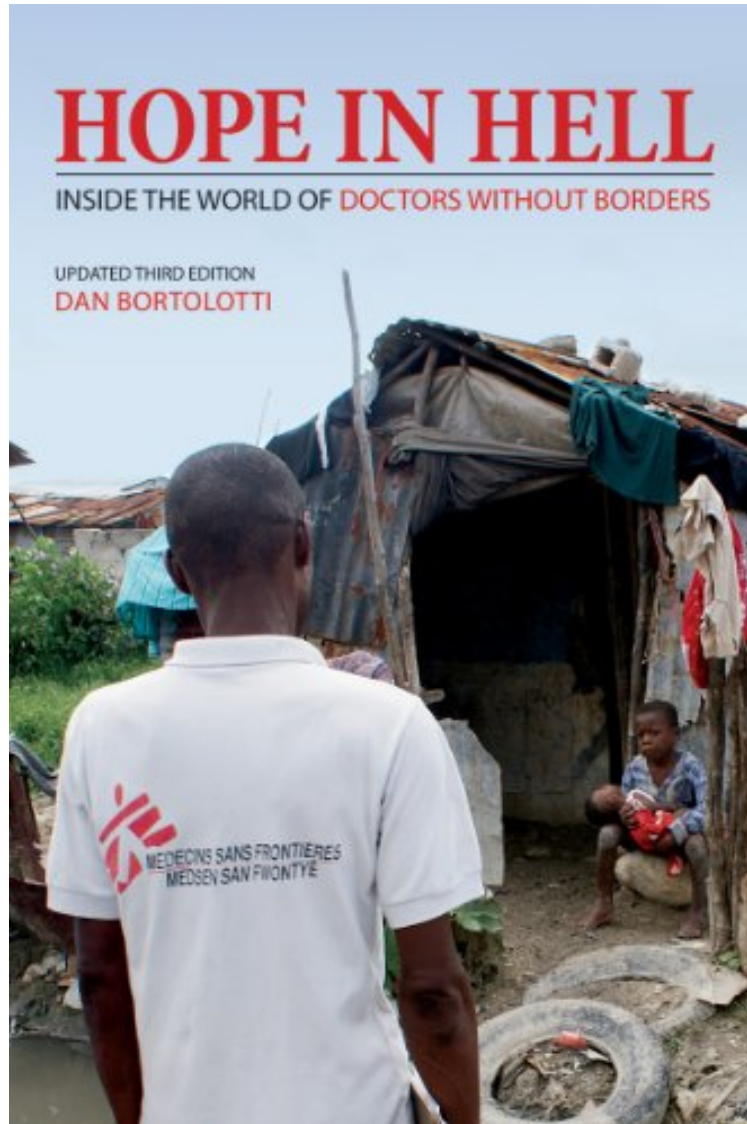


Hope in Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders

Dan Bortolotti

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Dan Bortolotti : Hope in Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hope in Hell: Inside the World of Doctors Without Borders:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best inside look of Doctors Without Borders available By Live Mindfully A thoughtful, human, and captivating look inside the world of MSF, through the eyes of veteran MSF field workers themselves. At moments philosophical, heart wrenching, hysterical, or frustrating, the writing of Bortolotti is clear as air, and the book gives an outsider the most authentic portrayal available of the Nobel Peace Prize winning humanitarian medical organization. To understand the mentality and culture inside Meacuttedecins Sans Frontiegrave;res, this book is by far the best available. I am a veteran of Meacuttedecins Sans Frontiegrave;res, and I

