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Evolution of Deadly Conflict in Liberia: From "Paternalitarianism" to State Collapse

[Jeremy I. Levitt](#), *Florida A & M University College of Law*

Contributor Roles

Jeremy I. Levitt, author

Description

This book represents the first attempt to holistically document and analyze the causes of deadly conflict in Liberia from its founding to the present. It reconstructs and examines the root, operational, and catalytic causes of eighteen internal deadly conflicts that transpired in Liberia between 1822 and 2003, including the 1980 coup d'e'tat against the Tolbert regime and the Great War (1989–2003). Levitt examines a continuum of circular causation among the state of affairs that led to the founding of the Liberian State, the evolution of settler authoritarianism and nationalism, and internal conflict. The book has three major objectives: 1.) to determine the historical causes of deadly conflict in Liberia, in particular, the underlining historical phenomena responsible for birthing the Great War; 2.) to present an alternative framework to comprehend and examine the aged conflict dynamic between settler and indigenous Liberians, and within Liberian society itself; and 3.) to produce the first comprehensive study of deadly conflict in Liberia.

This interdisciplinary book spans the fields of political science, history, international law, and peace and conflict studies.

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