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***Genocide Studies and Prevention* Special Issue on the Aftermath of Genocide**



This special issue of *Genocide Studies and Prevention* focuses on the aftermath of genocide, a fascinating area within genocide studies which addresses the reality that genocide continues long after the direct killing stops. The issue explores the post-genocidal period in terms of justice in Rwanda, reconciliation in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia, and the cross-generational impact of denial of the Armenian Genocide.

“The Injustice of Local Justice: Truth, Reconciliation and Revenge in Rwanda” by Jennie E. Burnet, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Louisville, calls into question the issue of justice. Based on extensive fieldwork in Rwanda over the past decade, Burnet finds that the successful functioning of the *gacaca* courts varies greatly among communities. The most important variable appears to be the character of the “persons of integrity” who serve as both judge and jury in this grassroots court system. It is clear in the short-term, at least, that this local justice initiative has actually increased conflict in local communities and intensified ethnic cleavages now fourteen years after the end of the Rwandan Genocide.

Rupert Brown, Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Sussex, England, and Sabina Cehajic, Lecturer in the Political Science Department of the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology in Bosnia and Herzegovina, authored the second article, “Not in My Name: A Social Psychological Study of Antecedents and Consequences of Acknowledgement of In-Group Atrocities.” The article explores socio-psychological factors influencing individuals’ readiness and willingness to acknowledge Serbian atrocities. Based on in-depth interviews with eighteen Serbians between 1992 and 1995, this study provides essential insights into some Serbian attitudes that will be invaluable for a realistic approach to the rehabilitation of Serbian society and future reconciliation with victims in the former Yugoslavia—and potentially other cases.

The article by Maja Catic, a PhD candidate in the Politics Department at Brandeis University, and former fieldworker in Yugoslavia, delves into the sobering reality that reconciliation between post-genocide parties who are attempting to live in the same state and imagine themselves as part of the same political community is completely different from post-genocide parties who do not have to attempt to live together again. “A Tale of Two Reconciliations: Germans and Jews after World War II and Bosnia after Dayton” argues that the success of German-Jewish reconciliation relies on the fact that the victims and perpetrators did not have to live in the same state in the aftermath of genocide. This challenges the persistent tendency to invoke German-Jewish reconciliation as a viable model for all other post-genocide societies, such as Bosnia.

The groundbreaking article “Cycles of Genocide, Stories of Denial: Atom Egoyan’s *Ararat*” by Donna-Lee Frieze, Research Fellow in the School of History, Heritage and Society at Deakin University, Australia, offers penetrating insights into the denial of genocide and its long-term impact on victims, perpetrators, and their relationships. This extensive analysis of Atom

Egoyan's landmark feature film on the Armenian Genocide broaches the complex challenges of representing genocide artistically, hinging on whether the artist conceives genocide to be an isolated historical event or an ongoing reality. Frieze finds Egoyan revealing that the truth of genocide is much more complex, fragmented, and unsettled than is typically understood when genocide is viewed solely in terms of the mass killing. This article is an essential read and invites a revisit to Egoyan's *Ararat*.

Editor Henry Theriault has done a great service by providing a wide variety of articles illustrating that "the post-genocide period poses a range of great challenges, and genocide casts its shadow across generations."

Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal was co-founded by the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute). The journal's mission is to understand the phenomenon of genocide, create an awareness of it as an ongoing scourge, and promote the necessity of preventing it, for both pragmatic and moral reasons. It is the official journal of the International Association of Genocide Scholars and is published three times a year by the University of Toronto Press. For more information, contact the IIGHRS at admin@genocidestudies.org or Tel: 416-250-9807.