

# Chasing Chaos My Decade In And Out Of Humanitarian Aid By Jessica Alexander

The Routledge Companion to Humanitarian Action Disaster and Development The politicization of humanitarian aid and its effect on the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality Responding to Emergencies and Fostering Development The Pulse of Humanitarian Assistance The Humanitarian Challenge The Practice of Humanitarian Intervention Humanitarian Response Index 2008 Blinded by Humanity Dilemmas, Challenges, and Ethics of Humanitarian Action International Conflict and Conflict Management Europe's Global Role Measuring the Impact of Humanitarian Aid Becoming an International Humanitarian Aid Worker Humanitarian Ethics Why Humanitarian Aid in Darfur Is Not a Practice Choosing the Lesser Evil Humanitarian Logistics Hard Choices The Humanitarian Exit Dilemma Roger Mac Ginty Neil Middleton Thorsten Volberg Claire Pirotte Kevin M. Cahill Pat Gibbons Kai Koddenbrock DARA (Development Assistance Research Associates) Martin Barber Caroline Abu-Sada Andrew P. Owsiak Jan Orbie Charles-Antoine Hofmann Chen Reis Hugo Slim Jide Okeke Liesbet Heyse Graham Heaslip Jonathan Moore Chin Ruamps

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the companion on humanitarian action addresses the political ethical legal and practical issues which influence reactions to humanitarian crisis it does so by exploring the daily dilemmas faced by a range of actors including policy makers aid workers the private sector and the beneficiaries of aid and by challenging common perceptions regarding humanitarian crisis and the policies put in place to address these through such explorations it provides practitioners and scholars with the knowledge needed to both understand and improve upon current forms of humanitarian action the companion will be of use to those interested a range of humanitarian programmes ranging from emergency medical assistance military interventions managing refugee flows and the implementation of international humanitarian law as opposed to addressing specific programmes it will explore five themes seen as relevant to understanding and engaging in all modes of humanitarian action the first section explores varying interpretations of

humanitarianism including critical historical and political economic explanations as well as more practice based explorations focused on notions needs assessments and evaluation following this readers will be exposed to the latest debates on a range of humanitarian principles including neutrality and sovereignty before exploring the key issues faced by the main actors involved in humanitarian crisis from international ngos to local community based organizations the final two sections address what are seen as key dilemmas in regards to humanitarian action and emerging trends in the humanitarian system including the increasing role of social media in responding to crises whilst not a how to guide the companion contains many practical insights for policy makers and aid workers whilst also offering analytical insights for students of humanitarian action indeed throughout the book readers will come to the realization that understanding and improving humanitarian action simultaneously requires both active critical reflection and an acceptance of the urgency and timeliness of action that is required for humanitarian assistance to have an impact on vital human needs exploring a sector that is far from homogenous both practitioners and scholars alike will find the contributions of this book offers them a deeper understanding of the motivations and mechanics of current interventions but also insight into current changes and progress occurring in the field of humanitarian practice

a critical account of the politics of aid giving

inhaltsangabe abstract the past two decades have seen a significant increase in frequency and intensity of complex emergencies and natural disasters leading to a rapid transformation in the policy and the institutional context of humanitarianism humanitarian assistance which once covered a very narrow set of basic relief activities carried out by a small group of relatively independent actors has expanded significantly to an ever widening and much more complex range of rehabilitation work this includes the definition of aid as being a starting point for addressing poverty or being a tool for peace building in internal conflicts a growing diversity of non humanitarian actors in the field such as various profit agencies governmental and non governmental armed forces also changed the picture of humanitarian aid and the perception of its character this transformation has created a broad variety of standards for performance in the field and led to increasing uncertainties on the quality of humanitarian responses and its accountability humanitarian catastrophes like the rwandan genocide finally forced humanitarian agencies to think beyond traditional relief assistance based on the delivery of food shelter or basic health care and take a deeper reflection on how they actually perceive their own role and accountability in the humanitarian sphere in 1997 the sphere project was launched to develop inter alia a so called humanitarian charter which tries to put relief aid on a legal basis provided by international law it emphasizes humanitarian principles of humanity neutrality and impartiality and expresses agencies commitment to act in accordance with them these principles provide an ethical framework which defines and delineates the humanitarian space within which ngos are supposed to operate sphere and its commitment to these traditional principles have both supporters and critics within the humanitarian system especially when it comes to its usefulness in addressing the complexity of political factors surrounding an emergency situation humanitarian assistance has always been a highly political activity as it involves engaging authorities in conflict affected countries or relying on financial support that can be driven by a donor s political considerations nowadays relief organizations seem to remain even less in control of their working environment due to expanding peacekeeping and military led missions of the

