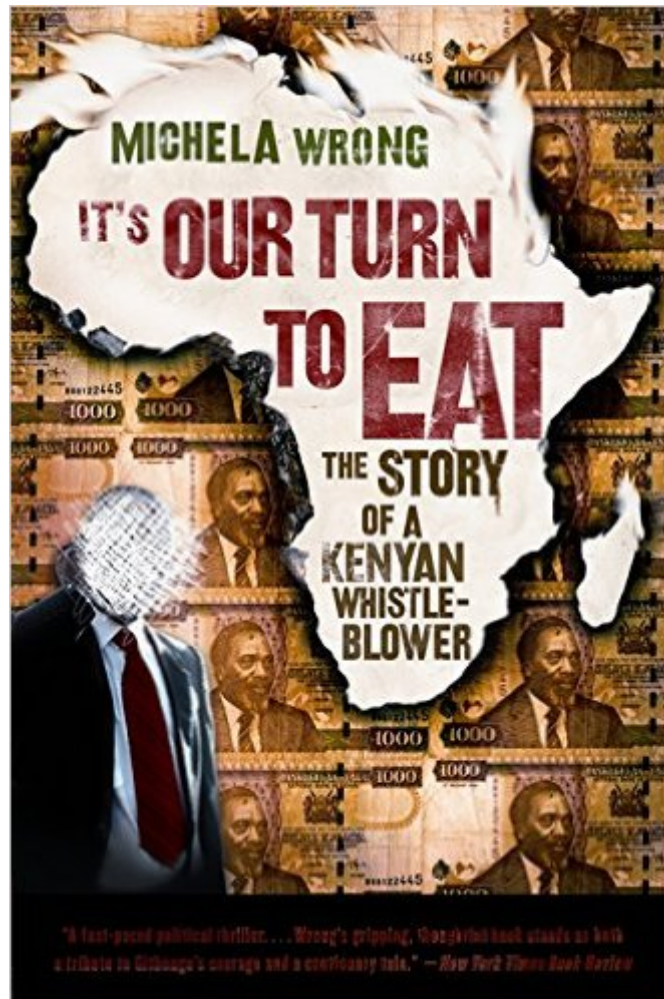


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It's Our Turn To Eat: The Story Of A Kenyan Whistle-Blower



Synopsis

"A fast-paced political thriller.... Wrong's gripping, thoughtful book stands as both a tribute to Githongo's courage and a cautionary tale." • "New York Times Book Review" • "On one level, It's Our Turn to Eat reads like a John Le Carré novel.... On a deeper and much richer level, the book is an analysis of how and why Kenya descended into political violence." • "Washington Post" Called "urgent and important" • by Harper's magazine, It's Our Turn to Eat is a nonfiction political thriller of modern Kenya • "an eye-opening account of tribal rivalries, pervasive graft, and the rising anger of a prospect-less youth that exemplifies an African dilemma.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial; Reprint edition (June 8, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061346594

ISBN-13: 978-0061346590

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #251,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > History > Africa > Kenya #170 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Non-US Legal Systems #170 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African

Customer Reviews

Once again Michela Wrong's journalistic impressionism and meticulous reporting lights up a neglected corner of a neglected continent. Wrong is a writer with incredible sources and she knows how to weld their information into a compelling story. The book centers on John Githongo, an idealist in a world where pragmatism ruled. He was appointed as the head of a new anti-corruption agency created by Mwai Kibaki, newly elected president of Kenya. Kibaki was only the third Chief Executive of the east African country, replacing Daniel arap Moi who ruled from 1978 to 2002 and who replaced the revered Jomo Kenyatta, founding father, freedom fighter, hero of African independence. Kenya, according to Wrong, is structured more by tribe than anything else. Membership in the Kikuyu tribe is more important than citizenship of Kenya, for example. President Kibaki and John Githongo were Kikuyus and Githongo discovered his role in the government was to

act as window dressing for donors and foreign governments, to show these very important westerners that the corrupt old days of Moi were over. They weren't, of course. The people pocketing the bribes and kickbacks changed but the method didn't and the more Githongo found out the less popular he became. Those now in power had the same view of government as those they replaced: it was not to produce public goods like roads, bridges, markets, irrigation, education, health care, public sanitation, clean drinking water or effective legal systems but to produce private goods for those who hold or have access to political power. Contracts don't go to the low bidder or to the company most able to perform but to whoever offers the largest bribe. The most outrageous example of this is the Anglo Leasing fiasco.

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