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***Evoking Genocide:
Scholars and Activists Describe The Works That Shaped Their Lives***

edited by Adam Jones

Evoking Genocide

A new book takes a uniquely fresh approach to a subject matter that is all too often catalogued by death tolls, politics, and hate. ***Evoking Genocide: Scholars and Activists Describe The Works That Shaped Their Lives*** tells us about the depravity of genocide not by giving dry stats or recalling horrific activities but rather by sharing the first-person accounts of scholars and activists who reveal how art, literature, music, and even a toy has moved and shaped their thinking on an uncomfortable subject.

Editor Adam Jones, Ph.D., says: “Not all books are a joy to edit, but this one has been a labor of love. A number of contributors also emphasized how much they had enjoyed writing their pieces – a welcome relief, they said, from the more detached and “objective” style that scholars are often confined by. I hope the freshness and vitality of the engagement with their chosen subjects comes through. I also hope that the diverse materials presented here will inspire readers, as they have inspired me, to seek out a personal engagement with works they may not have encountered – or even heard of.”

Evoking Genocide's five dozen essays remark about movies, music, books, art and other works that shaped the lives of scholars and activists, helping the essayists to understand genocide. Though the stories are dominated by The Holocaust, other genocides are recalled as well, including: Darfur, Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia, Guatemala, Cambodia, East Timor, and others.

A sampling of the works that inspired the essayists includes:

- Elie Wiesel's *Night* and Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*
- LEGO Concentration Camp and Monument to the Child Victims of War
- *Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl* and *Apocalypse Now* (movie)
- *American History X* (movie) and Pablo Picasso's *Princess Guernica*
- Amnesty International Cambodia Photo Exhibition

Jones serves as the book's editor and also contributes an essay as well. The genocide expert is the author of a dozen books and was Associate Research Fellow in the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University. He now serves as the executive director of GendercideWatch, an educational Web site that confronts gender-selective atrocities against men and women worldwide.

The contributing writers include:

- Sara Cohan, education director of the Genocide Education Project.
- Diane Afoumado, lead researcher at the Survivors Registry of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Alex Hinton, director of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights.
- Jens Meierhenrich, assistant professor of Government and Social Studies at Harvard University.
- Raphael Lemkin, the pioneer of genocide studies.
- David C. Simon, lecturer at the Department of Political Science at Yale University.

Evoking Genocide compiles 60 short essays, all but two of them original to this book, written by leading scholars and activists in the field of genocide studies. These authors pay eloquent tribute to the works of art and media that influenced their engagement with genocide and crimes against humanity. The subjects include books and stories, films, songs, drawings, documents, monuments, sculptures, personal testimonies, and even a Lego set.

In an accessible and often deeply personal way, contributors explore their own relationships with the works in question. Edited by Jones, recently selected one of “Fifty Key Thinkers” in Holocaust and genocide studies, *Evoking Genocide* makes an important contribution to the study of the art and culture of mass atrocity.

The thought-provoking essays include titles such as:

“The Faze of Genocide” and “Never Again, Again”
“Beyond Good and Evil” and “Journey Through Denial”
“Conspiracy of Silence” and “The Look of Terror”

These essays examine many aspects --from the role of the bystander who takes no action as genocide unfolds to the one who strives to keep one’s memory alive many years since The Holocaust. An example of the essays featured in the book includes this excerpt, entitled *The Face of Genocide*, which is written by Donna-Lee Frieze and it shows her reaction to a photo from *Blood and Honey*:

“The obliteration of the face does not only erase facial features: it eliminates facial expressions, which provide clues to the Otherness of the family. I may not be concerned with the color of the family members’ eyes or hair, but I am curious about their feelings. Essential to the dehumanization strategies of genocide is the prohibition of a victim’s self-expression – unless, of course, it takes the form of terror. However, on closer examination, it is apparent that the perpetrators have not entirely erased the faces. The man’s forehead is slightly exposed, as are the chins of the boy and the woman. If it were not for the sketched impalement stakes, it is possible that the expression on the woman’s mouth, too, could be discerned...

“This is not because the face of the victimized Other is mysterious or unknowable, but because the ethical relationship between one and the Other is cancelled. The photograph serves as a powerful reminder that, regardless of whether mass killing is involved, genocide always attempts to erase the ethical proximity of Others, seeking to render them faceless and dehumanized.”

Adam concludes: “Readers who are well-established in genocide studies should delight in the vistas that this book opens to them. But I also hope that *Evoking Genocide* will serve as a fine and accessible introduction to genocide for those who are new to this field of study. Sometimes, the sheer accumulation of grim historical and empirical detail can make the initial engagement with the subject of mass crimes a daunting one. And it is true that there is no shortage of “hearts of darkness” and “grey zones” ahead of you in the volume. But there may also be catharsis in witnessing works of art and communication forged from the raw trauma of genocide, and the pleasure of sharing contributors’ sense of discovery as they explore these works with you. I hope you will emerge sobered and informed – but also captivated, and energized to make your own contribution.”

About the editor:

Adam Jones, Ph.D., the editor of *Evoking Genocide*, is the executive director of *Gendercide Watch* (www.gendercide.org), a Web-based educational initiative that confronts gender-selective atrocities against men and women worldwide.

