

# The Collective Memory Reader

there are few terms or concepts that have in the last twenty or so years rivaled collective memory for attention in the humanities and social sciences indeed use of the term has extended far beyond scholarship to the realm of politics and journalism where it has appeared in speeches at the centers of power and on the front pages of the world's leading newspapers the current efflorescence of interest in memory however is no mere passing fad it is a hallmark characteristic of our age and a crucial site for understanding our present social political and cultural conditions scholars and others in numerous fields have thus employed the concept of collective memory sociological in origin to guide their inquiries into diverse though allegedly connected phenomena nevertheless there remains a great deal of confusion about the meaning origin and implication of the term and the field of inquiry it underwrites the collective memory reader presents organizes and evaluates past work and

contemporary contributions on the questions raised under the rubric of collective memory combining seminal texts hard to find classics previously untranslated references and contemporary landmarks it will serve as an essential resource for teaching and research in the field in addition in both its selections as well as in its editorial materials it suggests a novel life story for the field one that appreciates recent innovations but only against the background of a long history in addition to its major editorial introduction which outlines a useful past for contemporary memory studies the collective memory reader includes five sections precursors and classics history memory and identity power politics and contestation media and modes of transmission memory justice and the contemporary epoch comprising ninety one texts in addition to the essay introducing the entire volume a brief editorial essay introduces each of the sections while brief capsules frame each of the 91 texts

collective memory volume 274 in the progress in brain research series highlights new advances in the field with this new volume presenting interesting chapters on a variety of interesting topics including deriving testable hypotheses through an analogy between individual and collective memory and updated information on collective future thinking current research and future directions provides the authority and expertise of leading contributors from an international board of authors presents the latest release in progress in brain research series updated release includes the latest information on collective memory

theories of memory provides a comprehensive introduction to the rapidly expanding field of memory studies it is a resource through which students will be able both to broaden their knowledge of contemporary theoretical perspectives and trace the development of ideas about memory from the classical period to the present the reader is organised into three parts part i beginnings is historical in scope its three sections classical and early modern ideas of memory enlightenment and romantic memory and memory and late modernity lay out the key psychological rhetorical and cultural concepts of memory in the work of a range of thinkers from plato to walter benjamin part ii positionings identifies three major perspectives through which memory has been defined and debated more recently collective memory jewish memory discourse and trauma part iii identities examines the key role of memory in contemporary constructions of identity under the headings gender race nation and diaspora the general introduction sets out the significance of the field of memory studies while the accessible introductions to the nine sections also include suggestions for further reading in the area features offers a comprehensive introduction to the rapidly expanding field of memory studies both theorizes and historicizes the concept of memory for students of literature and culture foregrounds the importance of memory in contemporary theory provides a thorough survey of theories of memory from the classical period to the present edited by a team with a distinct range of expertise as well as experience of teaching theories of memory to graduate students

a friend of mine asked me to accompany him to visit a young woman in her twenties named kayitesi at the time in april 2007 kayitesi lived in rural kigali with two siblings kayitesi s parents and many of her relatives were killed during the genocide perpetrated against the tutsi in rwanda in 1994 the genocide took place in the central and eastern african country of rwanda when radical hutu youth militias and hutu political elites targeted and killed the tutsi for about three months between april and july the hutus and some foreigners who protected the tutsi or opposed the genocidal violence were also killed

cultural memory a subtle and comprehensive process of identity formation promotion and transmission is considered as a set of symbolic practices and protocols with particular emphasis on repositories of memory and the institutionalized forms in which they are embodied high and low culture as texts embedded in the texture of memory as well as material culture as a communal receptacle and reservoir of memory are analysed in their historical contingency symbolic representations of accepted and counter history ies and the cultural nodes and mechanisms of the cultural imaginary are also issues of central interest twenty six contributions tackle these topics from a theoretical and historical perspective and bring to the fore case studies illustrating the interdisciplinary agenda that underlies the volume contributors luis manuel a v bernardo lina bolzoni peter burke pia brinzeu adina ciugureanu thomas docherty christoph ehland herbert grabes lászló gyapay donna landry christoph lehner gerald maclean dragoş manea daniel melo miroslawa modrzenska rareş moldovan c w r d mosely petruţa năiduţ francesca orestano maria lúcia g pallares burke andreea paris leonor santa bárbara hans peter söder jukka tiisanen ludmila volná ioana zirra

