

Conspiracy to Murder: the Rwandan Genocide

by Linda Melvern

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In three months of 1994, the Hutu-dominated Rwandan army and the notorious Interahamwe militia slaughtered nearly a million Rwandese in a concerted effort to eliminate Rwanda's Tutsi ethnic minority. Linda Malvern's second book on this genocide, updated to include recent information from the International Criminal Tribunal, shocks twice. First, she reveals the careful preparations the Rwandan army made in advance. Second, she explores the shameful roles of Western powers in stalling the United Nations Security Council's already cumbersome responses. Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire, the heroic head of the UN's pitifully impoverished peacekeeping force in Rwanda, accused Britain, the US and France of leading the UN "to aid and abet a genocide". This is a fascinating, sickening book with some profoundly depressing implications as to the integrity of our political institutions.

James Urquhart