The crisis in the oil-producing Niger delta – a crisis at once political, economic, ecological and social – stands at the heart of contemporary Nigerian political economy. Oil and Insurgency in the Niger Delta will become the reference point for future debates on the origins and dynamics of conflict and political violence in the Nigerian oilfields. Obi and Rustad bring together some of the world’s leading analysts on the Niger Delta insurgency for a gripping expose of the roots of the conflict and how actors in the region have responded to the crisis. The authors offer a deep, sobering, and multi-dimensional understanding of how the Niger Delta’s descent into conflict came about and why it persists. The trade of stolen oil, or “blood oil,” in Nigeria is fueling a long-running insurgency in the resource-rich Niger Delta region that has claimed many lives. Oil “bunkering” – or theft – has fomented the armed conflict in the region, providing militant groups with funds to purchase weapons, and has increased instability in oil prices on world energy markets. Nigerian President Umaru Yar’Adua in July 2008 asked the Group of Eight nations for help in dealing with the problem, but no concrete ac...