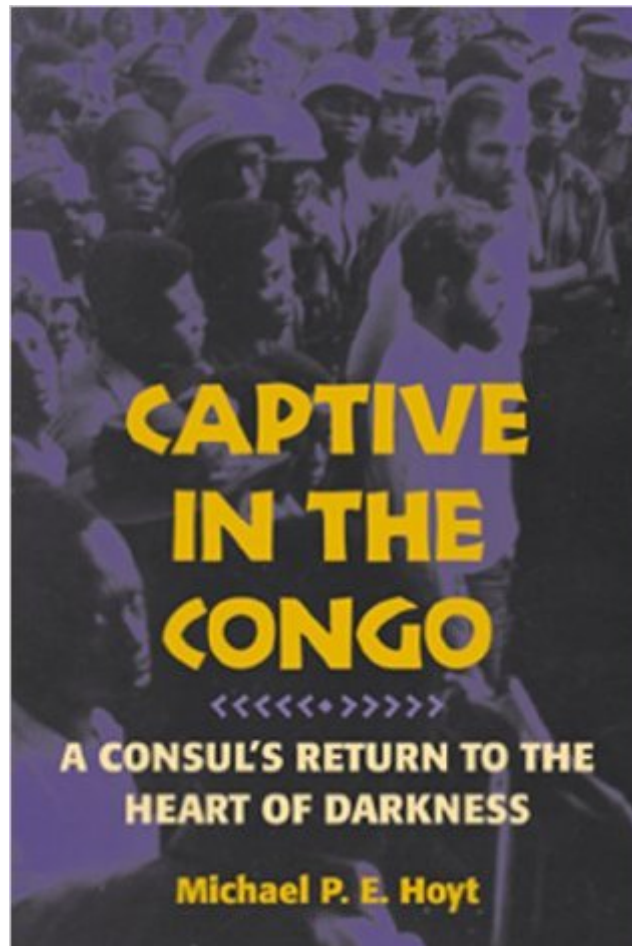


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Captive In The Congo: A Consul's Return To The Heart Of Darkness



Synopsis

Taken hostage by Congolese rebels in 1964, Hoyt provides an inside account of the seizure of the U.S. Consulate staff and their 111 days of captivity. Presented in cooperation with the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The then new head of the American Consulate in the Congo writes his well- documented and dignified personal recollection of consulate staff being imprisoned, beaten, threatened by cannibals, hopping to escape the knives being hurled at their feet and sentenced to death almost weekly in the uprisings of 1964. One day they would be locked in a filthy, tiny womens bathroom, crowded, trying to sleep upright to the sound of shooting outside. One day they were dignitaries transported to a luxury hotel, then the next day they were hostages sleeping on boards in prison. All depended on relations and sympathies of whoever held the moment's power. Chaos reigns. Diplomatic rights and privilege only work occasionally and the captured are dependant upon whatever help comes from personnel at other consulates, people in various factions they worked with before capture, missionaries, and the saner elements of warring factions. With limited and sporatic communication they have no idea if their superiors are aware of the seriousness of the situation. Their own relentless efforts at negotiation have limited effect. The first third of this harrowing tale is almost unreadable with military memos, uncertainty about what the political situation was and indecision or technical inability to respond. Hoyt attempts to stay clear headed and analytical amidst every source he talks to relaying often contradictory or seemingly absurd information. When orders were sent for

civilians to evacuate many never received the orders and others refused to leave, not realizing how volatile and life-threatening Stanleyville would quickly become.

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