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BURUNDI

Biography of a Small African Country
Nigel Watt

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'The painful history of Burundi is so full of suffering, cruelty and emotion that it is all too possible to lose sight of the courage and fortitude which were always there amidst the nightmares. Facts and reality are hard to assemble, but in this comprehensive, honest and always sensitive book, Nigel Watt has set out to put events in to perspective.' —**Lord Frank Judd, formerly British Minister of Overseas Development**

Little known in the English-speaking world, Burundi is Rwanda's twin, a small Central African country with a complex history of ethnic tension between its Hutu and Tutsi populations that has itself experienced traumatic events, including mass killings of over 200,000 people. The country remained in a state of simmering civil war until 2004. Julius Nyerere and Nelson Mandela took turns as mediators in a lengthy, and eventually successful, peace process which has endowed Burundi with new institutions, including a new constitution, that led to the election of a majority Hutu government in 2005. But there are many problems still to solve apart from ethnic tensions, above all the entrenched poverty of most Burundians, which has seen it designated by NGOs as one of the most deprived countries on earth. Nigel Watt's book discusses the troubled political fortunes of this beautiful yet disturbed country in the heart of Central Africa. He traces the origins of its political crises, sheds light on Burundi's recent history by means of interviews with leading participants and those whose lives have been affected by horrific events, and helps demystify the country's "ethnic" divisions.

Nigel Watt worked in Burundi for several years and was formerly Director of the Africa Centre in London.

October 2008, 224 pp, 16 b&w illus, 234x156mm

ISBN: 9781850659174, £15.99 pb AVAILABLE FOR £12.50 with this order form (please return to the above address: Attn, Kathleen May)

Advance Praise

'This is a book about reality, an item in very short supply when people write about African conflicts. ... Hope based on nice feelings is a non-starter in the nasty world of Africa's small wars. Nigel Watt provides the only picture of hope which can be realistically contemplated, that which bases itself on informed and uncompromising local knowledge. This is a book which should be read by all humanitarian workers and members of the international community involved in what are today coyly called 'complex emergencies'.

—**Gérard Prunier, author of**
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