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Amnesty After Atrocity? Healing Nations After Genocide and War Crimes Helena Cobban

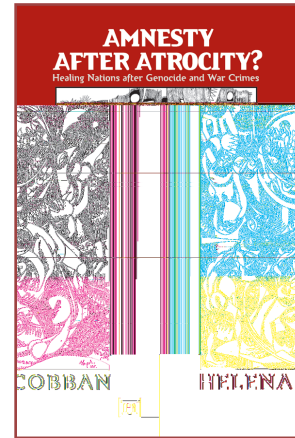
“In this profoundly disturbing book, Helena Cobban confronts us inescapably with the way the western world has closed its ears to the tragedy of Africa. There is a way to redeem ourselves, and that is the theme of much of *Amnesty After Atrocity?*”

—**Daniel Schorr**, Senior News Analyst, National Public Radio

“Helena Cobban makes a very important contribution to the growing debate over the wisdom of pursuing retribution versus reconciliation where mass violations of human rights have taken place. Her conclusions may not sit well with everyone engaged in this debate, but everyone should read this book to understand the experience of those countries that have gone through this process and that have informed her careful judgment.”

—**Princeton N. Lyman**, Council on Foreign Relations

In *Amnesty After Atrocity?* veteran journalist Helena Cobban examines the effectiveness of different ways of dealing with the aftermath of genocide and violence committed during deep intergroup conflicts. She traveled to Rwanda, Mozambique, and South Africa to assess the various ways those nations tried to come to grips with their violent past: from war crime trials to truth commissions to outright amnesties for perpetrators. She discovered that in terms of both moving these societies forward and satisfying the needs of survivors, war crime trials are not the most effective path. This work provides strategic historical context and includes interviews with a cross section of the panoply of humanity that makes up any post-atrocity society: community leaders, victims, policymakers, teachers, rights activists, and even some former abusers. These first person accounts create a rich, readable text, and Cobban’s overall conclusions will surprise many readers in the West.



Helena Cobban is a columnist for the *Christian Science Monitor* and a contributing writer at the *Boston Review*. She has also written several books, including *The Moral Architecture of World Peace* (University of Virginia Press 2000), *The Superpowers and the Syrian-Israeli Conflict* (Praeger Publishers 1991), and *The Making of Modern Lebanon* (Hutchinson 1985).

SEPTEMBER 2006 (cloth) • JANUARY 2007 (paper)

6 x 9 • 296 pages

ISBN 1-59451-316-3, 978-1-59451-316-9 (hc), \$75.00

ISBN 1-59451-317-1, 978-1-59451-317-6 (pb), \$24.95

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