

Preface

The papers on which this book is based, were first presented at a conference in Pretoria, South Africa during March 1998 with the title Profit and Plunder: The Privatisation of War and Security in Africa. Rather than analysing the trend toward an increased role for the private security industry in Africa from a theoretical or ideological perspective, considerable care was taken in the choice of contributors to ensure that the issues would be discussed and presented from different angles. Subsequent months saw the authors conduct independent research on three continents prior to the finalisation of the book early in 1999. This final product is considerably expanded and updated from the original conference papers. As the study progressed, opinions changed and others were refined.

The conference and this book have been collaborative projects between the Institute for Security Studies based in Pretoria, South Africa and the Canadian Council for International Peace and Security in Ottawa, Canada.

The ISS is an independent policy research institute which aims to enhance human security in Africa. With offices in Pretoria and Cape Town, the Institute does extensive work in Africa on areas related to, among others, corruption and governance, crime, policing, arms management, early warning, peacekeeping, regional security, defence, justice, and civil-military relations.

CCIPS comprises Canadians who have a common interest in presenting an independent, informed and reliable voice in Canada on issues of peace and security. The Council seeks to assist in developing and advancing innovative Canadian policies on issues of international peace and security in keeping with Canada's internationalist tradition. It promotes public debate and dialogue by providing independent views and sources of information to the Canadian government and public.

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