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A Lexicon Of Terror: Argentina And The Legacies Of Torture, Revised And Updated With A New Epilogue



Synopsis

Tanks roaring over farmlands, pregnant women tortured, 30,000 individuals "disappeared"--these were the horrors of Argentina's Dirty War. A New York Times Notable Book of the Year and Finalist for the L.L. Winship / PEN New England Award in 1998, *A Lexicon of Terror* is a sensitive and unflinching account of the sadism, paranoia, and deception the military junta unleashed on the Argentine people from 1976 to 1983. This updated edition features a new epilogue that chronicles major political, legal, and social developments in Argentina since the book's initial publication. It also continues the stories of the individuals involved in the Dirty War, including the torturers, kidnappers and murderers formerly granted immunity under now dissolved amnesty laws. Additionally, Feitlowitz discusses investigations launched in the intervening years that have indicated that the network of torture centers, concentration camps, and other operations responsible for the "desaparecidos" was more widespread than previously thought. *A Lexicon of Terror* vividly evokes this shocking era and tells of the long-lasting effects it has left on the Argentine culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an eye opening account of the sheer scale and murderous brutality of the Dirty War. What it isn't (and does not pretend to be) is a comprehensive history of that period of Argentine History. The title most applies to early chapters painting the use of language by the junta. There are some shocking case studies on the impact of the Dirty War on a northern region, and of the way the terror was conducted in plain sight. Later stages of the book, on the Scilingo Effect, are less well written,

and the update is rather haphazard.

this book is an emotionally, sociologically, and intellectually chilling account of a country which seems to exist in a constant state of denial regarding the incredible dualities of its everyday life. since its inception, argentina has rarely had national agreement on anything other than their passion for barbecue, polo and soccer. there is no such thing as peace here, rather just the degree of terror which its citizens, seemingly perpetually, visit upon each other. the various ruling factions and resistance (which is continual) seem to have an uncanny, evil ability to deceive, through a war of words, each other into committing the most atrocious, audacious, barbaric cruelty upon each ruling faction's opponents be they women, children and men. during the dirty war, it seems as though an atrocious "fairy tale" is visited upon Argentinians enabling a suspension of rational thought or action which allows for anything to happen. what does happen is reminiscent of the thought control of nazi germany. in actuality, some of the forms of terror are given by former nazis who departed swiftly from germany at the close of WW2. however, most interesting is that the argentine cultural makeup). is a mixture of immigrants from great briton, spain, italy and other european countries (plus the remnants of the indigenous people). the educational level has been, at times, one of the highest in the world. Argentina has also had the resources to be an important world economy. despite all, it would seem that the average argentinian can see no further than the end of his own nose, thus enabling, and insuring, a perpetual human disaster.

This book really opens up your eyes about the Dirty War in Argentina.

This is definitely more about the lexicon and less about the terror.

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