinzer’s quest is A Thousand Hills, a page-turning story of a society desperately trying to regain its breath, and an ambitious and autocratic leader’s unrelenting efforts to breathe life into its future. This is essential reading, even if you’ve read earlier accounts by Canadian general RomÃƒÂ©o Dallaire, journalists Phillip Gourevitch and Samantha Power, and the heroic Paul Rusesabagina immortalized in the film

Hotel Rwanda. --Lauren Nemroff

Kinzer (All the Shah's Men) has penned a hagiographic account of Rwandan president Paul Kagame, the Tutsi refugee who organized the Rwandan Military Front in 1994 and helped halt the genocide in Rwanda. Instead of settling scores, Kagame embarked on a program of reconciliation and reconstruction; Kinzer eloquently describes a physical and psychological recovery unmatched in Africa: a Rwanda whose people are bubbling with a sense of unlimited possibility. Kagame's goal, modeled on the successes of Asian tigers like Singapore, aims to transform Rwanda into the continent's first middle-income country in a single generation, eschewing foreign aid in favor of reliance on business-driven development. Kinzer does not conceal the bloody realities behind Kagame's acquisition of power nor does he deny Kagame's rigorous, absolutist approach to governing. Nevertheless, he is transparently trusting in Kagame's capabilities and intentions, and while his eloquent prose invites optimism, a half-century of experience urges caution. (June) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

In a comprehensive, fabulously researched introspective, Kinzer lays out the facts; historical and theoretical. He is aggressive about portraying competing points of view, and takes enormous pains to look under rocks and travel far from Kigali, as well as touching base with more obscure neighborhoods of the capital city. He has done us a service as we try to better understand this phenomenon.

This is my fifth Kinzer book and it's possibly my favorite. The book is a page turner and competed with nothing for my attention while I read it. The genocide event in Rwanda was so horrible and the following recovery effort so ambitious that it almost angers me that the topic is less talked about. The book is historical but also poses questions around some intense themes such as following command versus personality morality, the role of religion in a government, and the true value of western human rights groups. This book gave me a lot to think about in its discussion of reconciliation, the UN, and censorship among other topics.

A good account of the life of Paul Kagame and how he became president of Rwanda. Having visited the country it was great to see the stability that has been achieved after such chaos. The book was a little disjointed as there were quotes from Kagame intermixed with the text, but it was a very informative easy read.

This was an incredibly interesting read - providing a balanced and rational view of the tragedy of Rwanda - and the role the outside world played in not only allowing the genocide, but in actively supporting the extremists where it suited their own political agenda - before, during and after the 100 days of carnage. Living in South Africa at the time, and only being shown the media of the day, it has taken nearly 20 years for me to truly understand that this was not simply tribal rivalry, but mass extermination of one tribe by another. An important read if you really want to understand how remarkable Paul Kagame is as a world leader - even if he doesn't fit our nice 'democratic' ideals. But then, those nations that espouse these most vociferously were the most damned by this story.

A refreshingly balanced look at this subject. Kinzer provides a more nuanced perspective than is typically found in a sea of negative works.

I would recommend this book to all human rights activists focusing on Rwanda with only one side of the story, at least this book shows both sides of the story.

Inspiring story. With balanced account of both parties to the war. A Nice read for the young generations to come

Summary: A Thousand Hills by Stephen Kinzer/Rwanda's rebirth and the man who dreamed itThis is an awful and a beautiful story of Rwanda, pre and post-genocide, a gripping story like you have never read before. It is a book about a country that was forgotten and how in this globalized world, that is not possible to do anymore without grave consequences. It is also an important story of a country that has come back from the brink of hell to a totally different future. It is a story that is taking place right now.It is also the story of Paul Kagame, almost murdered at the age of two years along with his family by a death squad in the "practice genocide" of 1959, a refugee in Uganda most of his early life, a visionary guerilla leader with a simple dream to return to his homeland and now the President of Rwanda trying to bring this future into reality. This is a story of leadership and the script is being written now.Stephen Kinzer, an award-winning writer that has worked in more than 50 countries, has written a compelling, incredible book. It is history from a different perspective that I had not read about before. It is a book that many political leaders from Europe, the USA and most of all the UN will be upset about regarding the colonial period and specifically the genocide of 1994. When individuals and countries had the power to do something, most did little if nothing. Rwanda is

a small, landlocked country with few resources. This was an African issue, tribes fighting tribes, colonial powers protecting their age-old self-interests. So most did nothing. That is the awfulness of a "A Thousand Hills" where the darkest part of the human soul came out with all of its hate and prejudice. Some wonder whether it will happen again.However, this is not just another book about the genocide. It is a book about a audacious vision of turning Rwanda into a different place by 2020. It is about a leader with a dream of a secure and free Rwanda, reducing poverty, providing clean water, electricity and education in Rwanda and creating jobs, business, good governance and ending corruption to mention a few. There are incredible stories of what is taking place in Rwanda to make this dream a reality.There are also serious criticisms. One of the most stinging criticism lies at the door of the United Nations in 1994 and their failed peace-keeping efforts under the direction of Kofi Annan, their mis and/or failed-communication to the countries in the Security Council of what was actually taking place on the ground in Rwanda and their lack of taking any responsibility of that failure after the genocide. There are also criticism of the leadership of President Paul Kagame.After reading this book, I want to know more. I want to go to Rwanda and see the changes and see what is happening. If radical change can happen like this in Rwanda, it can happen in any country. I highly recommend this book. Get your tickets.....

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