HOLIDAY READING: SERIOUS STUFF

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Category: Reviews

Zeebrugge: Eleven VCs Before Breakfast (Cassell Military Paperbacks). If you enjoy military history, this is a good little read. It describes British attempts to block the U Boat pens in Bruges during the first world war. I didn't actually know there were any U Boat pens in Bruges, so the book was all new to me. I got my copy for a couple of pounds on the 'remainder' shelf in a book shop in Belfast - at that price you really can't argue with it.



Put Joe Kapolyo's The Human Condition: Christian Perspectives Through African Eyes (Global Christian Library) onto your list of 'must buy' books. It gives an excellent introduction to a Biblical understanding of what it means to be human and is worth getting for that alone. However, the real strength of the book is that Joe starts from an African perspective which is critically examined in the light of Scripture. This brings to light some questions which just wouldn't come to the surface if he had started with a Western world view. This book gives an excllent illustration of why we need Christians from all round the world contributing to our theological formation.Â Too many people view this sort of question by trying to 'correct' African views by comparing them unfavourably to Western scholarship. The truth is that both Western and African (and Asian...) viewpoints need to be examined in the light of Scripture. Both have something to contribute, but neither is better than the other.

Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa. I've already talked about Dambissa Moyo and her views on aid here. Having finally read her book, I have to say that I found it fascinating.Â The blurb on the back says:

> *In this provocative and compelling book, Dambissa Moyo argues that the most important challenge we face today is to destroy the myth that Aid actually works. In the modern globalized economy, simply handing out more money, however well intentioned, will not help the poorest nations achieve sutainable long-term growth.*

Personally, I think she makes her case very well. There is a desperate need for those who are involved in funding Christian ministries around the world to engage with what Dambissa is saying. I don't see any sign of that engagement yet.