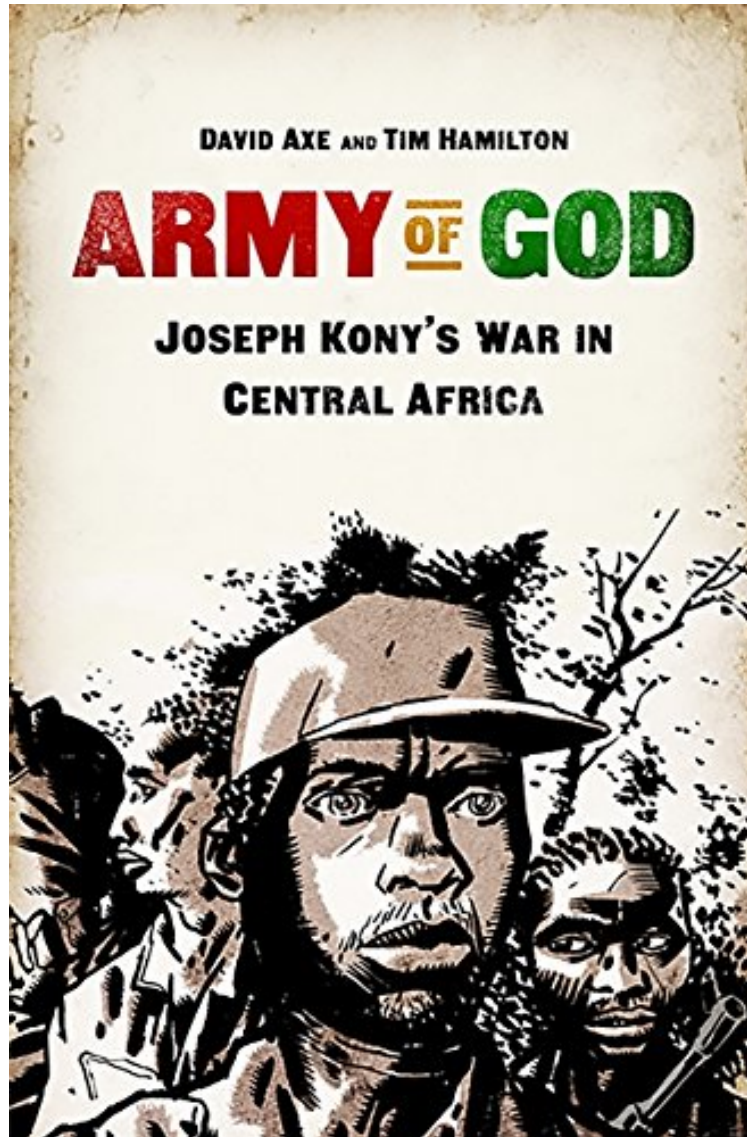


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## Army of God: Joseph Kony's War in Central Africa

*David Axe, Tim Hamilton*

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**David Axe, Tim Hamilton : Army of God: Joseph Kony's War in Central Africa** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Army of God: Joseph Kony's War in Central Africa:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. it does a good job of capturing the main points of the issue ...By joshuaAs someone who actually works on this stuff as a scholar, I wasnt sure what to expect, but I get all books on this subject just for reference. And I must say I was thoroughly impressed. First off, its about managing expectations. This is NOT a scholarly academic or journalistic book,but a "graphic novel." But as such, yes, it does a good job of

capturing the main points of the issue in a very interesting and captivating way. I would recommend for youth readers or those who wouldn't ordinarily read up on such things, in order to generate interest. As someone with little experience reading comics or graphic novels, it has made me wonder about similar such works that tell the story of other real-world events in this manner. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Superficial introduction to the subject and little else. By Gordon McAlpin The information in this book is important and harrowing, of course, and the artwork is wonderful, but the scripts never get the reader inside the heads of the participants or give us any insight into the lived experience of these horrific events. Frequently the subjects even go unnamed (though a few are identified in a "Dramatis Personae" section -- in the back of the book), as if their identities are unimportant details. We are passive, distant observers; we are not THERE. We don't get the survivors' perspective at all. What is the point of using the comic book medium, if not to take advantage of the immediacy it gives you? Ultimately, *Army of God* is a decent collection of anecdotes, rotely adapted into comics. Axe's approach fails to take advantage of the medium in any conceivable way; the pictures add nothing to Axe's perspective, and worse, Axe's chosen perspective adds nothing to the story he is telling. Why is it a comic at all? Sacco's work feels like several hundred of page of research distilled into a couple hundred pages -- the pictures provide volumes of information, and it's all from a perspective you can't get anywhere else: that of the people the events of each of his books have affected most. This book feels like a magazine feature padded up to 100 pages. It's not that he isn't Joe Sacco, or that he isn't writing enough like Joe Sacco; Axe is just not telling this story in a compelling way. He may be a great journalist, but he is not a good comics writer. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Kindle version must be fixed. By T. Ryan For some reason the Kindle version of this graphic novel does not allow you to zoom into the book. The text is too small to read, so the entire purchase is a waste of time. This rating is for the Kindle version rather than the content of the book. I cannot read it to provide a judgement.

Joseph Kony is the most dangerous guerilla leader in modern African history. It started with a visit from spirits. In 1991, Kony claimed that spiritual beings had come to him with instructions: he was to lead his group of rebels, the Lord's Resistance Army, in a series of brutal raids against ordinary Ugandan civilians. Decades later, Kony has sown chaos throughout Central Africa, kidnapping and terrorizing countless innocents especially children. Yet despite an enormous global outcry, the Kony 2012 movement, and an international military intervention, the carnage has continued. Drawn from on-the-ground reporting by war correspondent David Axe and starkly illustrated by Tim Hamilton, *Army of God* is the first-ever graphic account of the global phenomenon surrounding Kony from the devastation he has left behind to the long campaign to defeat him for good.

From Booklist Unlike fellow war reporters Ted Rall and Joe Sacco, who are also cartoonists, Axe collaborates with a different artist on each of his comics projects. Hamilton may be the best he has ever worked with. The story is bigger than before, as well. It began in the 1980s when erstwhile altar boy Joseph Kony turned his own religious movement into the Lords Resistance Army, vicious guerrillas roaming central Africa, sadistically destroying whole villages and kidnapping children to make them soldiers after sexually abusing them. Though greatly reduced in numbers, the Army is still rampant. In the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2010, Axe interviewed a young teacher, two priests, and a 13-year-old girl who escaped the LRA. Axe tells those informants stories, sketches Kony and his band, and describes the recently more organized thanks to U.S. technical aid pushed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hunt for Kony, as well as the somewhat unstable state of that effort in 2012. Hamilton's assured and detailed black-and-white brushwork art impressively maintains a serious, even dark atmosphere throughout. --Ray Olson Kirkus s