civil wars genocides natural disasters and other emergencies multiplied in the 1990s and not just in the south but in the balkans and the former soviet bloc this book examines how to respond to the fundamental difficulties thrown up by these humanitarian crises what kind of aid in particular should be brought in when the situation on the ground mixes up emergency relief with the longer term process of development the book includes many different voices and embodies an open ended debate about the whole diverse process of international aid the experiences and lessons it contains are relevant to all those playing a part in or wishing to understand the practice and dilemmas of humanitarian aid in the 1990s

understanding the complex nature of international humanitarian action particularly following natural disasters or armed conflicts has been the mission of this unique series this book explores the cutting edge concerns that will affect how assistance is offered in the future featuring twelve original essays by leading practitioners policymakers and scholars the book is a state of the field report on problems threats and opportunities facing relief efforts in today s world with contributions from such authorities as bernard kouchner founder of doctors without borders charles mccormick ceo of save the children and physicians military leaders field workers and others the essays confront the most critical issues facing the delivery of effective relief the issues include military and civilian cooperation in large scale disasters with special attention to the growth of private armies how traditional nongovernmental organizations and faith based agencies adapt to new challenges is also explored ways to strengthen security for humanitarian workers refugees and internally displaced persons and those in transition after wars are also considered bringing together diplomatic military medical legal political religious and ethical perspectives from experiences in darfur west africa iraq pakistan and other areas the essays offer an authoritative inventory of where humanitarian relief has been and how it must change to save lives and communities in peril

this book includes contributions from academics practitioners and policy makers connected with the network on humanitarian action noha an international association of universities that is committed to interdisciplinary education and research on humanitarian action celebrating the twentieth anniversary of noha this book highlights some of the most pressing issues and challenges facing humanitarian action and explores potential solutions drawing on theory and practice and spanning a broad range of subject matter the book explores the origin of key concepts such as human security reconciliation and resilience and questions their effectiveness in the pursuit of humanitarian ends it also charts current developments in the humanitarian system in particular in its legal and financial frameworks issues relating to humanitarian stakeholders such as the role of the media and the protection of humanitarian workers are also addressed the contributions are influenced by a range of disciplines including anthropology political science legal studies and communications

this book examines the practices in western and local spheres of humanitarian intervention and shows how the divide between these spheres helps to perpetuate western involvement using the democratic republic of the congo as a case study an object of western intervention since colonial times this book scrutinizes the contemporary practice of humanitarian intervention from the inside it seeks to expose how humanitarian aid and peacekeeping works what obstacles they encounter and how they manage to retain their legitimacy by examining the relationship between the west and the dr congo this volume asks why intervention continues to be so

central for the relationship between western and local spheres why is it normal and self evident the main answer developed here is that the separation of these two spheres allows intervention to enjoy sufficient degrees of legitimacy to be sustained owing to the contradictions that surface when juxtaposing the western and congolese spheres this book highlights how keeping them separate is key to sustaining intervention bridging the divide between the liberal peace debate in international relations and anthropologies of humanitarianism this volume thus presents an important contribution to taking both the legitimizing proclamations and local realities of intervention seriously the book will be of much interest to students of statebuilding peacebuilding peacekeeping anthropology research methods and ir in general

