



Worse Than War: Genocide, Eliminationism, and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity

By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

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A *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year: “A magisterial and profoundly disturbing ‘natural history’ of mass murder.”

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen’s books are events. They stir passionate public debate among political and civic leaders, scholars, and the general public because they compel people to rethink the most powerful conventional wisdoms and stubborn moral problems of the day. *Worse Than War* gets to the heart of the phenomenon, genocide, that has caused more deaths in the modern world than military conflict. In doing so, it challenges fundamental things we thought we knew about human beings, society, and politics.

Drawing on extensive field work and research from around the world, Goldhagen explores the anatomy of genocide—explaining why genocides begin, are sustained, and end; why societies support them, why they happen so frequently and how the international community should and can successfully stop them.

As a great book should, *Worse than War* seeks to change the way we think and to offer new possibilities for a better world. It tells us how we might at last begin to eradicate this greatest scourge of humankind.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Goldhagen expands the controversial argument of his bestselling *Hitler's Willing Executioners* to indict the world in this relentless *j'accuse*. His comparative study surveys a panorama of modern atrocities, encompassing the Holocaust, the Soviet gulag, Cambodia, the Rwandan and Darfur genocides, and even Harry Truman, a mass murderer who should be put in the dock no less than Stalin [and] Pol Pot for the atomic bombing of Japan. Goldhagen's elaborate concept of eliminationism, complete with a two-dimensional matrix of Types of Excess Cruelty (is the action ordered or not? individually or collectively performed?) is similarly broad, comprising massacres along with nonlethal expulsions and repressions; in his hectoring, incantatory prose (Think of hearing your victim's screams as you hack at or 'cut' her and then cut her again, and again and again), it's less a theory than a nomenclature for cataloguing human devilry. As in *Executioners*, Goldhagen convincingly disparages bureaucratic banality of evil explanations of genocide and spotlights the ideologies of leaders who exploit ordinary citizens' hate-filled beliefs to instigate mass murder. It's not easy reading, but Goldhagen's vehemence and the sheer weight of horrors that he recounts move one's conscience. Photos. (Oct.)

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Review

"[A] magisterial and profoundly disturbing 'natural history' of mass murder." ---The New York Times

About the Author

Until devoting himself full time to writing, **Daniel Jonah Goldhagen** taught political science for many years at Harvard University. He is the prize-winning author of the international number-one bestseller *Hitler's Willing Executioners* and *A Moral Reckoning* and contributes to major newspapers and magazines around the world.

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