



GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES AND THE WEST

History and Complicity
Edited by Adam Jones

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Adam Jones is currently Professor of International Studies at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE) in Mexico City.

GENOCIDE AND WAR CRIMES are increasingly the focus of scholarly and activist attention. Much controversy exists over how, precisely, these grim phenomena should be defined and conceptualized. *Genocide, War Crimes & the West* tackles this controversy, and clarifies our understanding of an important but under-researched dimension: the involvement of the US and other liberal democracies in actions that are conventionally depicted as the exclusive province of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes.

Many of the authors are eminent scholars and/or renowned activists; in most cases, their contributions are specifically written for this volume. In the opening and closing sections of the book, analytical issues are considered, including questions of responsibility for genocide and war crimes, and institutional responses at both the domestic and international levels. The central section is devoted to an unprecedentedly broad range of original case studies of western involvement, or alleged involvement, in war crimes and genocide.

At a moment in history when terrorism has become a near universal focus of public attention, this volume makes clear why the West – as a result of both its historical legacy and contemporary actions – so often excites widespread resentment and opposition throughout the rest of the world.

'This exceptionally well selected, brilliantly edited collection of writings provides the most comprehensive treatment of Western responsibility for mass atrocity yet published. The cumulative impact of the volume is a devastating indictment of state terrorism as practised by the West, both historically, and now after September 11 in the name of 'anti-terrorism' - Richard Falk, Professor Emeritus, Princeton University

'In the names of millions of forgotten victims, from Wounded Knee to My Lai, a brilliant tribunal of scholars assail the himalayan hypocrisy of 'Western humanitarianism' - Mike Davis, author of *Late Victorian Holocausts*

'Like communist and third world regimes, Western states have been opponents, bystanders, accomplices and perpetrators of genocide and war crimes. In different cases, they have also variously ignored, denied, covered up, re-examined, recanted, and refused to apologise for their roles. Is there a pattern here? *Genocide, War Crimes & the West* is definitely worth reading. In case studies and thematic essays, the authors offer a variety of answers and raise important new questions about democracy, foreign policy, and international law, uncovering the complexity along with the complicity in the West's relationships and approaches to genocide and war crimes' - Ben Kiernan, Director, Genocide Studies Program, Yale University, and editor of *Genocide and Democracy in Cambodia*.

'This book documents one of the darkest chapters in recent history. It tells the story of what the 'First World' - the Western democracies, most prominently the United States - have done mainly against countries and peoples in the South and in the former socialist world. It is a history of aggression, indiscriminate bombing, war crimes, and massacres since the 1970s, the story of Western complicity in genocide in the South and East, and worse, it is about genocide committed by these democracies themselves. This path-breaking book fills a huge void; it carefully accounts for serious crimes that others have shamefully avoided, omitted or denied' - Christian P. Scherrer, Professor of Peace Studies, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Japan; author of *Genocide and Crisis*.

'A revealing compendium of studies regarding the crimes against humanity committed by 'Western democracies.' This book should give citizens a better sense of those parts of our history that remain largely unexamined and untaught' - Michael Parenti, author of *The Terrorism Trap* and *The Assassination of Julius Caesar: A People's History of Ancient Rome*

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