the purpose of this annual report is to develop an index of good humanitarian donorship that will measure donors effectiveness against their commitment to the principles and good practise of humanitarian donorship the index is intended to help the international donor community to better understand its strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the efficiency and quality of its donor activities and initiatives the index is also expected to raise awareness about the increasingly important role of humanitarian action and associated good practices beyond its current core constituencies we believe that this report offers significant potential to improve the quality of humanitarian aid benefiting those most affected by both man made and natural disasters

how to respond effectively to humanitarian crises is one of the most pressing and seemingly intractable problems facing the united nations martin barber for many years a senior un official and with decades of humanitarian experience here argues that the explanation for un failures or only partial successes lies not with any lack of idealism or good intentions but with the constraints placed on aid workers by ill considered policies and poor practical application officials are blinded by humanity barber presents an inside story based on personal hands on practical experience in laos thailand afghanistan bosnia herzegovina and finally in abu dhabi where he advised the uae government on its aid programme he tells of internal struggles at head office and the challenges of working in the field all the major un activities and headaches are here including refugee work coordinating humanitarian aid peacekeeping the huge problem of de mining and the complex internal workings of the un secretariat a personal narrative and lessons drawn from direct experience provide the frame for an examination of major questions concerning the future of humanitarian response how effectively have international institutions discharged their responsibilities towards people affected by conflict specifically how did the un perform and how might the un better help such people in the 21st century barber analyses recent policy developments intended to improve the quality and effectiveness of the un s work in humanitarian fields and assesses the extent to which recent reforms are likely to make the un a more effective partner for countries emerging from conflict in the final chapter he highlights seven blind spots whose significance has been consistently ignored or overlooked and in each case suggests a radical new approach based on decades of personal experience and insider access this will be essential reading for students of international relations and politics as well as for all those directly or indirectly involved with humanitarian issues

a study of the perception issues and ethical dilemmas faced by humanitarian organizations

this book asks scholars to reexamine international conflict and its management in order to move the field toward directly theorizing about and examining the interdependence between conflict events and conflict management attempts despite decades of work research on international conflict and its management remains siloed in three fundamental ways first scholars do not thoroughly address international conflict dynamics within studies of conflict management even though the former give rise to the latter second existing work generally investigates one conflict management strategy e g mediation at the expense of others e g adjudication these strategies however are not independent of one another they exist on a single menu from which potential third parties choose third parties therefore implicitly if not explicitly consider and select among the various strategies when deciding how to manage a conflict thereby inviting and incorporating comparisons finally researchers tend to treat conflict management efforts even within the same conflict as independent events even though some efforts e g adjudication or arbitration follow and explicitly relate to other earlier efforts e g an earlier negotiation or mediation in short elements of sequencing and interaction influence conflict management even as scholars rarely consider such elements this book will be of great value to scholars and researchers of political science international relations and conflict management and resolution the chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of international interactions

based on an innovative framework for analyzing the eu s external politics this book provides a historical overview of and theoretical conclusions about the eu s global role it examines europe s international role in a range of external policy domains focusing in particular on the soft dimension of europe s international action

becoming an international humanitarian aid worker draws on the experiences of those currently working and those hiring people to work in humanitarian aid today and an analysis of job postings over a 9 month period it provides relevant information and advice to help jobseekers make more informed decisions about what steps to take it first pushes prospective job seekers to reflect on whether this is the right career path for them it then provides tried and tested strategies for preparing for a humanitarian career and being competitive in the humanitarian job market serving as a comprehensive guide for those thinking about a career in international humanitarian aid features advice drawn from an analysis of humanitarian jobs a survey of aid workers and interviews with human resource staff and humanitarian professionals written in a conversational style with anecdotes advice and stories from people working in the industry today features useful tips and exercises in every chapter to help you put your best foot forward provides links to useful and relevant internet resources through a dedicated web page

