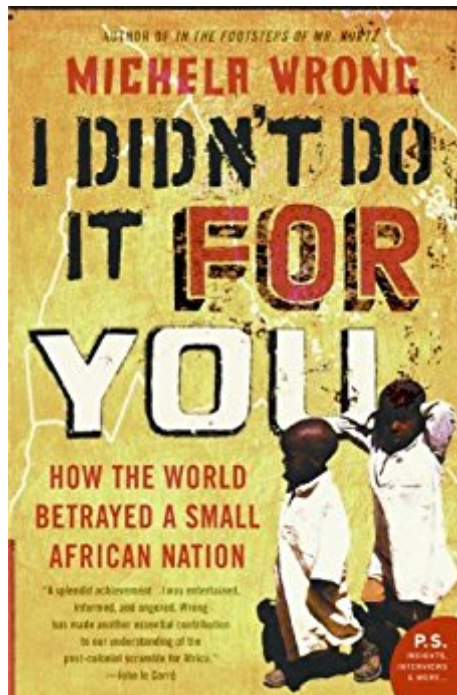




The book was found

# I Didn't Do It For You: How The World Betrayed A Small African Nation



## Synopsis

Scarred by decades of conflict and occupation, the craggy African nation of Eritrea has weathered the world's longest-running guerrilla war. The dogged determination that secured victory against Ethiopia, its giant neighbor, is woven into the national psyche, the product of cynical foreign interventions. Fascist Italy wanted Eritrea as the springboard for a new, racially pure Roman empire; Britain sold off its industry for scrap; the United States needed a base for its state-of-the-art spy station; and the Soviet Union used it as a pawn in a proxy war. In *I Didn't Do It for You*, Michela Wrong reveals the breathtaking abuses this tiny nation has suffered and, with a sharp eye for detail and a taste for the incongruous, tells the story of colonialism itself and how international power politics can play havoc with a country's destiny.

## Book Information

File Size: 1197 KB

Print Length: 480 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books; Reprint edition (October 13, 2009)

Publication Date: October 13, 2009

Language: English

ASIN: B000VYX9BM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #215,424 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2

in [Kindle Store](#) > Travel > Africa > Eritrea #26 in [Kindle Store](#) > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > East Africa #90 in [Kindle Store](#) > History > Africa > East Africa

## Customer Reviews

Michela Wrong opens this book on the -- to Westerners -- negligible country of Eritrea with a marvelous anecdote. She was sitting in Cairo airport's transit lounge near a middle-aged Pakistani who introduced himself as a salesman who traveled Africa and the Middle East looking for possible markets for his multinational company. Wrong, in turn, told him that she was a journalist writing a book about Eritrea, which is where she was headed. He was confused. "You are writing a book

about Algeria?" "No. Eritrea." "Nigeria?" "No, Eritrea." "Al-Jazeera?" "No. Eritrea. Small country on the Red Sea. Used to be part of Ethiopia." The Pakistani closed the conversation: "I'm sorry. But I've simply never heard of the place." The book's title comes from a story, apocryphal one hopes, of a British captain leading his war-weary men into the capital city of Asmara after the battle of Keren, which, although little-known, was among the toughest and most brutal battles of World War II. He was greeted by an old Eritrean woman, enthusiastically ululating in celebration of her country's liberation from Italian Fascist rule. The captain interrupted her high-pitched shrilling with a savage "I didn't do it for you, n\*\*\*\*r." That too is a theme of Wrong's book: Nothing, absolutely nothing, that the world's powers -- from Italy, to Great Britain, to the United States, to Russia, to Israel -- have done in Eritrea since 1880 has been for the Eritreans. Instead, Eritrea has been a venue for colonialism, pillaging, and the exercise of Cold War and Middle East realpolitik, and a pimple on the rump of Ethiopia. Essentially, *I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU* is a history of Eritrea, and because Eritrea has been so closely engaged with its neighbor Ethiopia, also a history of Ethiopia. Ethiopia believes that Eritrea should be part of it, which, of course, would give it access to the Red Sea. By and large, Wrong rebuts Ethiopia's arguments. Yet from 1950 to 1990 Ethiopia exercised varying degrees of control over Eritrea, and from 1962 to 1992 Eritrea fought a bitter, heroic, and ultimately successful War of Independence. That War of Independence -- as well as its aftermath, first tantalizingly promising but now sadly depressing (Eritrea now is essentially a one-party country presided over by Isaias Afwerki, a dictator for all intents and purposes) -- is the central episode of the book. The major secondary ones consist of Eritrea being buffeted about by the Italians, then the British, and later the Americans. In yet another instance I learn how my country's post-World War II foreign policy was shameful and misguided. Admirable in many ways, *I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU* could have been better. It is too hasty and unnecessarily confusing. Seemingly containing everything that Wrong ever reported or researched in a decade of covering Eritrea, the book is too long for the general reader. Moreover, while briskly written, it is riddled with threadbare clichés. (No book should contain more than one "turning a blind eye

