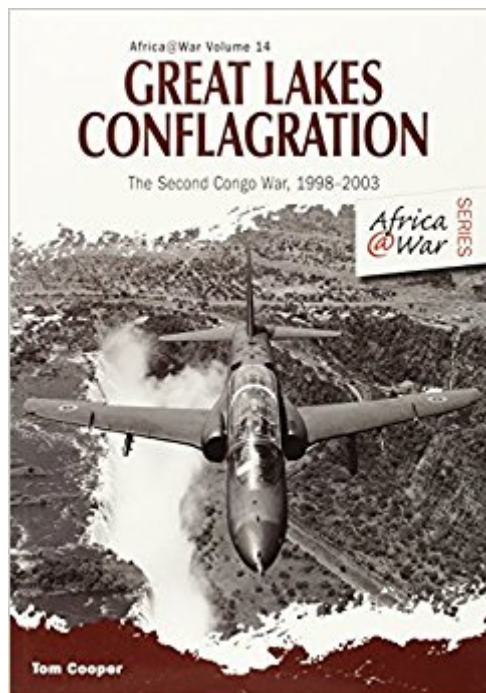




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# Great Lakes Conflagration: Second Congo War, 1998-2003 (Africa @ War Series)



## Synopsis

Great Lakes Conflagration' is the second in two volumes covering military operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the turn from the 21st century. This volume explores developments in the DRC that led to the outbreak of violence in August 1998, and systematically details the continued build-up and status of the Congolese, Rwandan and Ugandan armies, as well as the forces of Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe and other African countries that were sucked into the conflict. Recounted is the Rwandan attempt to topple the government of Laurent Kabila through an operation that saw a redeployment of some of best Rwandan units from Kigali and Goma to the western DRC, resulting in a series of fierce air-land clashes with Zimbabwean and Angolan forces and culminating in the Battle of Kinshasa. Also described is the fighting along what became the 'Eastern Front' in the DRC, as Zimbabwean and allied troops attempted to stop Rwandan, Ugandan and rebel advances out of Kivu Province in the direction of the Congo River through 1998 and 1999. These early phases of the war, or 'The First African War' as it has come to be known, were characterized by surprising outflanking and infiltration maneuvers; foreign mercenaries; Zimbabwean Hawk and Lynx light strikers flying intensive combat operations from N'Djili airport, half of which was occupied by Rwandans, Ugandans and Congolese rebels; interdiction strikes guided by special forces deployed deep behind enemy lines; operations of helicopter gunships and transport aircraft under intense ground attack in support of troops cut off by advancing opponents; use of transport aircraft as makeshift bombers in bad weather and by night and clashes of armored forces and many other elements of 'high-technology' warfare. All the protagonists deployed their best military units, their best equipment and some of their best military commanders, yet despite their best efforts, and hampered by in-fighting, the conflict ultimately resulted in a stalemate which dragged on for a further three years while negotiations bogged down. This book is illustrated with an extensive selection of exclusive photography, color profiles and markings, making it of special interest to enthusiasts and professionals alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cooper capably tells the tragic tale. Photos, maps, tables and annotations augment text. The author's excellent color plates of participating aircraft and vehicles will really rouse your modeling muse. And a concise "conclusion", acronym glossary and selected bibliography complete contents. Few have so illumined Third World conflicts as Tom Cooper. His incandescent insights perfectly complement Helion's splendid "Africa@War" series. And I thoroughly enjoyed this absorbing account. Read it with Cooper's companion title, Great Lakes Holocaust: First Congo War, 1996-1997 the 13th "Africa@War" installment. (Cybermodeler)"This is a must for historians and for model builders who seek alternative subjects for future projects." (Model Art Australia)"A stunning piece of work and is highly recommended to any serious student of modern warfare." (Air Forces Monthly)

Tom Cooper is an Austrian aerial warfare analyst and historian. Following a career in worldwide transportation business during which he established a network of contacts in the Middle East and Africa he moved into narrow-focus analysis and writing on small, little-known air forces and conflicts (about which he has collected extensive archives). That resulted in specialisation in such Middle Eastern air forces as those of Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Syria - plus various African and Asian air forces. As well as writing and co-writing 25 other books and more than 400 articles, he has co-written an in-depth analysis of major Arab air forces at war with Israel during the period 1955-73 - resulting in the six-volume book series Arab MiGs.

The Great Lakes Conflagration continues the accounting of the reporting of "Africa's World War" that could be laid at the feet of the Rwandan Genocide and the events that it triggered in the neighboring Congo. Unlike the first party of the conflict, this war not only saw relatively evenly matched opponents in many ways, but also much more sophisticated levels of combat than were

often seen in past wars on Congo. The book begins with a quick refresher into how the war came into being as well as the principal actors on both sides. From there it takes a chronological look at the war, its prosecution, and aftermath for all involved. The book is excellently written as books in this series typically are, and Tom Cooper's command of English continues to grow. He treats the subject matter honestly, warts and all, and is able to make a very complex conflict relatively ready to understand. At the same time, the narrative is engaging and interesting and is lavishly illustrated with a variety of photos. The book is interesting also for its somewhat unconventional view on a variety of actors. Firstly, it paints the Rwandan Tutsis as no longer being the victims, but instead the perpetrators of terror. Secondly, it gives an intriguing look into the operations of the ZDF in their first major external oppression since 1980. For all their internal problems with their own people, it's intriguing to see the ZDF described as a relatively professional force capable of both learning from the Rhodesian bush war and carrying out complex operations (though their opponents were not exactly the most competent nor well equipped). Regardless, it makes the book almost worth it for that alone. The Africa@War series continues to amaze me with its affordable coverage of conflicts and units that have not always gotten their fair share of military bookshelf space in the past. As a look at continued conflict in the Congo in the late 90s and early 2000s, this book is more than adequate and a way for someone to stick their toes into this complex and confusing war. Very recommended.

This book focuses heavily on the military side of the conflict with a special focus on the air forces of the parties involved. There is excellent detail regarding the units deployed on operations, the armed forces of the different parties and the type of equipment they employed (including the types of bombs dropped) and the military tactics of the sides. He discusses the re-equipping of the combatants during the conflict and the role of PMCs in modern conflict. There are a large number of photos and artworks depicting the equipment, all of which come with good captions. Individual operations are described in great details. As a one stop reference book on the military side of the conflict, and the military's of the parties involved I have seen no better book.

A fine look at an off the headline conflict in Africa.

This book has it all, the history of this country is covered in great detail. The armies that went into this country are discussed in great detail. The one point the reader will like is the capabilities of all the forces are discussed in great detail with their weapons and advances that were undertaken.

Great book with a lot of pictures and maps

the politics make the Dems vs. GOP seem passive

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