humanitarians are required to be impartial independent professionally competent and focused only on preventing and alleviating human suffering it can be hard living up to these principles when others do not share them while persuading political and military authorities and non state actors to let an agency assist on the ground requires savvy ethical skills getting first to a conflict or natural catastrophe is only the beginning as aid workers are usually and immediately presented with practical and moral questions about what to do next for example when does working closely with a warring party or an immoral regime move from practical cooperation to complicity in human rights violations should one operate in camps for displaced people and refugees if they are effectively places of internment do humanitarian agencies inadvertently encourage ethnic cleansing by always being ready to mop up

the consequences of scorched earth warfare this book has been written to help humanitarians assess and respond to these and other ethical dilemmas

how do non governmental humanitarian aid organizations initiate terminate and extend their project activities humanitarian aid organizations regularly face difficult decisions about life and death in a context of serious time constraints which force them daily to select whom to help and whom not to help liesbet heyse focuses on how humanitarian aid organizations make these decisions and provides an inside view of the decision making processes two ngo case studies are used as illustration médecins sans frontières msf and acting with churches together act both of which operate in an international network and represent specific types of ngos often found in the community this book opens up the black box of ngo operations provides an empirical account of organizational decision making and combines insights of organization theory and organizational decision making theory

in rapidly developing emergencies it is vital for aid agencies to understand how to establish an agile supply chain that resists the chaos of a crisis and can cater to unknown needs now in its fourth edition humanitarian logistics presents chapters from a wide range of academics and practitioners and offers cutting edge research into how complex problems such as distribution of the covid 19 vaccine and provision of relief to victims of natural disasters can be solved new chapters cover topics such as cash based humanitarian logistics hl systems sustainability in a hl context and providing logistics services for humanitarian relief in recent years a number of global crises have highlighted the critical role that logistics plays in humanitarian response there is a vital need to understand how to conduct operations in confused and swiftly changing environments this book is essential reading for anyone who needs to understand how to effectively manage supply networks during a rapidly developing emergency

since somalia the international community has found itself changing its view of humanitarian intervention operations designed to alleviate suffering and achieve peace sometimes produce damaging results the united nations nongovernmental organizations military and civilian agencies alike find themselves in the midst of confusion and weakness where what they seek are clarity and stability competing needs rights and values can obscure even the best international efforts to quell violence and assuage crises of poverty more attention must be paid to the complexity of issues and moral dilemmas involved this volume of original essays by international policy leaders practitioners and scholars brings together insights into the conflicting moral pressures present in different kinds of interventions ranging from rwanda and somalia to haiti cambodia and bosnia from their various cultural and professional perspectives the authors cover issues of human rights sanctions arms trade refugees hiv and the media together they make the case that although there are no easy answers moral reflection and content can improve the quality of decisionmaking and intervention in internal conflicts published under the auspices of the international committee of the red cross

how should humanitarian organisations respond when their aid goes awry should they stay and remain engaged with the needy or should they withdraw and leave investigating the choices involved and the judgements required when tackling these questions this book explores the unique humanitarian exit dilemma that confronts humanitarian organisations humanitarian practitioners often are too concerned with the outcome of action but fail to recognise that there are other equally weighty moral

considerations they should consider focusing simply on the results of projects such as the number of lives saved alone is inadequate to address this problem this book highlights three value based normative considerations namely humanitarian aid workers special relationships with those whom they are assisting humanitarian organisations causal responsibility to assist those they have made vulnerable and humanitarian organisations obligations to fulfil reasonable expectations of those assisted together these three non instrumental reasonings serve as the main arguments of the author s value based normative account the non consequentialist approach to address the humanitarian exit dilemma offering a unique perspective on how humanitarian organisations should navigate the humanitarian exit dilemma this book will be of interest to scholars and practitioners in the field of humanitarian studies african studies refugee studies political philosophy humanitarian action and human rights

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