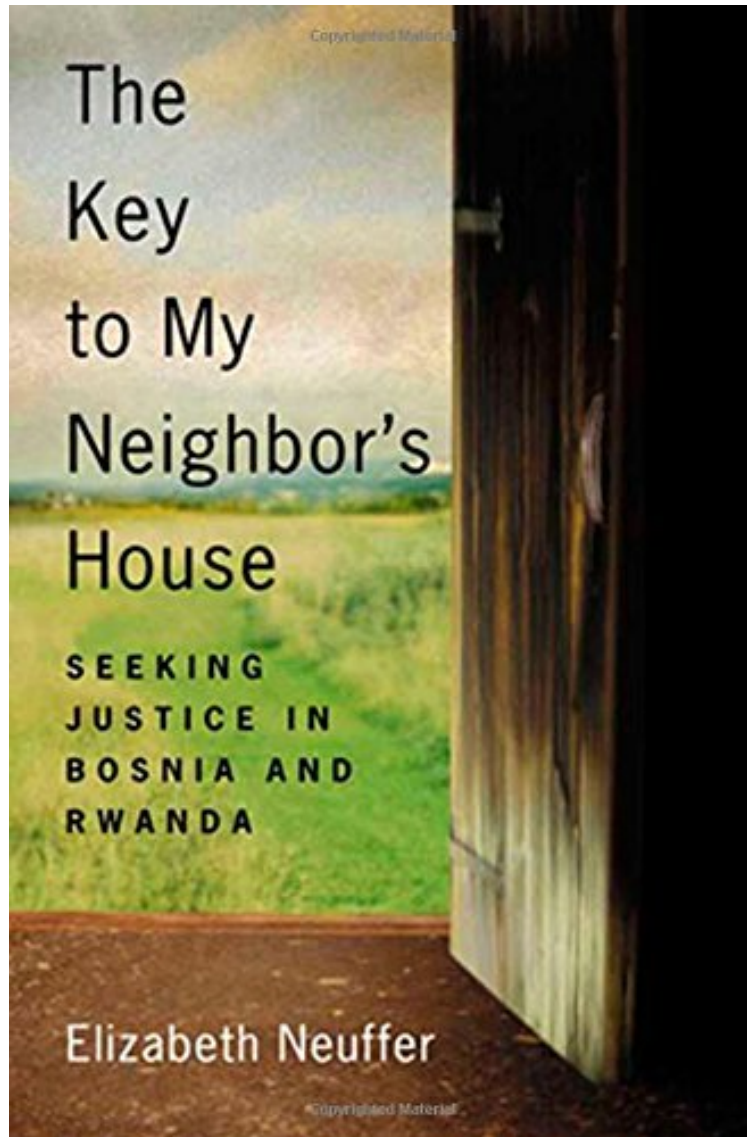


(Mobile book) The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda

The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda

Elizabeth Neuffer

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Elizabeth Neuffer : The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important questions, and an excellent treatment of same. By frumiousbMy trip to Africa in the spring has led me to a great deal of reading about the continent and the political histories of the various nations. I picked up this book as highly recommended for a look at the recent atrocities in Rwanda. Elizabeth Neuffer was a foreign affairs reporter for The Boston Globe during the period that she gathered material for this book. It was in part based on a ten-part series of articles that she wrote about Rwanda and Bosnia called "Buried Truth". (Sadly, Neuffer died in a car accident in Iraq in 2003.) The Key to My Neighbor's House is often described as being about the atrocities that happened in the two countries. In fact, it is about something more specific than that. Neuffer writes about the question of justice in the face of genocide and tracks the progress of victims and perpetrators as the stories unfold in front of international war crime tribunals. Why do people kill in this way? How can you really bring justice in the wake of such a situation? What are the relative values of truth and justice when their interests may conflict? Can a country that has been so divided against itself ever be reconciled? Neuffer asks the important questions that those of us who can only witness from a distance would like to ask. The fact that she does not come closer to a definitive answer doesn't make the questions less important. The Key To My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda is smart and moving. Neuffer manages to bring the reader into the human side without belittling or overly simplifying the subject matter. An excellent book, if you can say such a thing about a terrible subject. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Andres Pedraza Very good book, it gives you a better understanding about genocide and the consequences of it 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!! By shzmba Outstanding read to understand Eastern Europe culture and politics.

