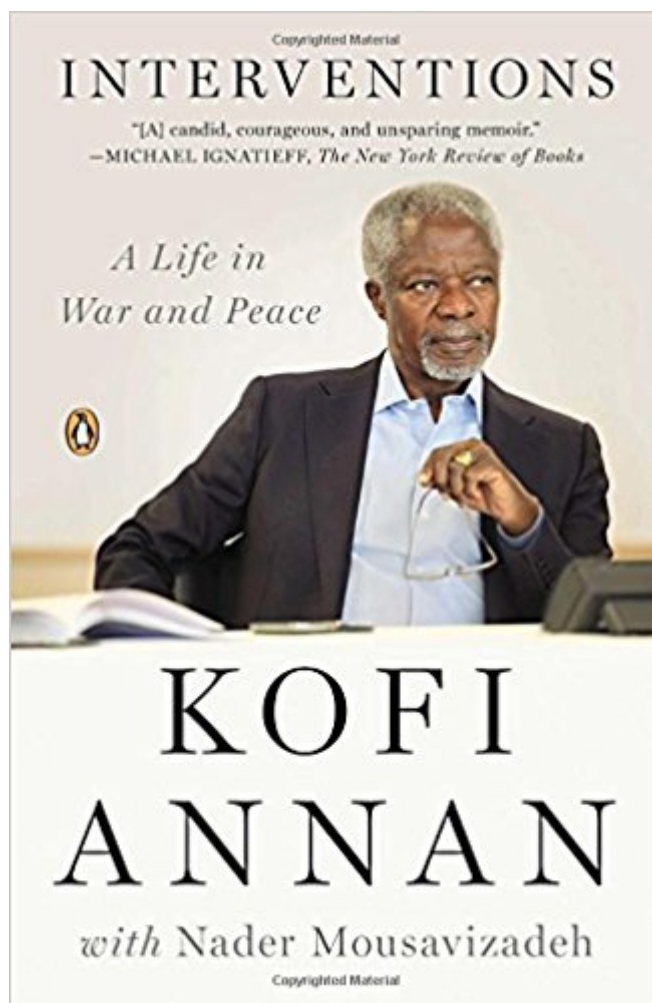


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# Interventions: A Life In War And Peace



## Synopsis

A "candid, courageous, and unsparing memoir" (The New York Review of Books) of post-Cold War politics and global statecraft. Written with eloquence and unprecedented candor, *Interventions* is the story of Kofi Annan's remarkable time at the center of the world stage. After forty years of service at the United Nations, Annan—who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001—shares his unique experiences during the terrorist attacks of September 11; the American invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan; the war between Israel, Hizbollah, and Lebanon; the brutal conflicts of Somalia, Rwanda, and Bosnia; and the geopolitical transformations following the end of the Cold War. A personal biography of global statecraft, *Interventions* is as much a memoir as a guide to world order—past, present, and future.

## Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books (September 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143123955

ISBN-13: 978-0143123958

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #62,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Diplomacy #120 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Terrorism #353 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Political

## Customer Reviews

"No one ever came closer to being the voice of 'we the peoples' and no one paid a higher price for it. The world still needs such a voice, but the next person who tries to fill that role will want to reflect long and hard on the lessons of this candid, courageous, and unsparing memoir."

--Michael Ignatieff, The New York Review of Books "Avoiding the nebulous rhetoric of many political memoirs, Annan instead provides a peacemaker's invaluable perspective on those crises as well as insight into the daunting challenges facing international diplomats in

today's strife-ridden world." --Booklist "[A] first-hand survey of efforts to attend to the world's ills, recalling an alphabet of post-Cold War U.N. peace work from Afghanistan

to Zimbabwe. --The Washington Post "Written as part autobiography, part history lesson, [Interventions] is infused with Mr. Annan's accounts of private encounters with world leaders. --Rick Gladstone, The New York Times "[An] interesting memoir | The accounts related by Annan | are worth every minute spent reading them. Nobody alive can quite match what he has heard and seen. As a bonus, he names names of national rulers and less well-known diplomats. For readers who want to identify heroes and villains, the book provides plenty of material. | With his book as his legacy, perhaps [Annan] will inspire younger individuals to make inroads against | incredible cruelty around the world. --Christian Science Monitor "An insider's personal account based on lessons drawn from long experience. --Kirkus "In this thought-provoking new memoir, Kofi Annan describes the peaceful and more equitable world that is within our grasp, and offers his candid perspective on the challenges we must overcome to get there. Interventions is a powerful reminder that the United Nations still matters | and must continue to matter if we want our new century to be more free, peaceful and prosperous than the last. --President William J. Clinton "Kofi Annan has been a powerful voice for the poor and a tireless advocate for peace. As a catalyst for international security and human rights, Annan reminds us that we, as a global community, are more alike than different. His life's work demonstrates what is possible when we focus on the universal values of equality, tolerance and human dignity. --Bill Gates "Kofi Annan is a great global leader of our time. This wonderful book gives the readers a lucid and enjoyable understanding of the kind of reasoning and commitment that has made Annan such a force for good in the troubled world in which we live. --Amartya Sen "Behind the velvet tones of Kofi Annan's dulcet Ghanaian voice, there's a fearsome and fearless iron will, intent on finding solutions to some of the world's biggest problems." --Bono "An insightful and candid account of the most defining and complex conflicts and peace deals of the last decades of the 20th century intertwined with the vision and the life journey of one of the most outstanding global leaders of our times. Kofi Annan marks his footprint in history with leadership values in which truth, humility and dignity are the weaving threads. --Graça Machel, founder of the Graça Machel Trust "Kofi Annan gives a candid, clear and thoughtful account of his successes and failures in one of the world's most challenging and thankless jobs. --Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister of the Republic of Singapore

Kofi Annan served as secretary-general of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006 | the first

sub-Saharan African to hold the post and the first to emerge from the ranks of the U.N. staff. He lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

I recently bought this book as a Christmas present for my dad but after reading the prologue chapter, I ended purchasing the kindle version for myself! This is a very candid and thought provoking account of Kofi Annan's experiences as Secretary General of the UN. The book starts off with a quick biographical chapter on his early life in Africa and US education, then the next few chapters dive into the global conflicts around the world involving UN Peacekeepers (Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, etc). After these first few chapters my interest level waned as the book began to sound more like a UN speech, but my interest picked up again with the last few chapters on middle east peace process, Iraq and Afghanistan. That is probably just because I'm more interested in the conflict rather than a philosophical discussion about the purpose and scope of the UN or the global fight against poverty. The book reminds you on how difficult it is to run the UN when the member states have such divergent ideas and political motivations. Often the book recounts the UN's failures and very few of its success stories. I would not say that he blames others for the failings of the UN but rather he mentions the difficulties of getting the security council to act given the different member state agendas and priorities (these are his memoirs after all and the narrative comes from his viewpoint). Kofi certainly doesn't pull any punches when it comes to the US. George W Bush doesn't come off looking very good, and although he says some positive things about Clinton, the Clinton administration was a roadblock to many UN efforts (i.e. Rwanda). Some of the most interesting parts of the book are when Kofi recounts behind the scenes conversations/memos with world leaders. I give the book 4 stars out of 5, mostly because I can be a harsh grader and 2 of the 8 chapters really didn't hold my interest as much as the other 6. I would definitely recommend this book to those who like biographies, historical accounts, or those interested in politics and international affairs.

For many many years I have admired Kofi Annan for his courage, steadfastness and wisdom so when I saw he had written his book - I had to read it. - I am his age - I have worked in Africa and Asia for 45 years helping mankind so have reality on what he is talking about.... though he gave many details of disaster after disaster he had to handle he probably did not even give us 10% of the worries and problems he had and had to deal with on a 24/7 basis. Yes I admire him - to hold his position literally and otherwise for so many years and face what he did and do what he did - is quite something. It was very wonderful too to hear his account of the time he grew up in Ghana. I

understand that very well too - that was a very, very special time -He is like my brother - he even married a Swede - I am Danish and married a Ugandan - at a time when that was not so common - so yes - Kofi Annan is like my brother.He is blessed - in a world with so many who have prostituted themselves to Power - so many who have sold themselves to evil it is quite extraordinary to have here in Kofi Annan one who didn't.For me it was a very personal experience to read Kofi Annan's book as I also politically am very engaged - and here and there got some of the missing holes filled in.So thank you Kofi Annan for being who you are and doing what you did.Bente Petersen

Very fair and somewhat modest autobiography. I wish he described more detail on one sided decision to invade Iraq by US and Britain while UN was investigating Iraq. I

I have rarely read a book more eloquently written while being highly accessible at the same time.By giving us the opportunity to look at the recent history of wars and carefully brokered peace deals from inside the UN, I finally understand what I failed to grasp when atrocities were happening. It's one of those insightful books that are hard to put down. Former Secretary General Kofi Annan sheds light on the workings of the UN, especially the Security Council and the Peace Keeping Operations, without trying to conceal the failings. His candid way of explaining how and why peace operations failed, shows what a great and intelligent man he is.I feel privileged to have read his memoir; without this book I would have never understood how 800.000 people could die in Rwanda without us being able to prevent it, or how the world could abandon Somalia. He explains history we all have been part of.His book should be a must-read for AP history students and is highly recommended for all who want to understand recent wars from the inside. At the same time it's also a very informative read for those who otherwise aren't interested in the day to day activities of the UN. By reading this book your eyes are being opened.I'm highlighting sentences while reading this book; there is so much I want to fully understand and remember. I highly recommend this book!

This is a great book, and I feel like I know Kofi Annan personally, for anyone who wants a life in diplomacy this is definitely a good guide. Conflict resolution is tackled in an effective way, with a human face, the highlight for me was the East Timor resolution, I believe that remains one of Kofi Annan's greatest achievements. So many lives have been changed by the work he has done because of his ability to bring social issues to be discussed in the Security Council. I look forward to reading the next books by Annan.

Generally, it is enriching to read about people that participated in the events we study in school. This book may be a little biased by the personal view, however, it's useful to listen to Kofi Annan's experiences.

There were a lot of questions that I had regarding world events that this book provided answers for. The answers are seemingly of a neutral point of view; which is also very helpful; specifically questions on Rwanda and Congo.

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