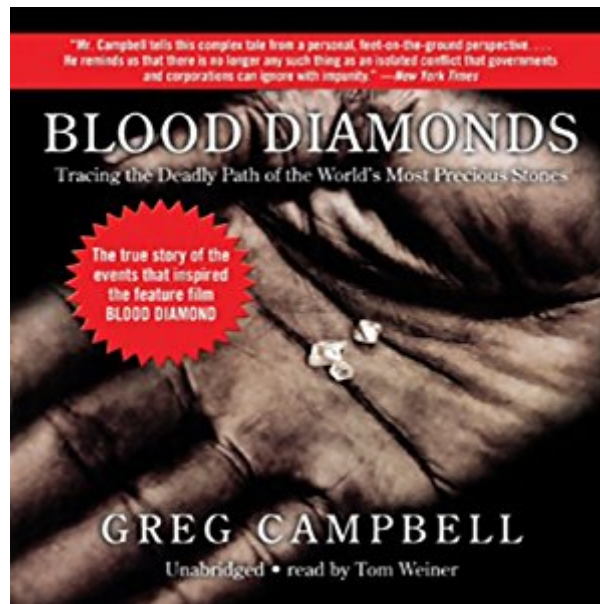


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Blood Diamonds: Tracing The Deadly Path Of The World's Most Precious Stones



Synopsis

The true story of the events that inspired the feature film Blood Diamonds starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Connelly, in theaters Dec 8th. Blood Diamonds is the gripping tale of how the diamond smuggling works, how the rebel war has effectively destroyed Sierra Leone and its people, and how the policies of the diamond industry. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Campbell writes compelling narrative with a fascinating array of characters - corrupt dictators, warlords, mercenaries, peacekeepers, child soldiers, missionaries, shady Middle Eastern merchants, diamond buyers, jewelers, diplomats, et al. - weaving in the tragedy that the pursuit of instant riches in the alluvial diamond fields of West Africa has wrought. The result is a modern morality tale about the scarce resources, globalization, and violence. The book, however, is flawed by its author's failure to properly situate his narrative within the historical and political context of subregional conflict involving Liberia and Sierra Leone. The reader would thus do well to supplement this volume with a good political narrative like Pham's LIBERIA: PORTRAIT OF A FAILED STATE (Reed Press) or Ellis's MASK OF ANARCHY (New York University Press) in order to get a complete picture.

I lived in Sierra Leone for quite a number of years and hence had the opportunity to experience what it was like to live surrounded by poverty and diamonds (the Kono area). Unfortunately for me

and my family, security reasons forced us to leave the country in the nineties. Nowadays I live in Madrid, Spain. I'm a doctoral student and my research area is the diamond industry of Sierra Leone and its implications on the underdevelopment of Sierra Leone. Mr. Campbell's book has been very valuable to me because of the information it contains (for my dissertation) and because it has sadly/happily brought me back to the country that I love most in the world. Thank you Mr Campbell! I strongly recommend the reading of this book.

Mr. Campbell (no relation) has an engaging style and has written an informative, though skewed, account of the forces at play in the Sierra Leone tragedy. He skillfully describes how the greed for diamond sale revenue enabled this country to descend into chaos and unspeakable horror. However, he attempts to make this a Western guilt trip by emphasizing how willing market players are to look the other way, thus absolving themselves of any culpability for the bloodbath. Campbell builds on a thin reed indeed, and fails to make analogies with other resources from other strife ridden African countries, such as Angola and its oil, that would more accurately demonstrate how free markets work in an amoral, rather than immoral, environment. I don't see Campbell advocating boycotting Angolan oil because of the atrocities being committed in that conflict. Nor should he, because those transactions occur outside the frame work of a nation's internal affairs, no matter how unjust or cruel those may be. The fact is, African countries have been pursuing the path of self destruction for 5 decades now with no other incentive than for one ethnic or ideological group attempting to acquire wealth and power at the expense of the nation. Attempts to lay this at the West's feet are misguided, disingenuous and unhelpful on many levels, but especially for the average African themselves. While I recommend Campbell's readable volume for its conciseness and wit, please do not limit yourself in seeing other dimensions to this, especially the corruption of ECOWAS and its military mission as well as the ethnic jealousy involved between natives and the economically dominant Lebanese.

Well done story of the diamond racket as well as the abject failure of governments world wide to provide "HONEST," competent governance. I use construction tools with \$30.00 a carat diamond cutting blades. Every time I see a sucker with a diamond ring I laugh. They are wearing blood on their hands. Governments have some of this blood on their hands as well by allowing this racket to continue. Greg Campbell had a photographer along with him. I wonder where the photos went?

I just finished reading this book so I turned my computer on to review it. But before I did that, I

checked my email. There, I had received a weekly newsletter from the human rights group HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH. The very first article was about how human rights abuses are going on in a particular mine in Zimbabwe, Africa. How ironic for me unknowingly... minutes away from writing a review on BLOOD DIAMONDS, having an email waiting for me about the said subject! I read the article and it is about what is going on in the book. Unfortunately, many gold and gem mines are located in the heart of the poorest of the poor countries...and they include many in Africa. I have been aware of diabolical people and government officials in this industry for many years. And because they can get away with corruption and are making money off of the poor (who are either slaves/in bondage with the company, as well as working child slaves), the government's military seems to think that they can get away with cruelties of slavery, rape, the cutting of limbs, breaking down the workers, as well as killing whom ever they chose. I love jewelry and wear it almost every day. But, I am very happy wearing a zirconia ring or a bracelet of colorful stones rather than supporting a long time corrupt industry that is making unlawful people richer, while those dredging for the gold in the mines are still the poorest of the poor. This book is a good read full of valuable knowledge you just won't forget. It is intense because there is a lot of content in it informing us of what is going on with corruption. You might not want to listen to me as I am a human rights advocate; so, do it for yourself. Read the book if you are a jewelry lover, if you are interested in human rights or just plain interested. Keep in mind that it is not just us in Western society supporting this bloody trade industry. Much money is made off of those wealthy in the Middle East, India, Asia and so on. (And I mean no disrespect to any persons wearing jewelry of good quality. I'm just trying to bring light to a tragic, unlawful industry.) I recommend this book due to all the content that is important for us to know about as consumers, as people who wear jewelry, for thousands of people's human rights, and for people who are just interested in an educational and dramatic read.

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