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Touching and realistic
By Eduardo Rafael Costa
I'm a medical student and MSF was one of the reasons that got me into medicine. At first, it all seemed like a great adventure, I would watch videos of missions and think of those people as heroes. And while I still think that they are very brave and I deeply admire them, this book was very enlightening about the people that work for MSF, how their work is done, how MSF came to be, and how hard and challenging it is. It is a very good book.
Humanitarian work is a great challenge. If you want to know more about MSF, in a more personal way, I also recommend *Six months in Sudan*, by James Maskalyk.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entering a mindset filled with hope, honor and humanitarianism
By J. Lavoie
This book centers on countless medical humanitarians working in unsafe occupied countries, all because people (many times a mass majority) who have become victims are in need of grave medical care: Medical care which is not granted to them by their government. The giving of medical care is the intention of these organizations. It all started with a group from France called 'Medecins Sans Frontieres', and branched out to Doctors Without Borders, ect.
In so many cases, medical care givers with all types of skills are needed for victim survival--those who have been exposed to and are surviving the aftermath of war and other types of social conflict. Much of the time survivors soon turn into refugees, all living amongst one another, and that is when, what seems like the smallest health problem, quickly explodes into an epidemic of huge proportion for thousands of people.
Medical teams do their best to train the people of these communities for aiding with safe and proper medical care. While there, a health clinic is opened to treat all ailments, so any community members who are interested in learning are welcome to watch and learn for the future when they are on their own.
In many countries,(at very young ages) soldiers are recruited and become disfunctionally ruthless and barbaric. Their hearts are infiltrated with hatred, and their minds are impaired with the local drug and/or alcohol of choice. This is a lethal combination which adds more fuel to the fire in places where the average person's life has already been significantly altered by these despicable soldiers who are dictated to continue on inflicting inhumane atrocities.
Please read the book. It is full of stories of places around the world that are inflicted with pain and the need for human survival. And each area in the world where these true heroes go to are quite interesting places. You will find gracious heartfilled stories in all parts of the book as well.
I recommend this book highly for 'so many reasons'. And I am certain that I will re-read it one day, especially when I need a piece of humble pie for myself!

More fascinating and harrowing accounts of the volunteer professionals who risk their lives to help those in desperate need. Praise for the second edition: "Direct and evocative, this well-written book pushes readers to the edge of a world of grueling realities not known by most Americans." -- Choice
Doctors Without Borders (aka Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) was founded in 1971 by rebellious French doctors. It is arguably the most respected humanitarian organization in the world, delivering emergency aid to victims of armed conflict, epidemics and natural disasters as well as to many others who lack reliable health care. Dan Bortolotti follows the volunteers at the forefront of this organization and its work, who daily risk their lives to perform surgery, establish or rehabilitate hospitals and clinics, run nutrition and sanitation programs, and train local medical personnel. These volunteer professionals:
Perform emergency surgery in war-torn regions of Africa, Asia and elsewhere
Treat the homeless in the streets of Europe
Honor cultural customs and understand societal differences that affect health care
Witness and report the genocidal atrocities so often missed by mainstream media
This new and revised third edition includes updates and new inside stories from recent relief operations, and it covers changes within the organization, such as its new emphasis on nutrition. There are also many new and revealing color photographs and insights gained from the author's 2009 trip to Haiti, where he found three different arms of MSF operating in dire conditions. *Hope in Hell* is a widely acclaimed portrait of a renowned Nobel-winning humanitarian organization, revealing how Doctors Without Borders provides immediate and outstanding medical care.

From Publishers Weekly
This mostly admiring portrait of Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (aka MSF), the nonprofit that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999, emphasizes the inner workings of the organization and is animated by interviews with mid-level staffers and by site visits to MSF projects in Angola, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In between, journalist Bortolotti traces the history of the world's largest independent medical humanitarian organization, whose genesis was the Biafran horrors of the late '60s. Histrionic founder Bernard Kouchner (whom Bortolotti didn't interview) left the group in 1979 after disputes about tactics; not until the early 1990s did MSF spread to North America. Only about a quarter of field volunteers are, in fact, doctors, and most staff are local hires rather than foreigners. MSF volunteers resist being described as heroic ("It's not noble; it's an attempt," one says) but acknowledge that the crucible of crisis does test character. Some stories (illustrated by stock-looking photos, including two color inserts) are grimly poignant: a middle-aged surgeon tells of relying on his lower-tech training to perform surgery in Sri Lanka and Liberia; a logistician describes how to negotiate with drugged-up child soldiers at a Sierra Leonean checkpoint. While Bortolotti could have been clearer, for example, on the mechanics of MSF's fund-raising apparatus, he notes that even critics of humanitarian aid admire MSF for attempting to intervene under seemingly impossible circumstances. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier

Inc. All rights reserved. From *The New England Journal of Medicine* In 1971, I was 10 years old and growing up in Brooklyn, New York. I was never a good eater, and the summer of that year was no different. Every dinner at the small dinette was an interminable ordeal punctuated by my mother's insistent plaint, "Eat, Jerry. Don't you know there are children starving in Biafra?" Indeed, I did not know. Where was Biafra? Now, as I sit reading at my own dinette 33 years later, the Biafran crisis again rears its ugly head. It was partly in the flames of that conflagration that the humanitarian organization Doctors without Borders was born, a group that is the subject of *Hope in Hell*. The book describes the early history of Doctors without Borders, also known as *Medecins sans Frontieres*, and goes on to track the group's sometimes tumultuous internal political history as it developed into an organization that received the Nobel Prize in 1999 and became renowned for its accomplishments in numerous human disasters. Some attention is also paid to the mechanics of the association, from its organizational structure to its innovations in the field of disaster relief. These advances have allowed Doctors without Borders to respond faster and with more efficiency than do most other relief organizations. (Figure) The group's method of fund-raising -- primarily through private donations -- is contrasted with the methods of other organizations, which rely on large gifts from the United Nations or national governments. The different sources of funding in part explain the brash outspokenness and, some would say, self-righteousness of Doctors without Borders when the group decides that a certain situation is contrary to the accepted mores as it perceives them. Doctors without Borders uses the French word *temoignage*, or testimony, to describe such witnessing, and this advocacy has brought it into conflict with the various groups within the organization as well as with other relief organizations and sovereign nations. The criticisms that have been leveled at Doctors without Borders, partially as a result of *temoignage*, are discussed in *Hope in Hell*, although not in great detail. Nevertheless, Bortolotti's critique is consistent with his factual and objective portrayal of the group. There is very little hyperbole, which allows the reader to see the manifold ethical controversies inherent in war and charity. Most of the drama in the book appears in interviews with the group's field workers at various levels, including doctors, nurses, project coordinators, and can-do logisticians. These interviews describe life in the field well and bring out the complexities involved in human devastation and the response by Doctors without Borders. It is in the considerable space that Bortolotti gives to the emotions of the group's staff members that the book really shines. Having been on a mission to Afghanistan, I found Bortolotti's account, through his interviews, of the sentiments of volunteers while they were in the field and, even more importantly, after they returned to be authentic and inclusive. It was validating in a way that only confirmation of shared experience can be. The poignancy of the stories of volunteers, coupled with a revealing account of the inner workings of Doctors without Borders, makes this book informative and touching. Jerry R. Dwek, M.D. Copyright copy; 2004 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved. The *New England Journal of Medicine* is a registered trademark of the MMS. From Booklist*Starred * It may be difficult to read this book, not because it is poorly written-- it is in fact the inspired opposite--but because it makes the meager number of volunteers comprising *Medecins Sans Frontieres* (MSF) look like the last hope for millions who suffer subhuman living conditions and death, visited upon them by tyrants and thugs more often than by natural disaster. Born in France nearly 30 years ago, MSF, known in the U.S. as Doctors without Borders, struggles to remain true to its philosophy of delivering humanitarian aid divorced from all political affiliation. Still, the notion that humanitarianism can be totally agenda free presents constant challenges for the international group as it struggles to dispense essential medical services to places where no other such providers dare to go. Bortolotti says the Congo is one of the "greatest humanitarian disasters of our time" and the South Sudan is "another planet"-- places where, but for MSF, there would be no hope for thousands. Much of what Bortolotti reports is noticeably absent from the daily headlines, so this eye-opening account is all the more chilling, and MSF's efforts achingly more compelling. Donna Chavez Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved