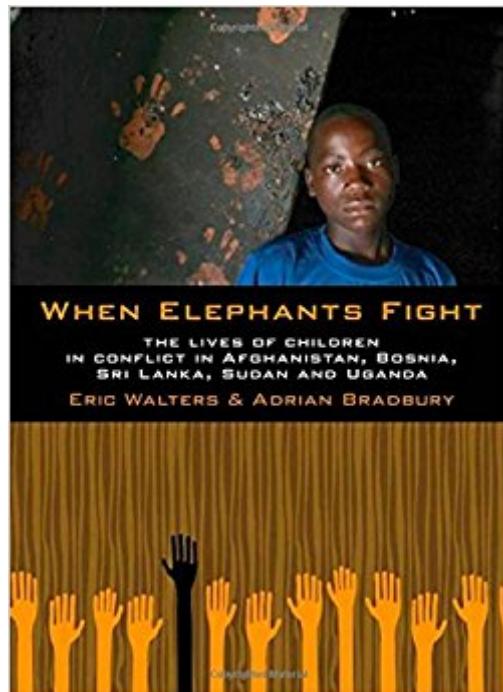


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When Elephants Fight



Synopsis

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. This ancient proverb of the Kikuyu people, a tribal group in Kenya, Africa, is as true today as when the words were first spoken, perhaps thousands of years ago. Its essence is simplicity—when the large fight, it is the small who suffer most. And when it comes to war, the smallest, the most vulnerable, are the children. When Elephants Fight presents the stories of five children—Annu, Jimmy, Nadja, Farooq and Toma—from five very different and distinct conflicts—Sri Lanka, Uganda, Sarajevo, Afghanistan and the Sudan. Along with these very personal accounts, the book also offers brief analyses of the history and geopolitical issues that are the canvas on which these conflicts are cast. When Elephants Fight is about increasing awareness. For the future to be better than the past, better than the present, we must help equip our children with an awareness and understanding of the world around them and their ability to bring about change. Gandhi stated, "If you are going to change the world, start with the children."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Based on the eyewitness accounts of five children experiencing wars around the world, each chapter in this powerful volume tells one victim's personal story in detail, followed by a long discussion of the history and politics of the conflict. The narratives are in the third person, accompanied by occasional moving photos of the child before the war, of his or her home under fire, and a brief final "follow-up" note about where the child is now. Some young people are direct targets in cases of genocide, with child soldiers trained to

dehumanize others. Some children bear the brunt of an attack, as so-called collateral damage, and suffer starvation, disease, and loss of shelter. They also lose out when there are no resources for health and education. Some are in refugee camps and army barracks. A few lucky ones are immigrants who escaped. One, Toma in Chad, remains an ongoing victim of war. The harrowing individual accounts humanize today's news reports and statistics. Add this to the Holocaust curriculum. Grades 6-12. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A solid vehicle for discussions about the effects of war on children... Highly recommended." (CM Magazine 2008-09-01)"Bradbury's personal experience with children in northern Uganda lends credence to these narratives, and readers will share his sympathies with these innocent victims." (Kirkus Reviews 2008-09-01)"[Walters and Bradbury] provide a thoughtful historical and political analysis to assist young readers - along with many an older reader understandably confused by world events - in seeing how these conflicts arise." The tales provide a fresh and vibrant voice that needs to be heard." (Quill & Quire 2008-11-01)"It should be mandatory reading! Highly, highly recommended." (Tucson Unified School District 2009-01-01)"This outstanding book...is a recommended purchase for all middle and high school libraries. It is an interesting and powerful read that will appeal to the student interest in global issues, or anyone with an interest in children's rights." (Resource Links 2009-02-01)"Worth the effort of media specialists and teachers to get it into the hands of students...This would be an excellent supplemental text for a high school geography or world civilization program. Highly Recommended." (Library Media Connection 2009-03-01)"The narratives are filled with conflict, suspense, and action...Earth-toned pages, color photography, and informative sidebars make the book attractive." (VOYA 2009-04-01)"The writing is accessible, and the kids' stories are compelling. The many photographs of children and landscapes help contextualize their stories." (The Horn Book Guide 2009-04-01)"A comprehensive, yet concise, history of the conflicts or wars immediately following each child's story...An eye-opening perspective that is valuable to readers of all ages." (Southwestern Ohio Young Adult Materials Review Group 2009-03-01) --CM Magazine

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