

Synthesizing Narrative Analysis with Peace and Conflict Studies: The Case of African Child Soldier Autobiographies.

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Synthesizing Narrative Analysis v Conflict Studies: The Case of Afri Soldier Autobiographies

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Date Thesis Awarded

6-2013

Document Type

Honors Thesis

Degree Name

Bachelors of Arts (BA)

Department

Literary and Cultural Studies

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John Froitzheim

Abstract

This paper will serve as an examination of the experiences of child soldiers in Saharan Africa. Using autobiography as the central medium of analysis, the paper examines the experiences of selected child soldiers, taking particular note of their commentary on agency, culpability, and identity. The paper will focus on why or how the individuals came to be child soldiers, what they have witnessed and done. My hope is to draw conclusions about the psychosocial impact of the selected conflicts, ultimately arguing that they are less ambiguous and estranged than those which might be expected in other disciplines. Grounding myself in narrative analysis, complemented by political science, I will approach the autobiography with a dual theoretical and sciences approach. I will illustrate how the autobiographies of child soldiers provide windows to conflict in continental Africa. In addition, I will demonstrate how autobiographical data within peace and conflict studies. These studies are used in international relations, becoming linked to the larger issues of the marginalization and marginalization of broad-scale wars being waged in Africa. The paper offers new insight into hidden societies and allow a stark analysis of the experiences of individuals, and thus on conflict-ridden societies.

Recommended Citation

Tompkins, Elizabeth H., "Synthesizing Narrative Analysis with Peace and Conflict Studies: The Case of African Child Soldier Autobiographies" (2013). *Undergraduate Honors Theses*. 579.

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