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David Glenwinkel

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David Glenwinkel : The Insanity of Africa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Insanity of Africa:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If only this book had any other title. The title is sadly inappropriate.By Donald L.If only this book had any other title. I refuse to use this book in teaching (I teach development studies at a university in Tanzania) because the title is so inappropriate. The LAST thing the Africans are guilty of is insanity. They are probably the least insane of all peoples I have experience around the world. I realize that it was probably the publishers, not Glenwinkel, who gave the book that title. Too bad. Glenwinkel, I'm sure, was referring to the insanity of the continued pouring of aid money into Africa.5 of 6 people found the following review

helpful. A Must Read By James - California I am not acquainted with, nor have I met David Glenwinkel, nor have I had any dealings with his organizations or activities. I say this so that those who read this can be assured that this is an unbiased review. Actually this is the first book review I have taken the time to write. I do so because 'The Insanity of Africa' deals rightly with the ever declining socio-economic conditions of Africa, a continent that gorges on a large portion of the world's financial resources with little lasting effect and sustainability. It is a book long overdue. It should be a hand-book given to the field staff of every donor organization, charitable trust, foundation, both government and private, having anything to do with working on and supporting projects in Africa. I have lived and worked in the Middle East and Africa, and for 13 years in Eastern Europe, mostly on reorganizing and restructuring municipalities and large industrial complexes. I have seen money thrown at desperate situations, by good-meaning organizations, to be wasted because the true cause was never identified so proper planning could be developed for correction. This often happens because we feel the poor, sick, desperate, and uneducated do not know what they need nor have the ability to offer solutions to their problems. But I have learned that's not the case. Here is a quote from Glenwinkel's book that rings true: "Wealth rarely asks the poor what they think they need to do." 'The Insanity of Africa' does not offer some new approach to the same old problem covered over with new vocabulary and acronyms, rather it is a book that identifies the deep and hidden causes, and offers practical and proven paths toward sustainable solutions. Africa is facing ever increasing problems in poverty, AIDS, health care, orphan population, etc. The hopelessness this is breeding is leading to various forms of corruption, crime, government unrest, even to terrorism. To those who are working in Africa, or on projects for Africa, Glenwinkel's book is a must read. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Need Empowerment, not Enablement By Kathy W "Africa is a massive example of how enablement creates an addictive decline across the entire spectrum of healthy living." This 2010 book is only 133 pages, including a nice hardback cover and approximately 30 black and white photos. Author David Glenwinkel is the founder of Village Care International, a helping organization which works in 300 communities in 5 African countries (10,000 unpaid volunteers, caring for 50,000 orphans without outside donations). With often the best intentions, over \$38 trillion dollars in aid have poured into Africa over the last 50 years, from all over the world, yet the situations there have not improved. Corruption, disease, malnutrition, suffering, and death continue to increase. Why? What is the answer--more money? Africa is said to be the wealthiest, most resource-laden continent on Earth. David originally went to Kenya and Nairobi in 2002, primarily to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Along the way, he fell in love with Africa and its people. David's passion is to see real, meaningful change in Africa, change that would provide its inhabitants a way to help themselves. In our well-meaning ignorance, we are creating and enabling a welfare state in Africa. We may well be killing its people with kindness. Instead, David suggests that we EMPOWER the people, rather than continually make them dependent on assistance. Please understand that the author is NOT suggesting that we stop all aid. But he is suggesting ways in which we may all (collectively) do things in a different way. (Most of you have heard the saying about doing the same thing over and over, while expecting different results. It ain't gonna happen!) To better understand the situation, David provides a history of the changes in Africa, beginning with the establishment of the Kenya-Ugandan Railroad by the British in Mombassa in 1896, which led to the building of Nairobi. This period is said to be the beginning of the permanent destruction of traditional African society. As towns were created, families were broken up, brothels were established, prostitution grew, and disease spread. The colonial occupiers also set one tribe above another in importance, creating friction. An example of such being the Rwanda genocide in 1992, where the occupiers decided the Tutsi were superior to the Hutu and placed the Tutsi above them in the Rwandan bureaucracy. The book continues by explaining what has happened since and how David believes it has affected the African people, and why. In a country where there is said to be lots of corruption, much of the money never gets to the people. Many of the problems are also caused by lots of well-meaning charitable concerns who refuse to work together, to look at the whole picture. Instead, it appears more fashionable to work on each group's separate initiative and declare its singular initiative a success, when it really is not. Poverty has even become an industry in its own right, with the poor as the "product". For many, poverty has become a lifestyle. After about 10 years of working with Africa's people, David is telling you that "Africa is insanity on steroids". He offers suggestions of how the world's people might really help Africa to become self-sufficient.

Thousands of charities have poured trillions of dollars in aid into Africa over the last fifty years for a huge number of projects that range from caring for orphans to feeding the hungry and providing education, clean drinking water, medical care, and more to the impoverished African people. These investments are made with the best of intentions by millions of government, corporate, and individual donors who want nothing more than to help their fellow humans. This massive and ongoing investment is not only failing to address the Africans' real needs, it is also making the problem worse by creating a vicious cycle of helplessness and dependency that requires more and more resources to address. Far from helping, the aid programs over the last half-century have become a growth industry that is actually increasing corruption and suffering while treating the Africans as simpletons who cannot solve their own problems or address their own needs. Saving Africa from the problems caused by slavery, colonialism, and decades of misapplied "aid" will require a completely new approach, one that recognizes the Africans' legacy and ability to solve their own

problems and which recognizes that Africa is by any measure the wealthiest continent on Earth.