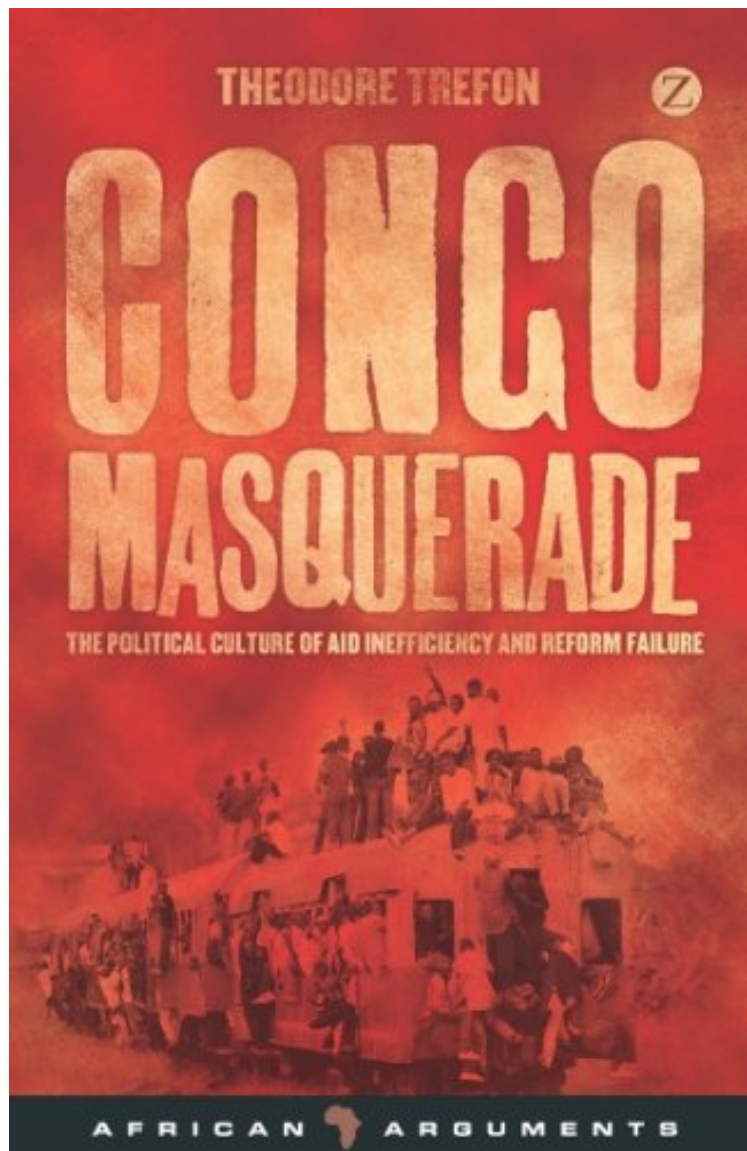


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Congo Masquerade: The Political Culture of Aid Inefficiency and Reform Failure (African Arguments)

Theodore Trefon

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Theodore Trefon : Congo Masquerade: The Political Culture of Aid Inefficiency and Reform Failure (African Arguments) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Congo Masquerade: The Political Culture of Aid Inefficiency and Reform Failure (African Arguments):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Advanced Point of View about the DRC its inability to meet its

PotentialBy Dwight L. ShortIf you have studied other publications on the Congo, this could be a wonderful book to help you summarize the various studies and analyses of the strength and weaknesses of various programs that have been tried in the country. The "masquerade" idea is a good one and it is used by both the giver of financial assets as well as the receiver to justify all kinds of things that in actuality are not really happening. Social and Economic Progress in the most asset rich country in the world, is not taking place except in spurts and small pockets of the populace and the responsibility for that ineffectiveness is worth consideration especially for those who have any authority for funding. Why the US and other western powers continue to mask their real interests in this forsaken part of the world is not a mystery at all...we want our piece of the action and building out the infrastructure of the country to provide schools, roads, and hospitals is not anywhere to be found in our policy or our actions. There is a lot of dry re-iteration of the same concept in this book which why I gave it 4 stars but it could have been more interesting with more examples of the issues being illustrated.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a litany of abuseBy John WaughTrefon's courageously honest assessment of the DRC has to be taken seriously; he probably knows the place as well as any foreigner can. He carefully documents the mismanagement and manipulation of the Congolese by their own government and cynical foreign powers alike. The press paints a picture of unrelenting barbarism and epidemic disease; Trefon paints a picture of tremendous dignity and courage in the face of obstacles that utterly undo many more affluent societies.0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Misleading book on Congolese politicsBy CadetThis book is one of the misleading books. eg when I read on page 20 that the AFDL (first Rwandan-Ugandan invasion of D.R.Congo) took place from October 1996 till May 1997, I do not understand when the author gets his information from. It is not a secret that that war started earlier in September 1996. When I read on page 23 "Sauver le pouvoir(support the incumbent power) was the expression many Congolese, especially from Kinshasa and the diaspora, used to describe what was commonly perceived as the hidden agenda of the CIAT." I wonder where the author got this information. It is not a secret that the all diaspora and Congolese at home were supporting Jean-Pierre Bemba as son of the soil against Joseph Kabila who is a foreigner. This book is just disgusting.

Congo Masquerade is about mismanagement, hypocrisy and powerlessness in what has proved to be one of Africa's most troublesome and volatile states. In this scathing study of catastrophic aid inefficiency, Trefon evaluates the imported template of reforms pieced together to introduce democracy and improve the wellbeing of the Congolese. He demonstrates that it has been an almost unmitigated failure due to the ingrained political culture of corruption amongst the Congolese elite, abetted by the complicity and incompetence of international partners. Startling and provocative, Congo Masquerade offers a critical examination of why aid is not helping the Congo.

"The Trefon volume is indispensable reading for all those interested in post-conflict state-building. He provides a devastating critique of how the large international investment in this project in DR Congo has fallen far short, through the failings both of the external parties and the Congolese political elite." -- Professor Crawford Young, University of Wisconsin