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The Path to Genocide in Rwanda

Security, Opportunity, and Authority in an Ethnocratic State

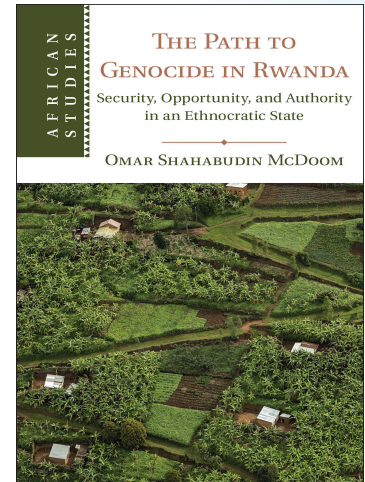
Omar Shahabudin McDoom

London School of Economics and Political Science

Rwanda's genocide in 1994 was a tragic and world-changing event that indelibly etched itself on the global conscience. *The Path to Genocide in Rwanda* combines extensive, original field data with some of the best existing evidence to offer a rigorous and comprehensive explanation of how and why the genocide occurred, and how and why so many Rwandans participated in it.

Drawing on interviews with over three hundred Rwandans, Omar Shahabudin McDoom systematically compares those who participated in the violence against those who did not. He contrasts communities that experienced violence early with communities where violence began late, as well as communities where violence was limited with communities where it was massive. His findings offer new perspectives on some of the most troubling questions concerning the genocide, while also providing a broader engagement with key theoretical debates in the study of genocides and ethnic conflict.

1. What We Do and Do Not Know; 2. An Extraordinary Baseline; 3. Security: War-time Threat; 4. Threat and Opportunity: The Dangers of Freedom; 5. Opportunity II: Death of the Nation's Father; 6. Authority: Rwanda's privatized and powerful state; 7. Why some killed and others did not; 8. Conclusion: Rwanda in Retrospect.



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'In this important and wide-reaching analysis, McDoom presents strong empirics - including new data and analysis at the local, regional, and national levels - to generate fresh insight into several key aspects of the Rwandan genocide ... The framings and findings speak strongly to literatures on comparative violence and political mobilization, as well as to political science research on how context shapes political behavior and the political meaning of ethnicity.'

Catherine Boone,
London School of Economics and Political Science



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