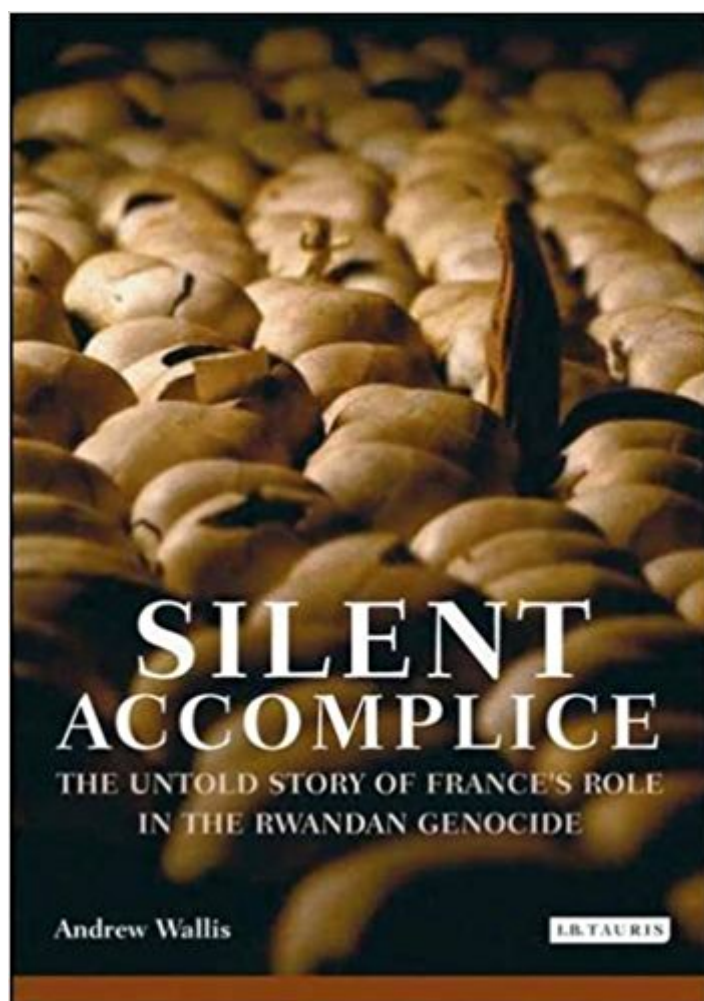


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Silent Accomplice: The Untold Story Of France's Role In The Rwandan Genocide



Synopsis

The massacre of 1 million Rwandan Tutsis by ethnic Hutus in 1994 has become a symbol of the international community's helplessness in the face of human rights atrocities. It is assumed that the West was well-intentioned, but ultimately ineffectual. But as Andrew Wallis reveals in this shocking book, one country - France - was secretly providing military, financial and diplomatic support to the genocidaires all along. Based on new interviews with key players and eye-witnesses, and previously unreleased documents, Wallis's book tells a story which many have suspected, but never seen set out before. France, Wallis discovers, was keen to defend its influence in Africa, even if it meant complicity in genocide, for as French President Francois Mitterrand once said: "in countries like that, genocide is not so important". Wallis's riveting expose of the French role in one of the darkest chapters of human history will provoke furious debate, denials, and outrage.

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Customer Reviews

"...exposing the extent to which the Rwandan genocide was result of a proxy war between France and US over control of some of the world's greatest mineral wealth..." --Morning Star "Wallis' riveting expose of the French role in one of the darkest chapters of human history will provoke furious debate, denial, and outrage." --African Business "As a survey of this episode [France's support of the Rwandan regime during the genocide] Wallis's book does offer new insights. I recommend this book to all who want to understand what happened in Rwanda. I would especially recommend it given current French and French-proxy efforts to

market the "two genocide" pabulum espoused by the surviving Hutu extremists and their supporters." --Thomas P. Odom, Small Wars Journal

Andrew Wallis is a freelance journalist and a researcher at the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford.

Original review on Small Wars Journal.com As a member of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization in 1988, I once spent a week on observation post duty in El Arish, Egypt with a French Army captain of Vietnamese-French heritage. I remember that week well because he convinced me to try Nuc Mong (rotten fish oil sauce). To my relief, it did not taste fishy. Seven years later I attended a diplomatic function in Kigali, Rwanda where to my surprise my former El Arish comrade was introduced as the newly arrived second secretary of the French embassy. Unlike the Nuc Mong in 1987, his arrival in Kigali in 1995 was most definitely fishy. He was using a different name and he pretended not to know when I grabbed his hand and addressed him by what had served as his first name the last time we met. This encounter only increased the sour taste I had in my mouth regarding French activities and policies toward Rwanda before, during, and after the genocide. I offer that vignette as a metaphor well suited to introducing Andrew Wallis's book, *Silent Accomplice: The Untold Story of France's Role in the Rwandan Genocide*. Wallis offers a wider review of French and Rwandan sources in discussing France's relationship to the Rwandan tragedy. His interviews with French and Rwandan sources, especially members of the former Rwandan military are quite valuable. Wallis sets these interviews against a larger examination of the Mitterrand regime that is in itself damning. France or at least France as defined by that peculiar relationship between the French exterior forces and the French presidential cabinet put as priority number one maintenance of the Francophone African club. In the case of Rwanda, Mitterrand and company would seek to maintain a repressive regime even as it plotted and executed a full blown genocide against its own people. Worse, France would continue to openly and covertly support and succor that regime as it lost the war. That support continued after the war ended. Despite Wallis' title, France pursued this policy openly and defiantly. As a survey of this episode with an attention to French and Rwandan sourced details, Wallis's book does offer new insights. On the other hand, Wallis's work is not as well researched as its jacket proclaims. First of all he is not revealing an untold story. *The Rwanda Crisis and Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwanda Genocide and the International Community* both walked down this path on the Rwandan genocide. They remain the standard baseline for journalistic coverage of the war and genocide. Prunier was actually inside Operation Turquoise as an "advisor."

Such credentials are hard to match. Melvern has done tremendous work in sifting through the available evidence that has emerged after the clearing of the camps in Zaire and the International Tribunal in Arusha. Wallis falls short of matching their work. Still I recommend this book to all who want to understand what happened in Rwanda. I would especially recommend it given current French and French-proxy efforts to market the "two genocide" pabulum espoused by the surviving Hutu extremists and their supporters. Thomas Odom

Author, *Journey Into Darkness: Genocide In Rwanda* (Texas A & M University Military History Series)

Andrew Wallis has done a superb job in bringing to light the French arrogance and cynicism that deliberately and directly helped a murderous regime succeed in carrying out a genocide and war. Thank god for researchers like Wallis whose impeccably-researched and extremely-readable book has uncovered the grim truth of French politics in Africa...all in the name of "la francophonie". The scary part of Wallis's research is that, in reading this book, one learns that, today, the French are openly harboring many of the murderers and planners of the genocide. But not just harboring...they have good homes, are working in churches and mainstream activities in French communities where they have been accommodated by the French government. Bravo to Wallis. The world needs your quality of research. I would say to Wallis: "you give us some hope that your exposure might eventually help the French public have the information which their government has hidden from them, and with that information, manage to get their complicit government to turn over the murderers in their midst, to international courts."

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