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Thomas Hendriks, *Rainforest Capitalism: Power and Masculinity in a Congolese Timber Concession*. Publisher: Duke University Press, 2022, 320 pages. ISBN 1478017848.

Reviewed by: Bourouayah Mohamed, former Vice-rector, Emir Abdelkader University, Algeria.

This is an illustrated book that aimed at providing a better understanding of the rainforests in the Congo region, and how they represent an important source for both the Congolese and the global economy. Though many people imagine rainforests to be a lonely and frightening place, this book offers a different point of view. According to Thomas Hendriks, the rainforests in the Congo are a place where many characteristics meet; they are a factor of environmental balance and they also provide a large proportion of the global needs of wood. Briefly, as stated in the book, these rainforests are a real treasure and a huge wealth for the Congolese local authorities; the latter should take special care of these forests.

Thomas Hendriks is FWO Postdoctoral Researcher Fellow at the Institute for Anthropological Research in Africa at Belgium's KU Leuven, and he is the co-editor of *Readings in Sexualities from Africa*. The book represents an encyclopedic work because it covers many fields of knowledge ranging from the political and the social dimensions. It could be said that it is a work on anthropology, ecology, and ethnicity, and this richness makes the book captivating and useful. To understand the book's scientific value, it is necessary to compare it with some books and studies that dealt with the same topic. In a report published in 'Global witness', entitled "How Congo's Rainforest is illegally logged for international markets," the coverage was limited to the rainforests' economic benefits in the Congo and how they represent a rich source of wood; the demand for this item has increased globally.

The study points out that this economic aspect is offset by a deteriorating political situation, especially after Congo was embroiled in several ethnic conflicts over the past decades; this double image of the Congo, according to the reporter, must be taken into account when talking about the rainforests in the region since economic prosperity is closely linked to political stability. Evidence from the study notes that the "Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has become a country synonymous with conflict, weak or failing institutions and endemic poverty. But it is also a country with abundant natural resources, including vast swathes of the world's second largest rainforest."

The book includes nine chapters: In the first eight chapters, the author elaborated on the great benefits, which the rainforests in the Congo, provide for the local

population, especially those who are either descendants of the ancient Congolese tribes that lived in this region for centuries, or the indigenous tribes who have chosen to live in this area during recent times. In the last chapter, the author clarified the importance of rainforests and how they represent an important economic capital for the Congo against food shortage in the coming years.

The book contains important information about the geographical richness and ecological benefits of rainforests, and it also contains a satisfying economic vision based on published studies, forecasts, and statistics that the writer drew upon; this may be gleaned from many sources that are presented at the end of the book. I have noticed that the book adopted an important anthropological approach and this I consider one of the book's strengths.

I conclude with the two following brief remarks: 1) Indeed, the author made a huge contribution making the work an essential reference for those interested in learning about the economic dimensions of the rainforests in the Congo; and 2) he adopted a method and a structure that make the publication a pioneering work for researchers who are interested in exploring similar studies.

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