how does cajun literature emerging in the 1980s represent the dynamic processes of remembering in cajun culture known for its hybrid constitution and deeply ingrained oral traditions cajun culture provides an ideal testing ground for investigating the collective memory of a group in particular francophone and anglophone cajun texts by such writers as jean arceneaux tim gautreaux jeanne castille zachary richard ron thibodeaux darrell bourque and kirby jambon reveal not only a shift from an oral to a written tradition they also show hybrid perspectives on the cajun collective memory based on recurring references to place the texts also reflect on the acadian past and reveal the innate ability of the cajuns to adapt through repeated intertextual references the cajun collective memory is thus defined by a transnational outlook a transversality cutting across various ethnic heritages to establish and legitimize a collective identity both amid the linguistic and cultural diversity in louisiana and in the face of american mainstream culture cajun literature and cajun collective memory represents the first analysis of the mnemonic strategies cajun writers use to explore and sustain the cajun identity and collective memory

in the fields of literary and memory studies the cultural impact of the bosnian war of 1992 1995 appears despite the scale of devastation somewhat minimal reading war making memory focuses on how authors from the diaspora of the former yugoslavia have transmitted and translated the realities of the war in their fiction illuminating how these texts interpolate the culture and memory of bosnia herzegovina into an act of mnemonic migration drawing from close readings studies of public reception and focus group interviews this volume explores the attempt to reshape social frameworks of memory and the wider reception and impact of memory making literature across europe

this book offers a critical examination of certain ideas and values such as remembering forgiveness story telling through truth and reconciliation commissions etc that under gird the transitional practices and mechanisms of societies emerging from conflicts it does so by making the survivors experience the supreme and ultimate judge of the legitimacy of such practices while many scholars have dealt with these topics this book provides a unique perspective on them by using personal stories narratives and memoirs of the survivors as a checking point of the theoretical elaboration of these ideas and values by means of an existential phenomenological analysis of the situation of survivors of gross human rights violations the book assesses how many resources are still available to them so that they can contribute to the processes of reconstruction and reconciliation of their societies this analysis constitutes the background for reading the rest of the book which challenges some assumptions and presumptions of transitional practices such as healing through truth telling or providing justice through reparations it does so by presenting nuanced suggestions on the ways survivors can participate in the reconstruction reconciliation processes without jeopardizing their own well being

uses writings of mesopotamian christians to challenge modern scholarly narratives of early muslim conquests rulers and religious practices

this handbook represents the interdisciplinary and international field of cultural memory studies for the first time in one volume articles by renowned international scholars offer readers a unique overview of the key concepts of cultural memory studies the handbook not only documents current research in an unprecedented way it also serves as a forum for bringing together approaches from areas as varied as sociology political sciences history theology literary studies media studies philosophy psychology and neurosciences cultural memory studies as defined in this handbook came into being at the beginning of the 20th century with the works of maurice halbwachs on mémoire collective in the course of the last two decades this area of research has witnessed a veritable boom in various countries and disciplines as a consequence the study of the relation of culture and memory has diversified into a wide range of approaches this handbook is based on a broad understanding of

cultural memory as the interplay of present and past in sociocultural contexts it presents concepts for the study of individual remembering in a social context group and family memory national memory the various media of memory and finally the host of emerging transnational lieux de mémoire such as 9 11

for those who study memory there is a nagging concern that memory studies are inherently backward looking and that memory itself hinders efforts to move forward unhinging memory from the past this book brings together an interdisciplinary group of prominent scholars who bring the future into the study of memory

offers readers an introduction to just under 30 critical and representative writings on the relationship between film and history these writings represent a combination of insights from film theory cultural studies historiography the history of cinema and film promotion and reception

reader development focuses on readers rather than reading skills the purposes of reader development are to enhance the reading experience to make it a more pleasurable and creative act for the reader to increase people s confidence in their reading and to make reading a more communal activity by bringing readers together to share their experiences the focus of reader development is pleasure reading which the authors interpret as reading fiction they observe that public libraries were not at the forefront of this movement but librarians are responding by changing library culture to focus on readers rather than books the ways in which librarians responded and additional responses they could undertake are described within the context of the broader social movements in the united kingdom to promote reader development three themes dominate the chapters first the authors tirelessly celebrate reading reading is good reading will make one happy reading elevates the second theme is opportunism if society is paying attention to reading librarians should get on board and seize the opportunity to build their status and to secure the place of libraries as critically important institutions the third theme is social inclusiveness librarians should always keep in mind the political dimensions of public library service and assure that all sectors of the populations share in the benefits of library service readers in search of guidance concerning what librarians should do will find plenty of that here editor

preparing the next generation of oral historians is an invaluable resource to educators seeking to bring history alive for students at all levels filled with insightful reflections on teaching oral history it offers practical suggestions for educators seeking to create curri

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