



Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights and Oil

By Ike Okonta, Oronto Douglas, George Monbiot

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On February 22, 1895, a naval force laid siege to Brass, the chief city of the Ijo people of Nembe in Nigeria's Niger Delta. After severe fighting, the city was razed. More than two thousand people perished in the attack. A hundred years later, the world was shocked by the murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa writer, political activist, and leader of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People. Again the people of Nembe were locked in a grim life-and-death struggle to safeguard their livelihood from two forces: a series of corrupt and repressive Nigerian governments and the giant multinational Royal Dutch Shell. Ike Okonta and Oronto Douglas present a devastating case against the world's largest oil company, demonstrating how (in contrast to Shell's public profile) irresponsible practices have degraded agricultural land and left a people destitute. The plunder of the Niger Delta has turned full circle as crude oil has taken the place of palm oil, but the dramatis personae remain the same: a powerful multinational company bent on extracting the last drop of blood from the richly endowed Niger Delta, and a courageous people determined to resist.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Okonta and Douglas provide a vivid and relentless account of human tragedy since oil was discovered in the Niger Delta in 1956.”—Carl Hand

“This passionate book should be read by all those interested in the links between oil and oppression. The authors,, both from Nigeria’s oil producing Niger Delta, bring equal depth of knowledge and outrage at the injustices wrought against their homeland by Nigeria’s governments—colonial, military and civilian—and by the oil companies, first among them Shell.”—Bronwen Manby

About the Author

Ike Okonta is a writer and journalist. His first collection of short stories, *The Expert Hunter of Rats*, won the Association of Nigerian Authors Prize in 1998. Orono Douglas is Nigeria's leading human rights lawyer and was a member of the legal team that represented Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995.

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