

(Pdf free) The Immaculate Invasion

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Von Bob Shacochis

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A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK

THE IMMACULATE INVASION



"Every war brings forth one perfect book. . . . Now we have *The Immaculate Invasion*, the masterpiece of the 1994 U.S. assault on and occupation of Haiti." —CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BOB SHACOCHIS

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Von Bob Shacochis : The Immaculate Invasion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Immaculate Invasion:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Amateur HourVon Guy GibsonI am presently researching a book on Haiti and have read the good, the bad, and the ugly. Some are well-researched, and badly written. Others are wonderfully written, but badly researched. All too often the inexperienced reader is treated to a load of erroneous impressions, gather and presented by someone who knows very

little about his subject. Immaculate Invasion is an entertaining book, but should not be taken seriously by those who really want to know the truth. The author has depended upon a few people with questionable motives for his basic input. The court martial of Captain Lawrence Rockwood received widespread coverage by those who were not there. He was turned into some sort of celebrity for acting irrationally and against the direct order of a superior. I was at the National Penitentiary when Rockwell arrived in full battle dress, armed to the teeth and obviously under the influence of something. Rockwood was led away by another American major, much as a drunk is led from a bar. He was "out of it." Half way through the game, President Clinton decided that he wasn't into "nation building" but carried through with an invasion, originally committed to "nation-building." It is little wonder that the troops were somewhat bemused as to why they were there. Shacochis - sounds like some sort of deadly infection - misses much of the real truth. Immaculate Invasion is of interest as a gossipy piece on life within a Special Forces Unit. It has no value to one interested in the bigger picture, one that continues to explode with the May 21 elections in Haiti, stolen by Aristide's team.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good description of Haiti and the US intervention... Von Stephen Armstrong This is a very interesting and quite good book about the US invasion of Haiti and the restoration of the Jean-Bertrand Aristide regime. It centers around a Special Forces group in the boonies, whose job it was to make sure that the transition to "democracy" did not get blown up, and that the American soldiers were "safe." (Our soldiers were not tasked to improve any amenities of Haitian life, such as roads, bridges, marketplaces, or schools, although there was some involvement with helping piece together the electrical grid.) Along the way are great sections on the history of Haiti, the original slave rebellions, class and wealth, the Carter/Clinton deal with Gen. Cedras and his crew of thieves, the common thuggery of an impoverished state, and the internal workings of the US Army, particularly the splits in command between infantry and special forces. It is a source of wonder and amazement that our soldiers, the best trained assault soldiers in the world, maintained steady discipline through six months of ambiguity and privation. Shacochis has little good to say about the very-high-level upper commands, which he thinks were out of touch with the day-to-day ground situation, and in one instance cashiered a captain capriciously and in another instance court-martialled another captain who protested Haitian human rights violations (overcrowded, filthy jails, no due process) too vigorously. He concludes that our troops risked their lives not so much for democracy as to restore order, where enemies became newly found "friends" and ex-thugs were incorporated into the newly reincorporated local governments. Truly an excellent book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not every country resembles the USA Von Marty Spiller (spiller@bicnet.net) The Immaculate Invasion is a well written account of the US "intervention" in Haiti from the day the US Naval vessel, the Harlan County was unceremoniously blocked from docking in Haitian waters, to 1998, well after Jean-Bertrand Aristide had been reinstated in the Haitian presidential palace. A short but effective smattering of Haitian history as well as graphic descriptions of the dark and tragic political and social environment makes it possible for the reader to draw quite a few unstated conclusions about how thinly the trappings of civilization can be veneered over a primitive culture. It is written from the point of view of a journalist who seems to have an intimate understanding of the struggles of military men and their state of mind, as well as the overall strategic circumstances of their mission. The jargon he uses throughout the book is sometimes confusing due to the liberal use of military colloquialisms and acronyms as well as turns of phrase, which can at times make it difficult to understand his meaning. It is well that the book contains a glossary. The "invasion" was immaculate in that it was really a "walk-in" with no overt hostility on either side. One major thrust of the book was the political ineptitude involved in the overall mission objectives which, in typical Clintonian 90's fashion not only muddied the waters between friend and enemy, but completely obliterated the differences between them. Without an enemy to fight, the military men were left with no clear objectives other than preventing violence, and were forced to view murderous terrorist organizations as nothing more than political parties. The author seems to believe (at least partly) that if the real bad guys were simply killed off by the US soldiers, the country would be able to rebuild itself into a nation. My own conclusion, drawn from reading between the lines was different. Primitive cultures lead to primitive governance. The elimination of every former attach, FRAPH member, macoute and other assorted dirt bag, even if it were possible to do, would lead simply to a political vacuum which would end with the recreation of the same oppression that Aristide's revolution was meant to end. It is clear, after reading this account that the violence and death, although lessened in intensity still continue in Haiti, and that if the foreign troops ever left, the country would revert back to it's original state of Hell. Although I don't know if the author intended to convey the message or not, it is apparent that the feel-good, New Age approach to "nation building" is simply a myth. Strobe Talbot take note!

Kurzbeschreibung Widely celebrated upon its original publication in 1999, National Book Award-winning writer Bob Shacochis The Immaculate Invasion is a gritty, poetic, and revelatory look at the American intervention in Haiti in 1994. In 1994, the United States embarked on Operation Uphold Democracy, a response to the overthrow of the democratically elected Haitian government by a brutal military coup. Bob Shacochis traveled to Haiti for Harpers and was embedded long before the idea became popular in Iraq with a team of Special Forces commandos for eighteen

months and came away with tremendous insight into Haiti, the character of American fighters, and what can happen when an intervention turns into a misadventure. With the eye for detail and narrative skills of a critically acclaimed, award-winning novelist, Shacochis captures the exploits and frustrations, the inner lives, and the heroic deeds of young Americans as they struggle to bring democracy to a country ravaged by tyranny. *The Immaculate Invasion* is required reading, essential for anyone who wants to understand what has happened in Haiti in the past and what will happen in the future.