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Titolo The Postcolonial African Genocide Novel : : Quests for Meaningfulness /

/ Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba

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Sommario/riassunto In The Postcolonial African Genocide Novel, Chigbo Anyaduba examines

fictional responses to mass atrocities occurring in postcolonial Africa. Through a comparative reading of novels responding to the genocides of the Igbo in Nigeria (1966-1970) and the Tutsi in Rwanda (1990-1994), the book underscores the ways that literary encounters with genocides in Africa's postcolonies have attempted to reimagine the conditions giving rise to exterminatory forms of mass violence. The book concretizes and troubles one of the apparent truisms of genocide studies, especially in the context of imaginative literature: that the reality of genocide more often than not resists meaningfulness. Particularly given the centrality of this truism to artistic responses to the Holocaust and to genocides more generally, Anyaduba tracks the astonishing range of meanings drawn by writers at a series of (temporal, spatial, historical, cultural and other) removes from the realities of genocide in Africa's postcolonies, a set of meanings that are often highlyspecific and irreducible to maxims or foundational cases. The book shows that in the artistic projects to construct meanings

against genocide's nihilism writers of African genocides deploy tropes

that while significantly oriented to African concerns are equally shaped by the representational conventions and practices associated with the legacies of the Holocaust.