# Table of Contents

**Acknowledgements** 10

**Introduction: War, Youth and Everyday Practices** 13
  I. ‘Like a Paradise’ 15
  II. Structure of the Thesis 17

**Chapter 1. Beginnings and Horizons:**
  Research in the Aftermath of War 21
  I. Is There Still War, Could There be Again? 23
     On the Verge of Return 24
     Cyclical Violence 25
  II. Methodology: A Balancing Act 28
     Perils and the Periphery 28
     Kamenge Youth Centre 30
     The Protagonists 33
     Access, Trust and Distrust 36
     Ethics and Conflict 38
  III. Questioning Purposive Action 41
     Chaos and Violence 41
     Indeterminacy 43
     Practices 44
     Social Navigation 46
     Tactics and Effects 47
  IV. Discussion: Indeterminacy and Reinventing Peace 50

**Chapter 2. Troubled Past** 53
  I. Notes on History 54
  II. Local-global Connections 56
Early Calamities 56
Cold War Contagion 57
Unbridled Violence 58

III. Internal Diversity 59
Regions and Clans 60
Bujumbura and the Hinterlands 61
Historicity of Ethnicity 62

IV. State and Society 64
Pre-colonial Configurations 65
Colonial Reformulation 67
Post-independence Polarization 68
Elections and War 69

V. Discussion: Cycles of Violence, Cycles of Myth? 71

Chapter 3. Mapping in the Quartiers Nord 73
I. ‘Mythical Map’ 75
   Innocent’s Guided Tour 76
II. Urban Planning and Violence 82
   Origins of Residence Patterns 82
   Violent Separation 84
III. Talking about the Civil War 86
   The Trope of Segregation 86
   First Signs of War 88
   Flight Experiences 90
   Personal Stories 93
IV. Social and Economic Characteristics 95
V. ‘Know’ Your Neighbour 99
   Where Do You Live? 99
   Inaccuracies 101
   Morality at Stake 103
VI. Discussion Mapping and Indeterminacy 105
Chapter 4. ‘This Chapter is Not About Ethnicity’

I. The ‘-ism’
   Conflicting Narratives
II. Fieldwork Encounters
III. Navigating Ethnicity: Trends
   Disappearance
   Disapproval
   Avoidance
IV. The Real and the Apparent
   Monitoring Guidelines
   Producing Hidden Realities
V. Potentiality: Between Fear and Hope
VI. Discussion: Peace Uncertainty

Chapter 5. The Cycle of Politics and Life Chances

I. Crisis Dynamics in Searching for Life
II. Politics, Violence and Youth
   The Nature of Politics
   Politically Active Youth
   Wartime Youth Militias
   Non-violent Youth
III. Chercher la Vie
   Limited Employment Opportunities
   Patience Tactics
IV. Critical Moments of Political Participation
   Recurring Mobilization
   Pressure to Choose
   Vital Consequences
V. Discussion: Tactics and Conjunctures
### Conclusions: Beyond the Space of the Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Summarizing ‘Something’</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Agency and Effects in Reinventing Peace</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Elusive Tactics</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Pursuits</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotions and Tactics</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary ‘Extraordinary Circumstances’</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking the Cycle</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### English Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nederlandse Samenvatting</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sommaire en francais

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>