

The Srebrenica Massacre: Evidence, Context, Politics

By Edward S. Herman and Phillip Corwin

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In-depth Report: THE BALKANS

The SREBRENICA MASSACRE, Evidence, Context, Politics, Edward S. Herman and Phillip Corwin (Editors)

Foreword by Phillip Corwin (excerpt)

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On July 11, 1995, the town of Srebrenica fell to the Bosnian Serb army. At the time, I was the highest ranking United Nations civilian official in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In my book, Dubious Mandate,1 I made some comments on that tragedy. Beyond that, I decried the distortions of the international press in their reporting, not only on that event, but on the wars in Yugoslavia (1992-95) in general. I expressed the wish that there could have been, and must be, some balance in telling the story of what actually happened in Srebrenica and in all of former Yugoslavia, if we are to learn from our experience.

This book by the Srebrenica Research Group, The Srebrenica Massacre: Evidence, Context, Politics, answers that call. It presents an alternative and well-documented assessment of the tragedy of Srebrenica, and of the suffering of all the constituent peoples of former Yugoslavia. It is an invaluable document.

Of course, there will be those who will disagree with the authors' perspective. But if we are to open a discussion that has been closed to all but the faithful, if we are to prevent similar tragedies from occurring again, then we must take seriously the accounts put forward by the bright and discerning contributors to this book. No honest reader can doubt the credentials of these authors. And no honest reader should doubt the importance of what they have to say. I congratulate them on their scholarship and their courage.

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Table of contents

Maps • 4-6 Foreword • 7 Phillip Corwin Preface • 13 Edward S. Herman Chapter 1. Introduction • 19

Edward S. Herman

Chapter 2. Prelude to the Capture of Srebrenica • 37

George Bogdanich

Chapter 3. The Military Context of the Fall of Srebrenica • 66

Tim Fenton

Chapter 4. The Numbers Game • 101

Jonathan Rooper

Chapter 5. Securing Verdicts:

The Misuse of Witness Evidence at the Hague • 153

George Szamuely

Chapter 6. The ICTY and Srebrenica • 211

Michael Mandel

Chapter 7. UN Report on Srebrenica—

A Distorted Picture of Events • 224

George Bogdanich

Chapter 8. U.S. Media Coverage of Srebrenica • 248

Edward S. Herman

Chapter 9. U.K. Media Coverage of Srebrenica • 259

Philip Hammond

Chapter 10. Summary and Conclusions • 278

Edward S. Herman

Note on Contributors • 299

To access the complete pdf file of this important study click here

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