

The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989



David Keen argues that famines, such as that which devastated the Dinka of Sudan in the 1980s, often have powerful beneficiaries within the affected nation, including political elites and traders. Meanwhile, shortcomings in the manner of international intervention, while contributing to famine, may offer significant political and bureaucratic benefits for international donors. Famine is not necessarily an apocalyptic natural disaster: it may have functions as well as causes. Drawing on a range of historical information and the accounts of famine sufferers, aid providers, and government officials, Keen explains the causes of the Sudanese famine, extracting vital lessons about the future of effective famine relief. Identifying those Sudanese interests that actively promoted famine and obstructed relief, Keen shows how the assets of the politically powerless Dinka were forcibly transferred to beneficiary groups. In a sense, and contrary to the emphasis of Amartya Sen, it was the Dinkas wealth, rather than their poverty, which exposed them to famine in a context where they lacked political redress against exploitation. For the most part, international donors failed to counteract the processes leading to famine or to speak up on behalf of those who lacked political influence in their own society. At a time when the effectiveness of the U.N. and the international community in such crises is increasingly being questioned, this provocative work provides compelling evidence of flaws in current thinking about humanitarian intervention and in its practice.

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A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989 First Edition by David Keen (ISBN: 9780691034232) See Alex de Waal, *Famine That Kills: Darfur, Sudan, 1984-1995* (Oxford: Clarendon, 2003). 15. Keen, *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989*. by Keen David. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. Why Famines Persist in an Era of Globalization Stephen Devereux Keen, D. (1994a) *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Keen, D. *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989*. By David Keen. Princeton: Princeton University Press. The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989. by David Keen. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Amartya Sen, *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation* (Oxford, 1981), p. 4. 1984 (Oxford, 1989) David Keen, *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989* The Benefits of Famine. A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989. Princeton University Press. Keen, D. 1994. *Famine* On Jun 16, 2010 Ashraf Abdelhay published: *The Benefits of Famine: A political economy of famine and relief in southwestern Sudan 1983-1989*, by David Keen, David, 1989. *The benefits of famine : a political economy of famine and relief in southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989*. - (Eastern African Studies) was to investigate the famine in southern Sudan, southern Darfur, and southern Kordofan and the *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989*. Article in *International Affairs* 71(1):193 July 1995 with 7 Book Review: *The Benefits of Famine: A Political Economy of Famine and Relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983-1989* by DAVID KEEN (Chichester and Princeton)