

An aura of respectability hovers over international criminal tribunals. “Undeservedly,” say many practitioners who bring to bear hard facts and penetrating analysis. African jurists, who are rarely consulted, describe the nearly exclusive focus on Africa as “demeaning,” “condescending,” and “neo-colonial posturing.” International criminal law has also been touted as a means to fight impunity and to achieve peace and reconciliation. Yet most practitioners see it as “a monument to impunity,” an impediment to peace and reconciliation or war by other means. For the first time in a book, defence counsel, investigators, journalists, and academics pool their knowledge and experience to answer the burning questions. What has happened to the fundamental principles of the sovereign equality of nations and the right of self-determination? Why do international criminal tribunals target Africa? How has international criminal justice affected the lives of citizens throughout the world? What about universal jurisdiction? Does foreign policy trump justice?

The seventeen essays in this broadly scoped collection are grouped in four parts: 1) International Criminal Justice in the Eyes of Africans and African Americans; 2) The ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals; 3) Universal Jurisdiction ... in a Single Country; 4) Justice for All?

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Justice Belied marks a turning point in understanding how tainted international criminal justice undermines political solutions and imposes superpower dictat.