



Transforming Displaced Women in Sudan: Politics and the Body in a Squatter Settlement

Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf

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Over twenty years of civil war in predominantly Christian Southern Sudan has forced countless people from their homes. *Transforming Displaced Women in Sudan* examines the lives of women who have forged a new community in a shantytown on the outskirts of Khartoum, the largely Muslim, heavily Arabized capital in the north of the country.

Sudanese-born anthropologist Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf delivers a rich ethnography of this squatter settlement based on personal interviews with displaced women and careful observation of the various strategies they adopt to reconstruct their lives and livelihoods. Her findings debunk the myth that these settlements are utterly abject, and instead she discovers a dynamic culture where many women play an active role in fighting for peace and social change. Abusharaf also examines the way women's bodies are politicized by their displacement, analyzing issues such as religious conversion, marriage, and female circumcision.

An urgent dispatch from the ongoing humanitarian crisis in northeastern Africa, *Transforming Displaced Women in Sudan* will be essential for anyone concerned with the interrelated consequences of war, forced migration, and gender inequality.

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