

Delve Deeper into *Beats of the Antonov*

A film by **hajooj kuka**

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Rachael Harkness of Portland Public Library provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *The Beats of the Antonov*.

Beats of the Antonov explores how music binds a community in the war-ravaged Sudan region, where people celebrate their survival and battle to maintain their heritage, even as bombs drop all around them. Winner, Grolsch People's Choice Documentary Award, 2014 Toronto International Film Festival.

ADULT NONFICTION

Anderson, Norman. *Sudan in Crisis: The Failure of Democracy*. Brooklyn: Sarah Crichton Books, 2008. Former American ambassador Norman Anderson embarks on a case study of Sudan, presenting its once-promising democracy as a disappointment to North Africa and the world as a whole.

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2006. Former American ambassador Norman Anderson embarks on a case study of Sudan, presenting its once-promising democracy as a disappointment to North Africa and the world as a whole.

Bixler, Mark. *The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience*. Gainesville : University Press of Florida, 1999. In 2000 the United States began accepting 3,800 refugees from one of Africa's longest civil wars. They were just some of the thousands of young men, known as "Lost Boys," who had been orphaned or otherwise separated from their families in the chaos of a brutal conflict that has ravaged Sudan since 1983.

Ajak, Benjamin, Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng and Judy A. Bernstein. *They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2006. Benjamin, Alepho, and Benson were raised among the Dinka tribe of Sudan. Their world was an insulated, close-knit community of grass-roofed cottages, cattle herders, and tribal councils. The lions and pythons that prowled beyond the village fences were the greatest threat they knew. All that changed the night the government-armed Murahiliin began attacking their villages.

Cockett, Richard. *Sudan: Darfur and the Failure of an African State*. New Haven : Yale University Press, 2010. Sudan and its newly formed neighbor South Sudan have experienced tremendous turmoil over the past two decades. The Africa editor of the Economist Richard Cockett created this comprehensive study of Sudan to understand its failures and its role in what some have called genocide.

Fluehr-Lobban, Carolyn and Kharyssa Rhodes (eds.). *Race and Identity in the Nile Valley: Ancient and Modern Perspectives*. Trenton, NJ: Red Sea Press, 2004. This volume of essays examines the issues of race and racism, ethnicity and identity in the major Nile River countries of Egypt and Sudan. With essays from archaeologists and anthropologists rejecting older Orientalist analyses of the region, this book contains discussions devoted to the ancient Nile Valley as well as the post-colonial history of the modern day countries of Sudan and Egypt. As discourse around the civil

McMahon, Felicia R. *Not Just Child's Play: Emerging Tradition and the Lost Boys of Sudan*. Jackson, MS: University of Mississippi Press, 2007. During the Second Sudanese Civil War that raged through the nineties and

into the new millennium, tens of thousands of boys were displaced and moved to refugee camps. Aid workers called them the "Lost Boys." Anthropologist Felicia R. McMahon analyzes the oral traditions of young refugees who have made it to Syracuse, New York, and explores how they have preserved and adapted their culture through language, drama, folklore, and song, providing compelling insights on the diaspora's continuing effects on its youngest survivors.

Maskalyk, James. *Six Months in Sudan*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2009. A memoir of a young doctor trying to heal a village on the brink of devastation chronicles the unthinkable cost of war for one community and a man's courageous effort to bring about lasting change, in spite of the many losses he endures.

Ohadike, Don C. *Sacred Drums of Liberation: Religious and Music of Resistance in Africa and the Diaspora*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2007. *Sacred Drums of Liberation* chronicles the struggle for peoples of African descent to overcome slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonial hegemony. Tracing resistance movements from the colonial period into the 20th century through music and religion, the pursuit of freedom and the practice of resistance extend beyond the borders of Africa into popular culture in the United States, the Caribbean, and South Africa. Music and cultural resistance movements from Maji Maji, Mau Mau, Rumba, Samba, Capoeira, Steelband, Rasta, Reggae, Blues, Hip Hop, and Rap are all evaluated as resistance and a search for equality.

