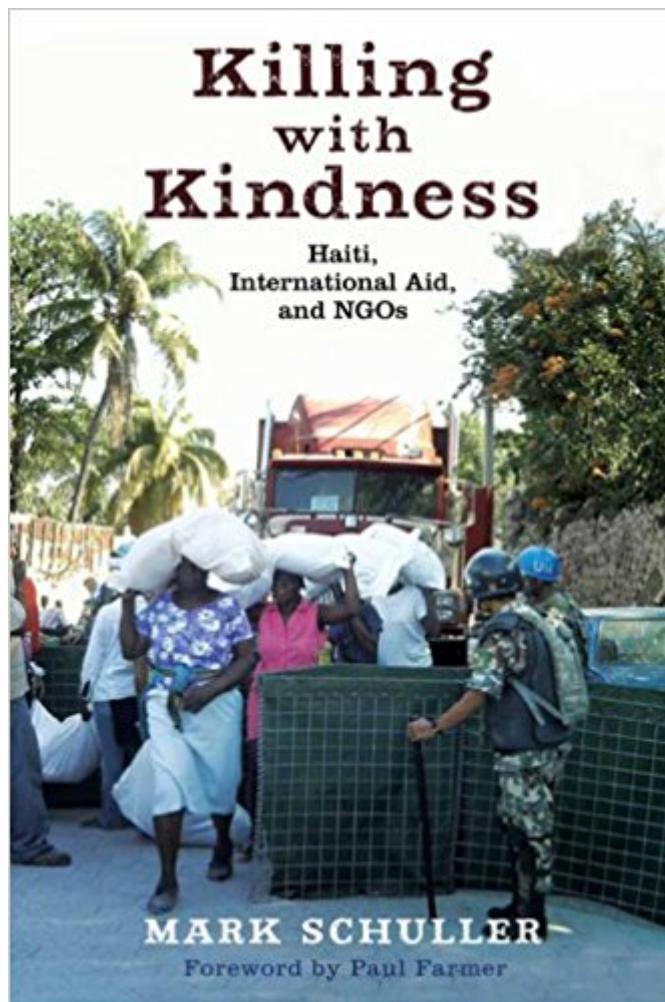


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Killing With Kindness: Haiti, International Aid, And NGOs



Synopsis

Winner of the 2015 Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology

After Haiti's 2010 earthquake, over half of U.S. households donated to thousands of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in that country. Yet we continue to hear stories of misery from Haiti. Why have NGOs failed at their mission? Set in Haiti during the 2004 coup and aftermath and enhanced by research conducted after the 2010 earthquake, *Killing with Kindness* analyzes the impact of official development aid on recipient NGOs and their relationships with local communities. Written like a detective story, the book offers rich ethnographic comparisons of two Haitian women's NGOs working in HIV/AIDS prevention, one with public funding (including USAID), the other with private European NGO partners. Mark Schuller looks at participation and autonomy, analyzing donor policies that inhibit these goals. He focuses on NGOs' roles as intermediaries in "gluing" the contemporary world system together and shows how power works within the aid system as these intermediaries impose interpretations of unclear mandates down the chain—a process Schuller calls "trickle-down imperialism."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Mark Schuller's ethnography of pre- and post-earthquake disaster Haiti is profoundly riveting, poignant, and courageous. It offers a timely no-holds-barred critique and theoretically nuanced analysis of neoliberal NGO-ization and humanitarian aid. The book also provides an inspiring vision

and thoughtful recommendations for remedying the problems of 'trickle down imperialism.' This is an important contribution that convincingly explains why we should care about what's happening in Haiti and the troubling implications for elsewhere—including right here in the USA." (Faye V. Harrison author of *Outsider Within: Reworking Anthropology in the Global Age*

2011-11-08)"Schuller's analysis of two NGOs is a singular contribution to our understanding of such organizations in underdeveloped countries." (Mark Schuller Alex Dupuy, John E. Andrus Professor of Sociology, Wesleyan University 2012-02-01)"Mark Schuller provides something that has been sorely lacking from this story—an ethnographic account of nongovernmental politics in Haiti, a country many now dub 'the Republic of NGOs.'" (Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology 2013-07-01)"Killing with Kindness offers both engaging ethnographic examples and extensive analysis of the complex network of governmental and nongovernmental institutions through which Haiti and Haitians are ruled. (PoLAR)

Mark Schuller is an assistant professor of anthropology and NGO Leadership Development at Northern Illinois University. A writer for Huffington Post, he is the coeditor of four books, including *Tectonic Shifts: Haiti since the Earthquake*, and codirector of the documentary film *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*.

While the literal "killings" in this book are minimal, Mark Schuller brings us an anthropological work of exceptional quality. Schuller committed to learning Haitian Creole, in Haiti, before beginning his research in earnest. The 'homework' pays off in this exceptionally attentive work.

Thanks for the journey. This work has been helpful in writing my thesis paper.

This was good, but a little depressing. Of course, everything I learn about Haiti has been depressing.

An extremely straightforward explanation of how different NGOs work on the ground. From short reflections from his field work, Schuller expands out to assess two types of NGOs: ones funded mostly by governmental sources and others funded privately. He examines different variables (management hierarchies, mission statements, place of operation, gender dynamics) to offer a contemporary reading of how NGOs are (and aren't helpful) in addressing poverty.

Haiti and other third world countries cannot be fixed by Americans dropping cash via Paypal. The US is now becoming a third world country due to illegal aliens and many Americans are homeless due to illegal aliens displacing them in the very competitive housing and job market. Haiti is an ongoing disaster due to unlimited breeding and no birth control. They also live in cement houses in an earthquake zone and in the book "A Guide to the End of the World", it was explained that death from Earthquakes is usually due to poor housing choices. Starbucks started a campaign to donate to Haiti and I boycotted them for two years.

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