



CONGO STORIES

Battling Five Centuries of Exploitation and Greed

By John Prendergast and Fidel Bafilemba

Foreword by Soraya Aziz Souleymane

Postscript by Dave Eggers

Afterword by Chouchou Namegabe

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For more information and to order: CongoStories.org

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From the author of the *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning *Not on Our Watch*, John Prendergast co-writes a compelling book with Fidel Bafilemba--with stunning photographs by Ryan Gosling--revealing the way in which the people and resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo have been used throughout the last five centuries to build, develop, advance, and safeguard the United States and Europe. The book highlights the devastating price Congo has paid for that support. However, the way the world deals with Congo is finally changing, and the book tells the remarkable stories of those in Congo and the United States leading that transformation.

The people of Congo are fighting back against a tidal wave of international exploitation and governmental oppression to make things better for their nation, their neighborhoods, and their families. They are risking their lives to resist and alter the deadly status quo. And now, finally, there are human rights movements led by young people in the United States and Europe building solidarity with Congolese change-makers in support of dignity, justice, and equality for the Congolese people. As a result, the way the world deal with Congo is finally changing.

Fidel Bafilemba, Ryan Gosling, and John Prendergast traveled to Congo to document some of the stories not only of the Congolese upstanders who are building a better future for their country but also of young Congolese people overcoming enormous odds just to go to school and help take care of their families. The book features the life story of Dr. Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize and one of many of the Congolese upstanders whose lives are profiled in the book.

Through Gosling's photographs of Congolese daily life, Bafilemba's profiles of heroic Congolese activists, and Prendergast's narratives of the extraordinary history and evolving social movements that directly link Congo with the United States and Europe, **CONGO STORIES** provides windows into the history, the people, the challenges, the possibilities, and the movements that could change the course of Congo's destiny.

Read excerpts from **CONGO STORIES**: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/john-prendergast/congo-stories/9781455584642/>

For more book updates and news, visit our brand new book website CongoStories.org.

Advance Praise:

"In this well-organized, vigorously informative, polyphonic, unnerving, and conscience-rousing presentation, [Prendergast] and researcher and activist Bafilemba trace 'the connection between natural resources

exploitation and the violent conflicts' destroying the lives of millions in the Democratic Republic of Congo ... A thoughtfully assembled resource and a clarion call for readers to seek out ethically sourced goods and support efforts to bring justice and peace to this cruelly pillaged land."

--- **Booklist**

"Eye-opening reportage from an African nation that has been robbed and despoiled for centuries-but that is now finding paths of resistance ... No thoughtful reader of this book will look at his or her computer or cellphone the same way again."

--- **Kirkus**

Events:

Events featuring authors coming up in San Francisco December 7, Los Angeles December 10, Washington, D.C. December 13, and New York December 14. Visit here for more information on the events: <https://congostories.org/book-news/#events>

From the Authors:

"Wealthy commercial interests from outside the country—including human traffickers, kings, colonists, presidents, tycoons, bankers, mining magnates, arms dealers, mineral smugglers, elephant poachers, and military leaders—have colluded with Congolese leaders to loot the country of its greatest resources... By following the money and greed, we tell the story of how major global events have driven huge surges in demand for Congo's riches—from colonial plantation agriculture to the advent of the automobile, from the Industrial Revolution to World Wars I and II and the Cold War, to the dramatic expansion of the global weapons trade, the rise of cell phones and laptops, and the mass marketing of electric and hybrid cars."

--- **John Prendergast and Fidel Bafilemba**

"Many want to help but don't know where to start. The book will link you to a vast network of Congolese and friends of Congo who unite to build awareness, change policy, and support local initiatives. Be part of the story, be part of the change."

--- **Soraya Aziz Souleymane**

"We were told many personal stories by many people, but a central theme emerged. It was one of an unwavering refusal to be silenced or broken. It's hard for me to imagine being able to move on after the horrors many of them have experienced. However, they have gone beyond moving on. To have the strength to take those nightmares and use them as fuel to make the hopes and dreams of their families and country a reality is the definition of heroic."

--- **Ryan Gosling**

"Seek out the changemakers and commit your support directly. Buy something that's ethically sourced and made. Such an action, so easy to accomplish in our interconnected world, is a humane and even intimate way to state your rejection of a history of soulless corporate exploitation. You do have this power. Don't ever think that you don't."

--- **Dave Eggers**

"Women in particular pay the heaviest price of these repeated wars, disasters, and violence. Strong and enduring, they have always fought for the survival of the community and never have given up. They never gave up working, never gave up taking care of their family. They even never gave up smiling! And that is the foundation of my hope."

--- **Chouchou Namegabe**

THE UPSTANDER FUND

100 percent of the authors' proceeds from the book will go to support Congolese Upstanders working for peace and human rights in Congo.

CONTRIBUTORS

COAUTHORS

Fidel Bafilemba is a Congolese field researcher who coordinates a civil society network called GATT-RN.
John Prendergast is a New York Times bestselling author who founded and runs both the Enough Project and the Sentry.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ryan Gosling is an actor and filmmaker.

AFTERWORD

Chouchou Namegabe is a Congolese journalist.

FOREWORD

Soraya Aziz Souleymane is a Congolese development specialist.

POSTSCRIPT

Dave Eggers is a writer and co-founder of the International Congress of Youth Voices.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Sam Ilus is a Congolese artist.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

Sasha Lezhnev is a Congo analyst.

Annie Callaway is a human rights advocate.

Dr. Namegabe Murhbazi is a Congolese children's rights advocate.

Holly Dranginis is a human rights lawyer and policy analyst.

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