Examining competing notions of justice in Bosnia and Rwanda, award-winning Boston Globe correspondent Elizabeth Neuffer convinces readers that crimes against humanity cannot be resolved by talk of forgiveness, or through the more common recourse to forgetfulness. As genocidal warfare engulfed the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the international community acted too late to prevent unconscionable violations of human rights in both countries. As these states now attempt to reconstruct their national identities, the surviving victims of genocide struggle to come to terms with a world unhinged. Interviewing victims and aggressors, war orphans and war criminals, Serbian militiamen and NATO commanders, Neuffer explores the extent to which genocide erodes a nation's social and political environment, just as it destroys the individual lives of the aggressor's perceived enemies. She argues persuasively that only by achieving justice for these people can domestic and international organizations hope to achieve lasting peace in regions destroyed by fratricidal warfare.

.com In the wake of genocide, it is probably impossible to achieve anything that approaches justice--and Boston Globe journalist Elizabeth Neuffer knows it. Yet this heartfelt book describes how some of the people in war-torn Rwanda and Bosnia have sought after it anyway, and why the search is so important. The Key to My Neighbor's House is ultimately an anecdotal and impressionistic document, but therein lies its power. It's difficult to forget scenes that begin this way: "Photographs of mass graves can prepare you for what you might see--a jumble of skeletalized limbs, heads, bodies--but nothing prepares you for how it smells." The reportage is marvelous. For instance, Neuffer recounts how prosecutors at a Rwandan tribunal were forced to argue "over whose motion was the most important to be printed out from the scarce paper supply." She also describes the harrowing experience of a Bosnian soldier beginning to grope her--only to discover "the steel plate inside my bulletproof vest." This impressive book will leave a mark on you long after you've set it down. --John Miller From Publishers Weekly Boston Globe reporter Neuffer ably, sensitively humanizes two of the worst tragedies of the 1990s. By retelling the atrocities through her on-the-ground interviews, she coaxes readers more deeply into these two ghastly, complex tales. While she interviews victims and perpetrators, Neuffer focuses primarily on the victims and their search for relatives and justice once the violence has subsided. One particularly poignant story concerns Hasan Nuhanovic, a Bosnian Muslim whose family disappeared at the hands of Bosnian Serbs; while searching for them, Nuhanovic learns details of their deaths. Neuffer is honest about the difficulties faced by war crimes tribunals in 1996, the Rwandan tribunal was "an institution in disarray" and "strangled by a huge bureaucracy; riven by political infighting, nepotism, and incompetence"; the Bosnian tribunal, too, the author reports, is far from perfect, but general opinion allows that it's better than no justice at all. But buoyed by the courage of people like Witness JJ, a Rwandan woman whose testimony helped convict an official of complicity in rape, Neuffer is optimistic about the courts' ultimate success. The people she interviewed, though, are less satisfied by the search for justice. This comprehensive study lends an immediacy to these two conflicts and the vicissitudes of the growing movement for international justice. Five maps not seen by PW. Agent, Michael Carlisle. (Nov.) Forecast: American attention has certainly been drawn away from Bosnia and Rwanda, but the questions Neuffer asks about the boundaries between justice and revenge remain highly relevant. Readers concerned with international justice will be drawn to this book. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Neuffer, an award-winning journalist, goes beyond the standard news reports of genocide in Rwanda and Bosnia to present the victims and villains in this astonishing look at human cruelty and endurance. Following a brief review of the historical ethnic strife and more recent genocide of these two nations, Neuffer explores the search for justice via war-crime tribunals. In very

personal and painful interviews, she talks to women longing for even skeletal remains that they can properly mourn, a black American judge serving on the Yugoslav tribunal who draws parallels with American racism, and a pathologist specializing in DNA who identifies the remains from unearthed mass graves. Neuffer also recalls the vanity, self-absorption, excuses, and self-justification of the torturers and rapists. Amid the human misery and cruelty, Neuffer asserts, the U.S and other superpowers waffle and equivocate; when the time comes for justice, the UN haggles over international politics, procedure, and budgets. This is a very graphic, disturbing look at the failure of foreign policy and the difficulty of administering justice. Vanessa Bush Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved