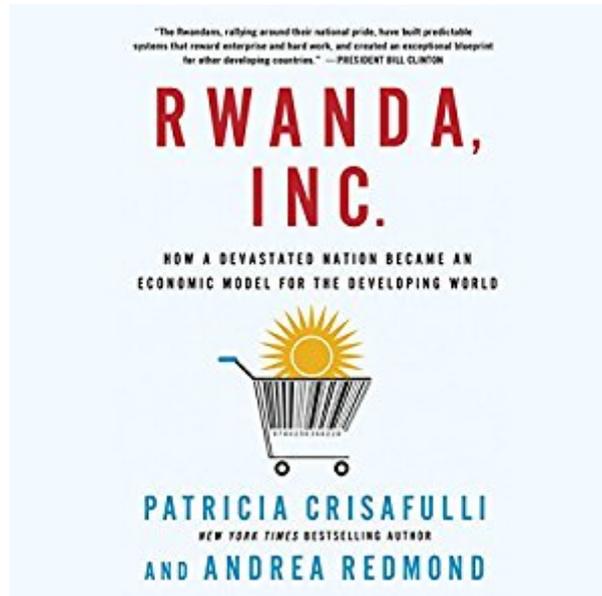


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Rwanda, Inc.: How A Devastated Nation Became An Economic Model For The Developing World



Synopsis

Eighteen years after the genocide that made Rwanda international news, yet left it all but abandoned by the West, the country has achieved a miraculous turnaround. Rising out of the complete devastation of a failed state, Rwanda has emerged on the world stage yet again - this time with a unique model for governance and economic development under the leadership of its strong and decisive president, Paul Kagame. Here, Patricia Crisafulli and Andrea Redmond look at Kagame's leadership, his drive for excellence and execution that draws comparisons to American CEOs and emphasizes the development of a sophisticated and competitive workforce that leverages human capital. In Rwanda, the ultimate turnaround, strong and effective leadership has made a measurable and meaningful difference. Rwanda's progress offers an example for other developing nations to lift themselves out of poverty without heavy reliance on foreign aid through decentralization, accountability, self-determination, and self-sufficiency. The authors also explore Rwanda's journey toward its goal of becoming a middle-income nation with a technology-based economy and its progress in encouraging private sector development and fostering entrepreneurship while also making gains in education, health care, and food security - and all with a strong underpinning of reconciliation and unification. As so many nations stand on the brink of political and economic revolution, this is a timely and fascinating look at the implications of Rwanda's success for the rest of the continent - and the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is easy to read and takes one through the recent history of Rwanda focusing on the rapid

economic and social developments that the country has experienced post-genocide. The book increased my excitement about Rwanda and the improvement in living conditions that many Rwandans have been experiencing. It has consequently increased my desire to visit the country. However, I have given this book only three stars as the writing often sounds like propaganda and contains a lot of opining by the authors. There is certainly a place for opinion, but the book doesn't make a clear distinction between supported assertions and the opinions of the authors.

Highly recommended by folks, Rwandas and ex-pats alike, who live there, work there and even from those who experienced the genocide firsthand. My organization has been in Rwanda for a couple of years and I learned many new things from this book. It changed my perspective to an even more positive one on Rwanda. The chapter detailing President Paul Kagami's "short falls" was detailed enough so that those who disagree with some of Kagami's methods and policies should be placated; this wasn't just a pro-Kagame PR piece. If all African rulers were as motivated, principled and enlightened as Kagame, even with his flaws, the continent would be completely transformed in a generation.

The book had many interesting moments but seemed piecemeal and rushed. The author often gets ahead of herself and manages to make a big-print, relatively short book a bit wonky. Although "interviews" with the president, Paul Kagame, are often mentioned there must be less than a page of this actual quotes from their supposed interaction. With that said, I did learn more here about the economics of Rwanda in 2 days than I could have trying to sift through journals, etc... and feel like what I paid for it (\$13) was worth it at the time. It was also hard to view this book objectively since half of the praise on the back cover came from high-profile business persons who make MANY appearances throughout the book itself. Even the prologue was written by the CEO for VISA and sounded more like a long winded info-mercial for the company's ventures in the tropics.

I just finished reading Rwanda Inc. and as in past books by Ms. Crisafulli, I was so impressed by the rich content and quality research. What I hadn't expected was the dual lessons both from a business perspective as well as a personal one. The Rwanda model of do for yourself, remain independent-minded and self-determining, and forge strategic paternships with those who support your vision underscores what has worked for me. Given that I am a CEO who is retiring soon, I found other thoughtful messages at the end of the book about leaving a legacy and having lasting influence. Bravo on a story that needs to be told and for making it such a rich and rewarding read!

Looking forward to reading something upbeat about Rwanda after the horrific story of the genocide and the abysmal lack of help from the international community. I understand this book outlines a plan for economic cooperation that actually helps without exploitation.

The book is well written and a text book for how to develop a globally oriented nation. Rwanda is an example of a sub Saharan African nation that is moving forward, even though it has faced huge historical colonial and independence challenges.

If you ever wondered what happened after the events of "Hotel Rwanda" or the genocide of 1994, this is the book for you. If you've ever wondered why Rwanda did not end up like Somalia, even though Somalia had Western intervention, Kagame is why. This work gives insight into both subjects.

This new book give you a brief and updated history of Rwanda, but then describes the Rwanda of today. I read it in just a few days, as it is as exciting as an adventure novel. But, it isn't a novel. It's a picture of what is happening in this vibrant country as it recovers from the devastation of the genocide. It is well-written, fast-paced, and best of all true.

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