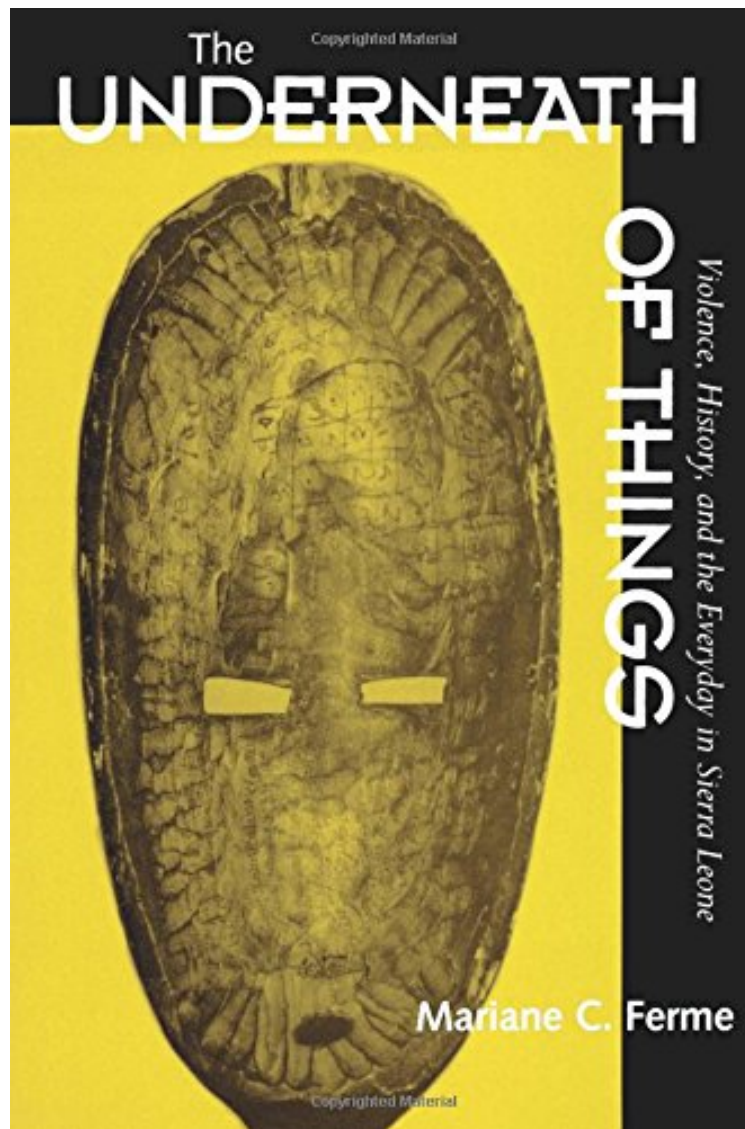


(Read now) The Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone

The Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone

Mariane C. Ferme

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1303247 in Books 2001-09-03 2001-09-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .76 x 5.911, 1.02 #File Name: 0520225430300 pages | File size: 16.Mb

Mariane C. Ferme : The Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very "interpretive" By M. Blaha..or involving some "navel-gazing" as one of my professors once put it. Ferme is working within post-structuralist and practice-theory paradigms, which

borrow heavily from literary criticism, so you will run into some rather abstract ideas/terms. That's not to say that the book isn't enjoyable--just make sure you have Wikipedia pulled up so that you can quickly review the ideas she is referencing. Ferme's central argument is that Sierra Leone's violent history of subjugation by the West as well as its more recent civil conflicts have necessitated secrecy and produced a system of social meaning in which objects and practices, which on the surface appear mundane and everyday, are laden with hidden symbolism and meaning (the "underneath" of things). Ferme's analysis is sensitive and seems to be well-informed but (at times) can tread close to speculation as it is largely based on observational data. Her conclusion really brings the work together, however. Ferme states that Mende cultural logic, which allows for ambiguity, fluidity and mediation, demonstrates the agency and creativity Mende women and men have employed in dealing with the instability and contestation of power associated with Sierra Leone's violent history. All in all, a great ethnography!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. With new information obtained from some credible sources during more ...

By Customer With new information obtained from some credible sources during more recent visits to the study area, some sections of this publication need to be updated for the next reprint.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reasonable price for excellent research

By Marie Interesting book for those interested in material culture in West Africa. Ferme tackles the underpinning issues present in post war Sierra Leone in a creative way.

In this erudite and gracefully written ethnography, Mariane Ferme explores the links between a violent historical and political legacy, and the production of secrecy in everyday material culture. The focus is on Mende-speaking southeastern Sierra Leone and the surrounding region. Since 1990, this area has been ravaged by a civil war that produced population displacements and regional instability. *The Underneath of Things* documents the rural impact of the progressive collapse of the Sierra Leonean state in the past several decades, and seeks to understand how an even earlier history is reinscribed in the present.

"The world is currently quite aware of Sierra Leone and its predicament, and it needs this well-informed and beautifully written account of what makes the country so wonderful despite its woes. Ferme's work is truly transcendent, capturing magnificently well some of the most important aspects of an otherwise 'difficult' ethnographic case. It is a truthful and honest piece of work, based on a deep grasp of the ethnographer's craft." - Paul Richards, author of *Fighting for the Rain Forest From the Inside Flap*

"Researched with unusual sensitivity, original in approach, illuminating beyond its immediate geographical and theoretical referents, and written in a style that is both carefully crafted and eminently accessible...this is the work of a remarkably talented observer and scholar." Jane Guyer, editor of *Money Matters: Instability, Values and Social Payments in the Modern History of West African Communities*, former president of the African Studies Association

"The world is currently quite aware of Sierra Leone and its predicament, and it needs this well-informed and beautifully written account of what makes the country so wonderful despite its woes. Ferme's work is truly transcendent, capturing magnificently well some of the most important aspects of an otherwise "difficult" ethnographic case. It is a truthful and honest piece of work, based on a deep grasp of the ethnographer's craft. "Paul Richards, author of *Fighting for the Rain Forest: War, Youth and Resources in Sierra Leone*

Ferme is a true master in the magic of "things." She gives the study of secrecy new impetus by examining its history, relating that history not only to discourse but also to material conditions. She brilliantly shows how, for Sierra Leone societies, the celebration of ambiguity has been a way to live with permanent danger-from the long history of slavery through the present civil war. Peter Geschiere, author of *The Modernity of Witchcraft, Politics and the Occult in Postcolonial Africa*

The Underneath of Things is a model of patience, detailed observation, and elegant writing: a theoretically creative study that is keen to track and to disentangle the webs and flows of everyday life.

Achille Mbembe, author of *On the Postcolony*