



**La Repubblica Democratica del Congo: conflitti e problematiche socio-territoriali**  
*Francesco De Pascale, Luca Jourdan, Kalenge Nguvulu Chris (Eds.)*

**Eastern Congo: borders, history and politics. Notes for a research**

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**Abstract**

The history of Central and Eastern Africa, and of the Congo in particular, for the last twenty years has been characterized by a long series of conflicts. The wars originated predominantly in one of its most belligerent regions: the Kivu region (Prunier, 2009), which is located in the easternmost part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The present work intends, therefore, to contribute to the study of the history of the DRC and to shed light on the importance that the evolution of Kivu has in conflicts that have been afflicting the region for the last twenty years. The eastern border of the Congo was the fulcrum of the regional geopolitics due to its relations with neighboring countries (especially Rwanda and Uganda) (Doevenspeck, 2011), but also for its domestic history. The vastness of the issue (and of the border) has led us to concentrate the analysis on the portion of the border between the present Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda. This area was of fundamental importance for the role that it acquired in characterizing the Kivu region and, consequently, the DRC. In fact, the border between the DRC and Rwanda, which was long considered marginal for the Congo as for the Great Lakes Region in general, has instead jumped to the headlines and historiography, placing itself at the center of the history of the Congo independent since the early Nineties of the twentieth century.

**Keywords:** Congo, Rwanda, borders

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