Robinson, Jenefer. *Deeper than Reason: Emotion and its Role in Literature, Music, and Art*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Deeper than Reason takes the insights of modern scientific research on the emotions and uses them to illuminate



Delve Deeper into *Beats of the Antonov*

A film by hajooj kuka

questions about our emotional involvement with the arts.

ADULT FICTION

Eggers, Dave. *What is the What*. San Francisco: McSweeney's, 2006.

Separated from his family, Valentino Achak Deng becomes a refugee in war-ravaged southern Sudan. His travels bring him in contact with enemy soldiers, with liberation rebels, with hyenas and lions, with disease and starvation, and with deadly murahaleen (militias on horseback)—the same sort who currently terrorize Darfur. Based closely on actual experiences, *What is the What* is heartrending and astonishing, filled with adventure, suspense, tragedy, and, finally, triumph.

Tong, Nyuol Lueth. *There Is a Country: New Fiction From the New Nation of South Sudan*. San Francisco, Calif.: McSweeney's, 2013.

From South Sudan, *There Is a Country* collects eight engrossing pieces by South Sudanese authors—the first collection of its kind from the youngest country in the world. Wrestling with a history marked by war and displacement, the work here presents a fresh and necessary account of an emerging nation, past and present. In vivid, gripping prose, *There Is a Country's* stories explore youth and love, life and death, and a first glimpse of what South Sudanese literature has to offer.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Archibald, Erika F. A. *Sudanese Family*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 1997.

Relates the experiences of a family which came to the United States as refugees from a small farming village in the African country of Sudan.

Harris, Rachel and Rowan Pease. *Pieces of the Musical World: Sounds and Cultures*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

With fourteen chapters devoted to a different country, this textbook provides an aural and visual guide to ethnomusicology for advanced young readers (high school and college). A collaboration by researchers at the Department of Music at SOAS, University of London, *Pieces of the Musical World* should prove useful for educators and students alike.

Dau, John Bul. *Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan*. New York: National Geographic Children's Books, 2010.

One of thousands of children who fled strife in southern Sudan, John Bul Dau survived hunger, exhaustion, and violence. His wife, Martha, endured similar hardships. In this memorable book, the two convey the best of African values while relating searing accounts of famine and war. There's warmth as well, in their humorous tales of adapting to American life. For its importance as a primary source, for its inclusion of the rarely told female perspective of Sudan's lost children, for its celebration of human resilience, this is the perfect story to inform and inspire young readers.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Aboulela, Leila. *Lyrics Alley*. New York: Grove Press, 2011.

Their fortune threatened by shifting powers in Sudan and their heir's debilitating accident, a powerful family under the leadership of Mahmoud Bey is torn between the traditional and modern values of Mahmoud's to break with cultural limits.

Bassoff, Leah. *Lost Girl Found*. Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2014.

When war comes to her village in southern Sudan, Poni is forced to flee and join thousands of refugees travelling on foot experiencing great hardship on their way to a refugee camp.

Farish, Terry. *The Good Braider*. Las Vegas, Nev.: Amazon Children's Pub., 2012.

Told in spare free verse, the book follows Viola as she survives brutality in war-torn Sudan, makes a perilous journey, lives as a refugee in Egypt, and finally reaches Portland, Maine, where her quest for freedom and security is hampered by memories of past horrors and the traditions her mother and other Sudanese adults hold dear.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water*. Boston: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2011.

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *The Red Pencil*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2014.

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope to pursue an education by means of a single red pencil and through the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

Williams, Mary. *Brothers in Hope*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005.

Eight-year-old Garang, orphaned by a civil war in Sudan, finds the inner strength to help lead other boys as they trek hundreds of miles seeking safety in Ethiopia, then Kenya, and finally in the United States.

