

Useful reading

Eastern Congo is on the fringes of both the country of which it is part (the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, centred on the Congo river basin) and the region of which it is part (the African Great Lakes, centred on Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda). As a result, I found I had to read on the country as a whole and on the region as a whole, to begin to get a feel for the DRC Provinces of North and South Kivu where CEEACO is based.

Quaker work

1. **Seeking Peace in Africa: Stories from African Peacemakers** - Edited by Donald E. Miller et al (Cascadia, 2007)
Inspiring stories of peace making from across Africa, in the traditions of the three Historic Peace Churches - Friends, Mennonites and Brethren - including one from Mkoko Boseka, Legal Representative of CEEACO and our host in the Congo
2. **Unlocking Horns: Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Burundi** - David Nyonzima with Lon Fendall (Barclay Press, 2001)
A personal perspective on the roots and implications of genocide in Burundi, by the Legal Representative of Burundi Yearly Meeting and our host in Bujumbura
3. **Perspectives on British Quaker work in the world today** - Brian Phillips with John Lamper, Eds. (Quaker books, 2006)
A number of examples illustrating the range of international peace and justice work by British Friends, to draw out five defining qualities of Quaker global witness in the 21st century
4. **Spirited Living: Waging Conflict, Building Peace** - Simon Fisher (Quaker books, 2004)
The 2004 Swarthmore Lecture, drawing on the author's experience of cross-cultural conflict transformation work to bringing new tools to address conflict and challenging ways to live out the Quaker Peace Testimony.

Congo, non-fiction

5. **The Congo Wars: Conflict, Myth & Reality** - Thomas Turner (Zed, 2007)
A thorough but relatively readable study of the historical, political, economic and cultural dimensions of the violence in the Congo since 1996, of which the Kivu provinces have been both the crucible and the epicentre
6. **The Great Lakes of Africa: Two Thousand Years of History** - Jean-Pierre Chretien (Zone, 2003)
A weighty but equally readable academic history of the region - before, during and since colonisation - drawing on a range of French as well as English language sources
7. **King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa** - Adam Hochschild (Pan, 1998)

A gripping historical account of the brutal and exploitative regime that was King Leopold's personal colony, and how it was ultimately exposed and overturned

8. **Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart** - Tim Butcher (Vintage, 2008)
A fascinating travelogue of a journalist's expedition tracing the overland route through DRC that Henry Morton Stanley had taken from Lake Tanganyika to the mouth of the Congo river in 1874-77, with a wealth of historical references as well as first-hand accounts
9. **In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz: Living on the Brink of Disaster in the Congo** - Michaela Wrong (Fourth Estate, 2001)
A journalist's compelling account of the excesses of the Mobutu years of the then Zaire, with many memorable stories and anecdotes
10. **Across the Red River: Rwanda, Burundi and the Heart of Darkness** - Christian Jennings (Victor Gollancz, 2000)
A journalist's harrowing account of his years covering the wars and genocide in the Great Lakes region from 1994 to 1997
11. **Facing the Congo** - Jeffrey Taylor (Abacus, 2000)
A journalist's travelogue of his expedition to travel down the Congo river from Kisangani to Kinshasa in a dug-out canoe
12. **In the Kingdom of Gorillas: Fragile Species in a Dangerous Land** - Bill Weber and Amy Vedder (Simon & Schuster, 2003)
A rich account of the authors' work with the rare and threatened mountain gorillas of the Virungas national park - which straddles Rwanda, Uganda and DRC - and how they worked with local communities to establish the Mountain Gorillas project to safeguard their threatened habitat

Congo, fiction

13. **The Heart of Darkness** - Joseph Conrad (Penguin Classics, 2007)
The classic novella, first published in 1899, telling the tale of a young sailor who captains a riverboat up the Congo river from Kinshasa to Kisangani in the early years of Leopold's Congo (the Congo Free State), and the horror of the slave-labour regime he discovers
14. **The Poisonwood Bible** - Barbara Kingsolver (Faber, 1997)
The bestselling epic story of an American Baptist missionary family who arrive at their posting in a remote village in the heart of the Belgian Congo in 1959, just before independence, and how their lives diverge and unfold over the following three decades
15. **A Bend in the River** - V.S. Naipal (Picador, 1979)
The story of a young man from an Asian trading family on the East Coast of Africa, who moves to the interior just after Congo's independence to take over a shop in Kisangani, and how his life unfolds during the post-colonial years