



D.R.

David Rieff USA

Nutrition, global food crisis

wednesday oct 9th | 6.30 pm | IPK

The author

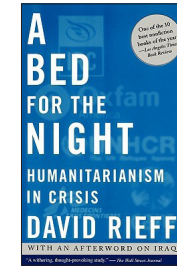
David Rieff, was born in 1952, in Boston, Massachusetts) is an American polemicist and pundit. His books have focused on issues of immigration, international conflict, and humanitarianism. He has published numerous articles in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Le Monde*, *El País*, *The New Republic*, *World Affairs*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, and other publications.

Bibliography

- A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis* (Simon & Schuster, 2003)
Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and the Failure of the West (Touchstone ed edition, 1996)
Swimming in a Sea of Death: A Son's Memoir (Simon & Schuster, 2008)

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A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis (Simon & Schuste, 2003)

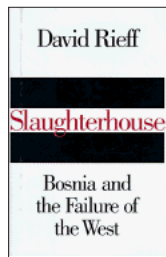


Timely and controversial, *A Bed for the Night* reveals how humanitarian organizations are often betrayed and misused, and have increasingly lost sight of their purpose. Drawing on firsthand reporting from war zones around the world, David Rieff shows us what aid workers do in the field and the growing gap between their noble ambitions and their actual capabilities for alleviating suffering.

He describes how many humanitarian organizations have moved from their founding principle of neutrality, which gave them access to victims, to encouraging the international community to take action to stop civil wars and ethnic cleansing. By calling for intervention, humanitarian organizations risk being seen as taking sides in a conflict and thus jeopardizing their access to victims. And by overreaching, the humanitarian movement has allowed itself to be hijacked by the major powers. Rieff concludes that if humanitarian organizations are to do what they do best — alleviate suffering — they must reclaim their independence.

Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and the Failure of the West (Touchstone ed edition, 1996)

Swimming in a Sea of Death: A Son's Memoir (Simon & Schuster, 2008)



In a shocking and deeply disturbing tour de force, David Rieff, reporting from the Bosnia war zone and from Western capitals and United Nations headquarters, indicts the West and the United Nations for standing by and doing nothing to stop the genocide of the Bosnian



Both a memoir and an investigation, *Swimming in a Sea of Death* is David Rieff's loving tribute to his mother, the writer Susan Sontag, and her final battle with cancer. Rieff's brave, passionate, and unsparing witness of the last nine months of her life, from her initial diagnosis to her death, is both an intensely

Muslims. *Slaughterhouse* is the definitive explanation of a war that will be remembered as the greatest failure of Western diplomacy since the 1930s.

personal portrait of the relationship between a mother and a son, and a reflection on what it is like to try to help someone gravely ill in her fight to go on living and, when the time comes, to die with dignity.

Bosnia was more than a human tragedy. It was the emblem of the international community's failure and confusion in the post-Cold War era. In Bosnia, genocide and ethnic fascism reappeared in Europe for the first time in fifty years. But there was no will to confront them, either on the part of the United States, Western Europe, or the United Nations, for which the Bosnian experience was as catastrophic and demoralizing as Vietnam was for the United States. It is the failure and its implications that Rieff anatomizes in this unforgiving account of a war that might have been prevented and could have been stopped.

Rieff offers no easy answers. Instead, his intensely personal book is a meditation on what it means to confront death in our culture. In his most profound work, this brilliant writer confronts the blunt feelings of the survivor -- the guilt, the self-questioning, the sense of not having done enough.

And he tries to understand what it means to desire so desperately, as his mother did to the end of her life, to try almost anything in order to go on living.

Drawing on his mother's heroic struggle, paying tribute to her doctors' ingenuity and faithfulness, and determined to tell what happened to them all, *Swimming in a Sea of Death* subtly draws wider lessons that will be of value to others when they find themselves in the same situation.