A fantastic book written from the inside of the Eritrean Civil war. The author outlines what was quite possibly the most unique rebellion in African history. She does a masterful job of portraying the initial years of the EPLF and their ability to mobilize the populace and utilize the safe havens available to support their efforts. The contrast between Mengistu's governance and that of the EPLF in the initial years is stark and telling. The sad part of the book is the decline of inclusive governance and ultimate strong man rule by Afwerki. Although the title speaks of "how the world betrayed a

small African nation," it might well have been: "How a revolution betrayed itself. It would be a true seminal work if Ms. Wrong did a follow on book or an updated version covering the period from 2005 to the present. I Didn't Do It for You: How the World Betrayed a Small African Nation (P.S.)

I grabbed this as the most highly rated book on Eritrea. I fully understand after zipping through the pages. Well written, dry, witty, and insightful as to the human and political relationships that form this nation, it has served as my primer. I will read more on Eritrea, but doubt that it will be as enjoyable. Excellent job. I, too, hope to ride that train one day.

As an Eritrean raised in post independence Eritrea, reading this book really gave me an interesting and critical perspective. It gave a view of how Eritrea is seen from outside. I enjoyed reading it, and I learned a lot I didn't know about my country. There are seemingly unimportant facts and little details that answer questions I've asked myself all my life. Thanks to Wrong I now have a deeper view into my lovely country's past. I would recommend this book as a reading text in schools in Eritrea, and also to anyone who wants to learn about Eritrea in a fun, enjoyable way. Thank you Michela Wrong for contributing such a wonderful book about my people and my country.

This is well written and I'm interested in Eritrea, but it gets very bogged down in the minutiae of the various political machinations at times.

Incredible story of a tiny nation fighting for its life against a giant and winning!

I knew - and cared, frankly - nothing at all about Eritrea when I started this book. It is incredibly well-written and a fascinating account of a story that should be better known. While I am to the right of the author, one has to respect her research, keen insights, and writing skills. I have now purchased her other books.

Even to those who claim they have a good understanding, like me, about Eritrean history, the information the book provides on the Italian and British occupation is some thing that you hardly find in other books. The suffering of the population under the Italian colonization and the looting during the British administration from 1941 to 1952 is quite revealing.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

I Didn't Do It for You: How the World Betrayed a Small African Nation I Didn't Do It for You: How the

World Betrayed a Small African Nation (P.S.) African: African Recipes - The Very Best African Cookbook (African recipes, African cookbook, African cook book, African recipe, African recipe book) I Didn't Do It For You: How the World Used and Abused a Small African Nation What They Didn't Teach You In Photo School: The secrets of the trade that will make you a success in the industry (What They Didn't Teach You In School) What They Didn't Teach You in Art School: How to survive as an artist in the real world (What They Didn't Teach You In School) Visual Aid: Stuff You've Forgotten, Things You Never Thought You Knew, and Lessons You Didn't Quite Get Around to Learning The World's Greatest Book of Useless Information: If You Thought You Knew All the Things You Didn't Need to Know - Think Again Self Reliance - What Do Mean You Didn't Know?: African-Americans Achieving A Well Spent Life The De-Textbook: The Stuff You Didn't Know About the Stuff You Thought You Knew Planet Law School II: What You Need to Know (Before You Go), But Didn't Know to Ask... and No One Else Will Tell You, Second Edition African Masks Coloring Book: A Coloring Book Featuring Over 30 Images Inspired By Traditional African Masks,Cultural History,Folk Art Coloring Book,African Art Decor African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms A Kitchen in Tunisia: Tunisian Recipes from North Africa (Tunisian Recipes,Tunisian Cookbook, Tunisian Cooking, Tunisian Food, African Recipes, African Cookbook, African Cooking Book 1) AFRICAN Cooking: The Most Delicious African Food Recipes with Simple and Easiest Directions and Mouth Watering Taste - Best African cookbook Africa: African History: From Ancient Egypt to Modern South Africa - Stories, People and Events That Shaped The History of Africa (African Folktales, African ... Africa, Somalia, Nelson Mandela Book 3) Small Claims Not Small Brains!: 10 Strategies To Help You Win In Small Claims Court CNET Do-It-Yourself Home Video Projects: 24 Cool Things You Didn't Know You Could Do! The Reel Truth: Everything You Didn't Know You Need to Know About Making an Independent Film Why Fish Fart: Gross but True Things You'll Wish You Didn't Know

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)