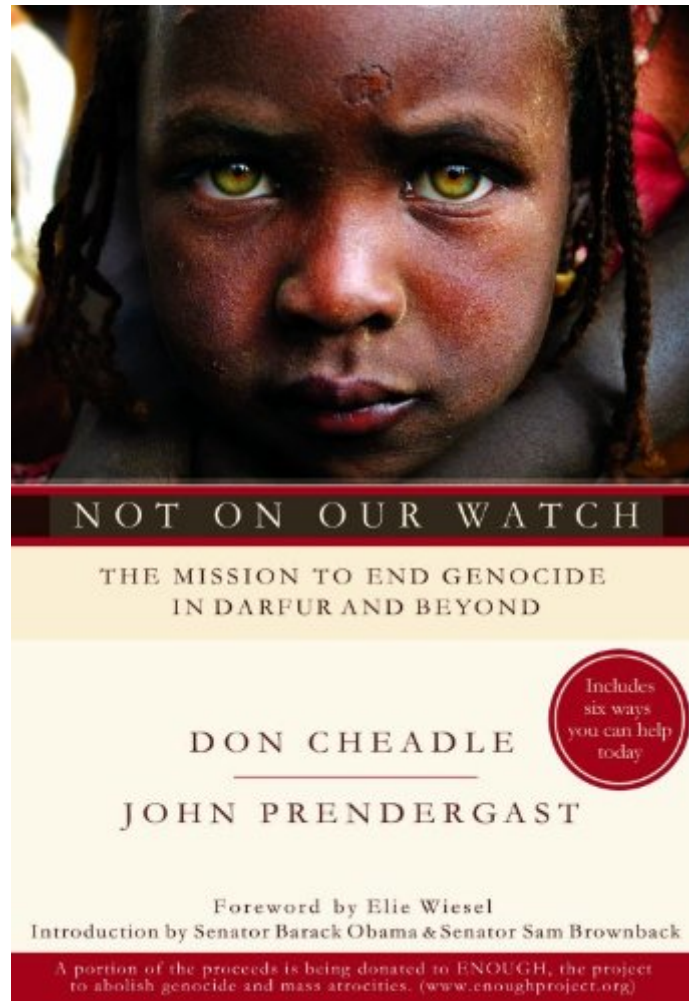


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# Not On Our Watch: The Mission To End Genocide In Darfur And Beyond



## Synopsis

An Academy Award-nominated actor and a renowned human rights activist team up to change the tragic course of history in the Sudan--with readers' help. While Don Cheadle was filming *Hotel Rwanda*, a new crisis had already erupted in Darfur, in nearby Sudan. In September 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell termed the atrocities being committed there "genocide"--and yet two years later things have only gotten worse. 3.5 million Sudanese are going hungry, 2.5 million have been displaced by violence, and 400,000 have died in Darfur to date. Both shocked and energized by this ongoing tragedy, Cheadle teamed up with leading activist John Prendergast to focus the world's attention. *Not on Our Watch*, their empowering book, offers six strategies readers themselves can implement: Raise Awareness, Raise Funds, Write a Letter, Call for Divestment, Start an Organization, and Lobby the Government. Each of these small actions can make a huge difference in the fate of a nation, and a people--not only in Darfur, but in other crisis zones such as Somalia, Congo, and northern Uganda.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Several good books have already been written on the genocide in Darfur. Generally, they fall into

one of two categories - either they provide rich historical, cultural, and political background (e.g., Gerard Prunier's *The Ambiguous Genocide*) or they provide first-hand accounts of the authors' experiences witnessing the tragedy of Darfur (e.g., Brian Steidle's *The Devil Came on Horseback*). What makes Cheadle and Prendergast's book particularly rich is that it provides useful background on the Darfur genocide, enriches it with the authors' experiences on the front lines, and also gives concrete tips for how average citizens can make a real contribution to efforts to stop crimes against humanity in Darfur and elsewhere (e.g., northern Uganda and Congo). The "actor-vist" Cheadle and his activist friend Prendergast strike the perfect tone, not understating the horrors that the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed allies have unleashed on "African" populations of Darfur, while managing somehow to present their complex message in a user-friendly, occasionally lighthearted, and ultimately optimistic manner. The reader closes the book after the last page feeling empowered to participate in a broad social movement with the potential to effect real change. In short, we are not alone in wanting to help the people of Darfur, and we have a real opportunity to make a difference, through emphasizing the "three Ps for preventing atrocities" (protection, punishment, and peacemaking), and applying the authors' "six strategies for change". The strategies are particularly focused on constituency building and advocacy aimed at the U.S. Government.

The word "Genocide" had its origins in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, which is combined of Greek "Geno" and Latin "Cide," meaning killing "cide" of a race, ethnicity, religion, or tribes "Geno." Lemkin fled to the United States during World War 2 as the Nazis coordinated the greatest mass slaughter in history of mankind. Since then, a string of other acts of Genocide followed: Cambodia (1975), Iraq (1988), Bosnia (1992), Rwanda (1994) and the first official Genocide of the 21st century Darfur (2003) ( *Screaming Bloody Murder*, 2008). While all of these tragedies took place, ordinary people remained silent. "Not on our Watch: The mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond" is looking to end that. Authors Human Rights Activist John Prendergast and Actor Don Cheadle share their stories on what made them become involved in the mission to end Genocide. Don Cheadle's involvement came when he starred in the critically acclaimed film "Hotel Rwanda" as Paul Rusesabagina who saved thousands of Tutsi from being slaughtered by sheltering them inside his hotel. For John Prendergast, his path out of apathy came after many years of looking for a purpose, finding it when he traveled to Africa. The book is informative, delving into the early historical relationship between Sudan and Darfur in which ultimately led to the path of genocide; The history of Genocide; and what causes a nation to suddenly descend into mass murder. It provides all the

guidelines for what us, the readers, and ordinary citizens can do to make sure that these events do not happen again. Politics is at the forefront.

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