For two years he was Associate Research Fellow in the Genocide Studies Program at Yale University. He now serves as Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia – Okanagan. He was also a professor for four years at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics in Mexico City. He is also the senior book review editor of *Journal of Genocide Research*.

Adam is the author or editor of a dozen books, including: *Crimes Against Humanity; A Beginner’s Guide*, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction*, *Genocide and Gendercide* and *Genocide, War Crimes and the West: History and Complicity*.

His scholarly articles on genocide, gender, and human rights have appeared in *Journal of Genocide Research*, *Review of International Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and *Journal of Human Rights*.

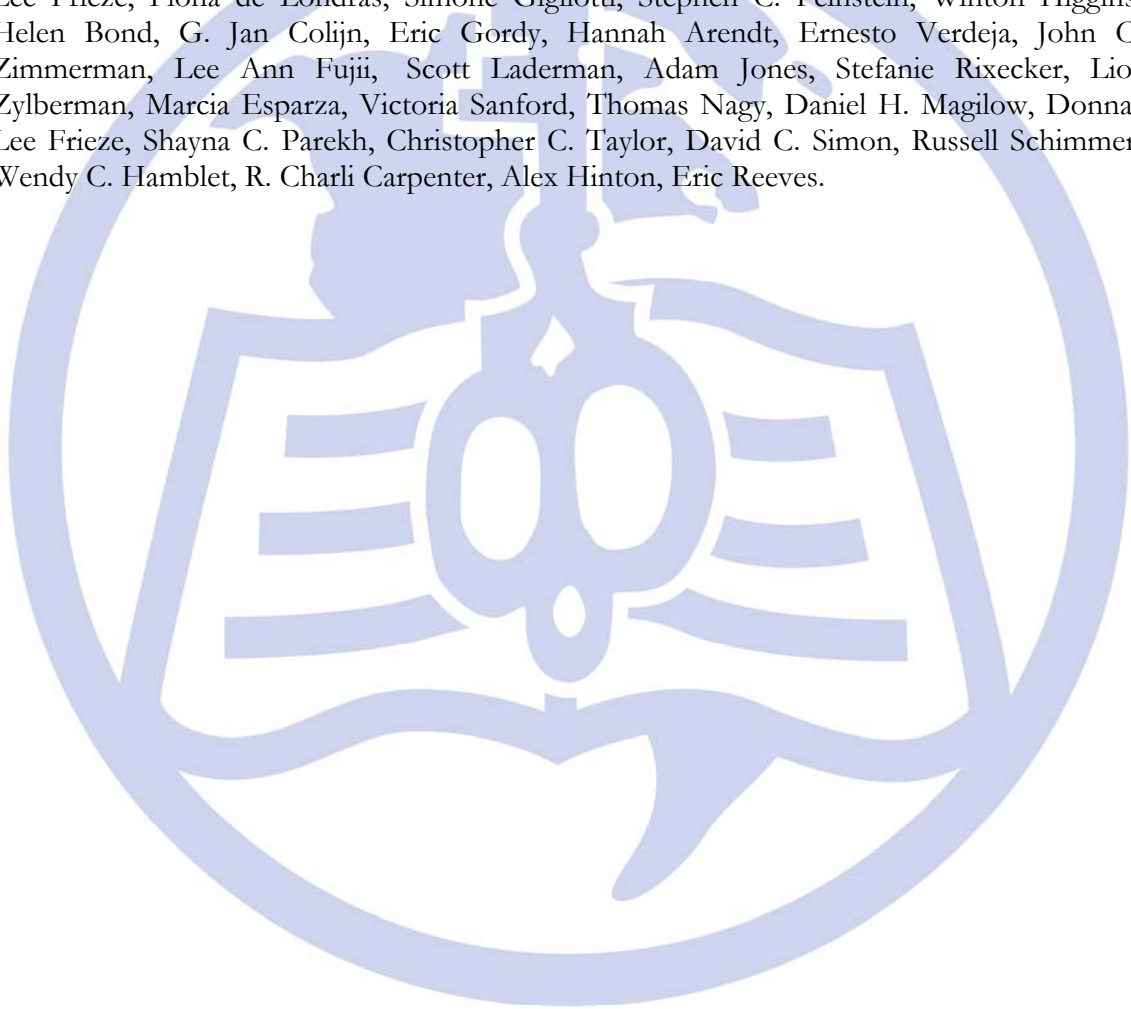
Adam is a scholar whose research focuses on genocide and human rights, gender and international politics, and mass media and political transition. He has voyaged to over 65 countries, recently completing trips to Bosnia, Brazil, India and Russia.

Adam, 46, grew up in England before his family emigrated to Canada when he was seven. He was born in Singapore and returned there for a two-year scholarship to the United World College of South East Asia, where he earned an International Baccalaureate degree. This was followed by a year studying Mandarin at East China Normal University. He obtained his BA in History and International Relations from the University of British Columbia. He completed his Master’s degree in Political Science at McGill University in Montreal and earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of British Columbia.

He resides in British Columbia, Canada. For more information, please consult www.adamjones.freeservers.com, www.evokinggenocide.org

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