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The author adds that the women demonstrated intelligence in changing their dressing style depending on the social settings they experienced. In situations for instance, where they want to enjoy being in a café that most class-privileged people visit, they tend to dress in certain ways that conform to the standards of style by the people there, but they change their dressing styles when they visit markets or public open places. Reflecting on the women's perceptions about the patriarchal social structure they were embedded in and their practice of postfeminist fashioning, Dosekun argues that the women had mixed feelings that they experienced patriarchal influences while simultaneously enjoying the privileges of fashioning that postfeminism offered them. Further, responding to the moral and social risks of public misunderstanding they faced, the women stated that they valued intellect (showed respect) for people talking to them while assuming that the spectacular self-stylization they experienced was a significant achievement towards developing a sense of self-esteem and empowerment.

Mesfin Dessiye Abegaz, *University of Gondar*

Enrique Ubieta Gómez. 2016 (English translation, 2019). *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa*. Pathfinder Press. 249 pp.

Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa, written by Cuban journalist Enrique Ubieta Gómez, chronicles the experience of Cuban medical workers who volunteered to respond to the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This book would be of interest to scholars of modern Cuba, the Cuban medical system, specifically the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade, and Cuba's on-going relationship with the African continent.

In October 2014, Cuba's Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade sent over 250 healthcare workers to the three Ebola-affected West African nations. In March 2015, Ubieta Gómez was commissioned to head a small press team that traveled to Guinea and Sierra Leone to report on the activities of Cuban doctors and nurses providing direct medical care at Ebola treatment units. This book is the result of that journey, and its purpose is to present Cuba's response to the Ebola epidemic in the context of Cuba's ongoing stance of solidarity with Africa and in its continuing implementation of revolutionary ideals. The book does not delve deeply into the scientific or epidemiological aspects of Ebola but is rather a "human and political account" of the Cuban experience under difficult and unprecedented conditions.

Gómez interviewed numerous Cuban healthcare workers during his time in West Africa, and their stories make up the bulk of *Red Zone*. They discuss the reasons why they volunteered, the difficulties of leaving their families to face an unfamiliar virus, their anecdotes, and lessons from the field. They share both the victories and tragedies witnessed in the Ebola treatment units. These interviews present a valuable opportunity for more in-depth investigation and future research on Cuban medical missions.

It is notable that, as revealed within their stories and profiles, many of the volunteers already had a strong connection to Africa prior to 2014. Whether through past medical missions, cultural and religious practices, military service, or family history, many of the volunteers felt solidarity with Africa at a personal level. For example, Dr. Enrique Betancourt Casanova's father was Samora Machel's physician and died in the same plane crash that killed the

Mozambican president and liberation leader. Dr. Betancourt later worked as a doctor on a mission in Angola and cites his family's history as a motivation to volunteer for Ebola response in West Africa.

The past is always present in Cuba's relationship with Africa. Included in *Red Zone* are a number of photographs; images of the Ebola response are paired with older images of Cuban doctors and leaders in other African nations during their independence movements. Gómez writes much about Cuba's history of solidarity with the continent, yet he cannot avoid placing that solidarity in the context of Cuba's fraught relationship with the United States. This can be distracting from the stated purpose of the book. A unique feature of Cuban history is that it created this solidarity on its own, independent of larger nations. Cuba sent volunteers to West Africa at the direct invitation of the affected countries, based on their shared histories, and did not need or wait for coordination from any other government. Why center the United States in a story about Cuba-African relations?

On the other hand, there would be no Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade without that fraught U.S.-Cuba history. This special medical unit was founded in 2005 as a response to President Bush's refusal of Cuban offers of assistance to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The enmity between the two countries continues to affect their ability to join forces during crises. Gómez discusses this further in the concluding chapter titled, "David, Goliath, and Other Reflections," in which a secondary purpose emerges. *Red Zone* provides a Cuban socialist critique of the neoliberal paradigm of international aid and development projects.

Although Ubieta Gómez heavily praises the work of the medical brigade for implementing the ideals of the Cuban Revolution, it was surprising to learn in a chapter titled, "The Women," that Cuban women were not allowed to volunteer for Ebola response, and female healthcare workers who were already on missions in West Africa were not allowed to stay. Gómez avoids critiquing this decision or questioning the weak reasons given for this policy. He does reproduce a letter from Dr. Eneida Álvarez Horta, coordinator of the Permanent Cuban Brigade in Sierra Leone, to the Cuban Public Health Ministry, expressing her dismay at the policy and asking to stay. He does not provide any quotes from the women affected.

Red Zone provides a distinctively Cuban perspective on the West African Ebola epidemic, informed by Cuba's special relationship to the African continent and specialization in international medical missions. The Cuban healthcare workers who volunteered for this emergency mission in West Africa provide their own demonstration of revolutionary ideals and international solidarity. The book's narrative casts a critical eye on the nature of international aid work, but often fails to turn that eye on itself.

Heather Jordan, *Independent Researcher*

Allen F. Isaacman and Barbara S. Isaacman. 2020. *Mozambique's Samora Machel: A Life Cut Short*. Athens: Ohio University Press. 257 pp.

The book—a concise biographical account of the Mozambican revolutionary leader Samora Machel—has a special taste due to the entanglement of both authors with the recent history of Mozambique. Since the 1960s, Allan and Barbara Isaacman have been interacting with the country, building relations in multiple ways, sometimes for short periods on research trips or as