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African Justice for African Healing

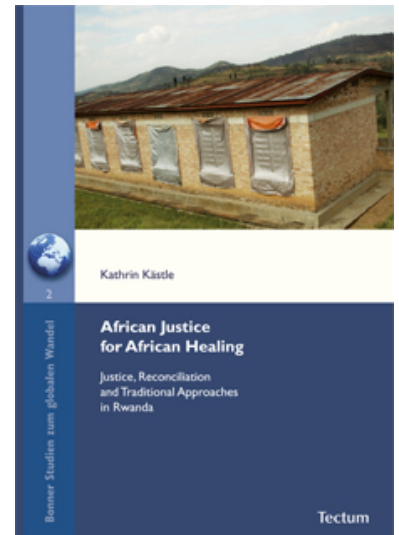
Justice, Reconciliation and Traditional Approaches in Rwanda

Bonner Studien zum globalen Wandel, Band: 2

To cope with the legacy of the swiftest genocide in human history the largest government-driven reconciliation process worldwide has been taking place in Rwanda over the past years. Dealing with the consequences of violent conflict is an exceptionally difficult task as never before were so many ordinary citizens involved in the killing. Moreover, victims and perpetrators are forced to coexist in the same state and thus need to find a way to come to terms with the past.

Drawing on Rwanda's contested history and the collective myths and chosen trauma that shape the perception of Hutu and Tutsi today this book analyzes the potential for reconciliation through transitional justice 15 years after the genocide. It describes the contributions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the national court system and the traditional Gacaca courts to national reconciliation.

The authoritarian political climate and the Tutsification of power in contemporary Rwanda serve as the background against which the benefits and weaknesses of the different justice mechanisms are critically examined. The analysis is especially valuable for anyone interested in the specific potential of so-called traditional African justice mechanisms in reconciling societies after violent conflict, and indeed anyone who is interested in the political process of justice and reconciliation.



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