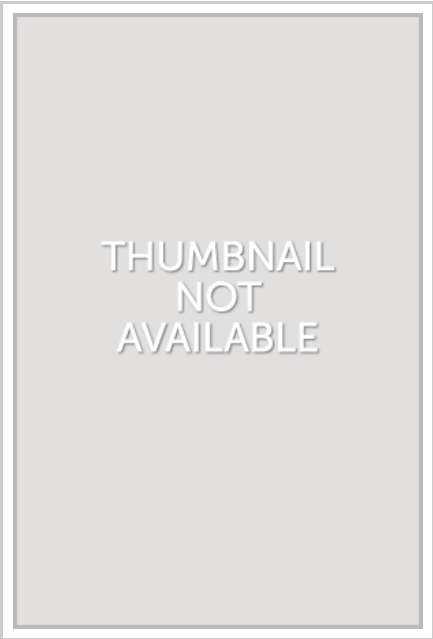


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The Significance of Forgiveness in Reconciliation

By Mecha, Thomas

Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: epubli | A Qualitative Exploration: Victims' Experiences of Forgiveness at the Grassroots Level in Post-War Burundi | This study explores how and why victims of the civil war in Burundi (1993-2005) forgave their offenders and in how far this process led to reconciliation. | Forgiveness is a very sensible issue in post-war societies because it is often associated with notions of amnesty and forgetting. But it also plays a significant role in reconciliation processes, especially in post-war contexts where victims and offenders live in the same community and need to find a way to live together. This study explores how and why victims of the civil war in Burundi (1993-2005) forgave their perpetrators. Based on individual narratives, it enables a rare insight into the very personal sphere of forgiveness and explores in how far forgiveness contributes to reconciliation. Burundi has experienced several violent eruptions of ethno-political conflicts (1972, 1988, 1991). More recently, the civil war had devastating effects on Burundi's social fabric and shattered many communities. The Arusha peace agreement may have been essential in paving the way for a political settlement but in order to transform relationships on the ground, people need to initiate dialogues....

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