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The Politics Of Bones: Dr. Owens Wiwa And The Struggle For Nigeria's Oil



Synopsis

The gripping story of a people's battle against a corrupt government and a powerful oil company. On November 10, 1995, Nigeria's military dictatorship executed nine environmental activists. Among them was Ken Saro-Wiwa, the charismatic spokesman of the Ogoni people, whose land in the fertile Niger River delta has been grotesquely polluted by Royal Dutch Shell Corporation. During Ken's incarceration on a trumped-up murder charge, his brother, Dr. Owens Wiwa, fought valiantly to save his life – even though he himself was on his government's most-wanted list. When his quest failed, Owens narrowly escaped Nigeria with his life, fleeing the country on foot with his wife and newborn son, first to London, where he was embraced by the likes of Anita Roddick and Doris Lessing, and then to Toronto, where he now lives. Owens Wiwa has taken up his brother's environmental crusade and fought, against terrible odds, to have his brother's remains returned to the family for a proper burial. His story is a heart-stopping saga of personal courage and official corruption, of individual selflessness and corporate greed, of a man's abiding love for his brother and extraordinary determination to honour him.

Book Information

Hardcover: 389 pages

Publisher: McClelland & Stewart; 1st edition (September 13, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0771041543

ISBN-13: 978-0771041549

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,445,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > History > Africa > Nigeria #1331 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African

Customer Reviews

This book packs a wallop: it's a heart-racing, eye-opening account of corruption, bravery, and the restless search for justice. The tale of two true modern day heroes who are brothers; the book will keep you engrossed, outraged, and ultimately, enlightened. Hunt expertly tells his tale with intelligence, anger and lyricism. The book will change your understanding of the world in which you live.

This insider perspective of the brother of Ken Saro-Wiwa provides an interesting take on the life of the Wiwas and the Ogoni people. The book was not always a smooth read for me - at times it felt more like a collection of stories strung together, but ultimately I enjoyed the book, and the spotlight it shines on the ecological disaster wrought by the oil industry (and corrupt and colluding politicians) and what it means for ordinary people.

This book is rich and heartbreaking. Documenting the atrocities that Dutch Royal Shell committed against the Ogoni people and the struggle the Wiwa family went through to return the bodies of wrongfully executed civilians this book is harrowing. While dense, I was surprised how well everything flowed together and I didn't feel like I got too bogged down. The retelling of Ken Wiwa's assassination is an important and gut wrenching story to tell. Exposing the wrongs of Shell and how corruption hurt an entire community, this book is eye opening. The Wiwa family and many others faced terrible injustices that should be remembered and not repeated

The Politics of Bones is a fantastic read. Tim Hunt masterfully tells the story of the struggle of two brothers, their family and their countrymen in a battle against a corrupt government and an oil company ignoring the destruction of the Nigerian environment. You'll be outraged by the forces encountered by these two great men, yet inspired by the courage of the brothers Ken and Owens. This story will open your eyes to a tragedy that has been ignored for too long.

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