**Geography and History of the World**

**By:** Robyn L. Johnson, IUPUI School of Education and Department of Geography

**Title:**  Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival

**Authors:** Jen Marlowe, Aisha Bain, and Adam Shapiro

**Author Information:** Aisha Bain is a human rights activist and former Deputy Director of the Center for the Prevention of Genocide. Adam Shapiro is a documentarian and human rights activist. Jen Marlowe has worked in programs teaching conflict resolution to youth in Israel, Palestine, Bosnia, and Afghanistan.

**Publishing Information:** Nation Books, a division of Avalon Publishing Group, New York, NY. ISBN 10: 1560259282.

**Theme:** Three humanitarians’ journey into conflict-torn Darfur.

**Number of Pages:** 259.

**Target Audience:** Older teens – Adults.

**Brief Description:** Since the attempted overthrow of the Sudanese government by rebels in 2003, the Sudanese militia has inflicted mass destruction and murder upon the people of Darfur. This book chronicles the experiences of videographers and human rights activists Bain, Marlowe and Shapiro as they sneak into war-torn Darfur to film a documentary. In an effort to get to the bottom of the conflict which has claimed the lives of many, the documentarians speak with locals about their lives and experiences with the ongoing genocide in their land.

**Major Points:** The book follows the documentary *Darfur Diaries* and details the horrific nature of the conflict in Darfur, as told by locals to the three young filmmakers.

**Your Opinion:** The book is frank in its depiction of the Darfur genocides and leaves nothing to the imagination. The seriousness of the situation and graphic nature of the book limit its audience to older teens and adults. See page 161, paragraph 1 for example.

**Ideas for use in the Classroom:** This book would be appropriate for mature high school students and could serve as an eye-opener about the seriousness of the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Further, it could lead to discussion about activism, human rights, and religious/cultural/ethnic cleavages.