Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

By Dorina A. Bekoe

United States Institute of Peace Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, Dorina A. Bekoe, Eighteen African countries held presidential, primary, or legislative elections in 2011. Elections in eleven of these countries were marked by violence that ranged from low-level intimidation and harassment to more intensely violent displacement and death. Electoral violence of any kind can deter citizens from voting, discourage candidates from running for office, weaken civil society's scrutiny of elections, and hurt the legitimacy of a government. In Voting in Fear, nine contributors offer pioneering work on the scope and nature of electoral violence in Africa; investigate the forms electoral violence takes; and analyze the factors that precipitate, reduce, and prevent violence. The book breaks new ground with findings from the only known dataset of electoral violence in sub-Saharan Africa, spanning 1990 to 2008. Specific case studies of electoral violence in countries such as Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria provide the context to further understanding the circumstances under which electoral violence takes place, recedes, or recurs. Combining issue-driven research with in-depth empirical insights, contributors link electoral violence to past histories of violence, close elections, a state's declining economic fortunes, and weak...

Reviews

This is basically the very best publication i actually have go through until now. It really is loaded with knowledge and wisdom I realized this publication from my i and dad encouraged this publication to discover.

-- Bryana Klocko III

This created publication is wonderful. it absolutely was written extremely completely and beneficial. I discovered this publication from my dad and i encouraged this publication to discover.

-- Kristina Kshlerin DDS

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Voting in Fear shows that while electoral violence may pale in comparison to overall levels of violence within a nation, if left unchecked it can lead to diminished support for democracy, reduced legitimacy of leaders, and, possibly, the seeds of civil war (p. 243). Scott Straus and Charlie Taylor's chapter, "Democratisation and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1990–2008", is offered up as the fulcrum for many of the case studies to follow, their African electoral violence database (AEVD) providing an important reference point throughout. The database is seminal, in that there is no other existing and published cross-national dataset that focu.
Nine contributors offer pioneering work on the scope and nature of electoral violence in Africa; investigate the forms electoral violence takes; and analyze the factors that precipitate, reduce, and prevent violence. Preventing electoral violence in Kenya will depend on: Establishing avenues for early warning of conflict and strategies for an effective early response to defuse the situation. Sending strong signals from national leaders that planning and carrying out acts of election-related violence will be punished. While many African electoral contests in the coming years will proceed without violence, there are countries whose history and institutional weaknesses make them vulnerable. The cases reviewed here show that governmental and civil society efforts can effectively mitigate electoral violence. However, as 95 percent of all incidents of electoral violence take place within six months of polling day, support from the international community is most effective when provided early.