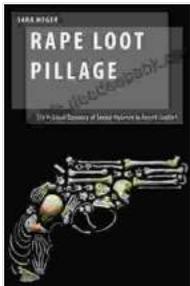


The Political Economy of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Oxford Studies in International Relations

The Political Economy of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict

Sexual violence is a widespread and systematic problem in armed conflict. It is estimated that up to 20% of women in conflict-affected areas experience sexual violence. This violence has a devastating impact on the lives of its victims, including physical and psychological trauma, social stigma, and economic hardship.

The political economy of sexual violence in armed conflict is complex, with a range of factors contributing to its prevalence and persistence. These factors include:



Rape Loot Pillage: The Political Economy of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict (Oxford Studies in Gender and International Relations) by Sara Meger

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- **The gendered nature of armed conflict:**

Armed conflict is often characterized by the masculinization of power

and violence. This can lead to the devaluation of women and girls, and the perception that they are legitimate targets of sexual violence.

- **The breakdown of social order:**

Armed conflict can lead to the breakdown of social order and the erosion of traditional norms and values. This can create a vacuum in which sexual violence is more likely to occur.

- **The presence of armed groups:**

Armed groups often use sexual violence as a weapon of war. This violence can be used to intimidate and control civilian populations, and to punish or reward members of the armed group.

- **The lack of accountability:**

In many conflict-affected areas, there is a lack of accountability for sexual violence. This can send a message that sexual violence is tolerated and acceptable.

Addressing the political economy of sexual violence in armed conflict requires a comprehensive approach that involves a range of stakeholders, including governments, armed groups, and civil society organizations. This approach should include:

- **Prevention:**

Preventing sexual violence requires addressing the underlying factors that contribute to its prevalence. This includes promoting gender equality, strengthening the rule of law, and supporting civil society organizations that are working to prevent sexual violence.

- **Protection:**

Protecting victims of sexual violence requires providing them with

access to essential services, such as medical care, counseling, and legal support. It also requires creating safe spaces where victims can seek help and support.

- **Accountability:**

Ending impunity for sexual violence requires holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes. This includes prosecuting perpetrators, providing reparations to victims, and reforming the justice system to ensure that sexual violence is treated as a serious crime.

The political economy of sexual violence in armed conflict is a complex problem, but it is one that can be addressed. By working together, we can create a world where sexual violence is no longer a part of armed conflict.

Further Reading

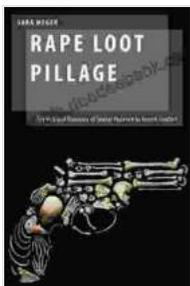
- [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict | United Nations](#)
- [Sexual violence in armed conflict | ICRC](#)
- [Sexual violence | Amnesty International](#)



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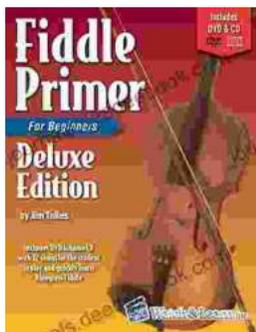
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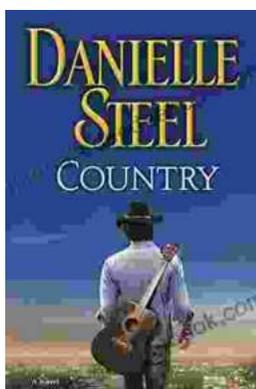
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