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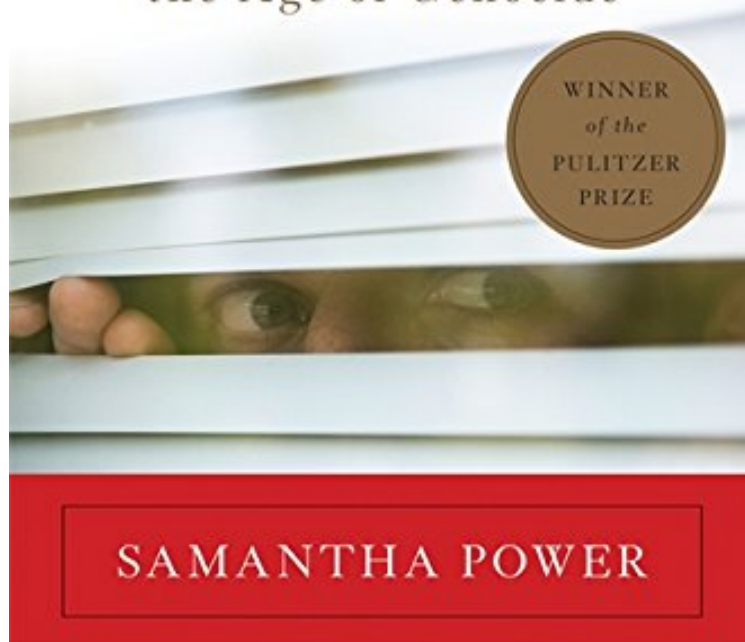
Samantha Power

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"Nothing less than a masterwork of contemporary journalism. ... An angry, brilliant, fiercely useful, absolutely essential book."—*The New Republic*

"A PROBLEM FROM HELL"

America and
the Age of Genocide



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#37012 in Books Samantha Power 2013-12-24 2013-12-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.63 x 6.13l, 1.74 #File Name: 0465061516656 pages A Problem from Hell | File size: 46.Mb

Samantha Power : "A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This Book Will Change the Way You See the World By Claude Forthomme Brilliantly written, it moves readers to tears and...exasperation with an unjust and profoundly cruel, senseless world. Everyone is thinking of covering their back, the focus here is on how America has disengaged itself, but in fact, America is not the only one, Europeans share in this disgraceful race. The Age of Genocide is here, and our

whole culture focused on the defense of national sovereignty isn't about to open itself up to a more merciful and generous vision of the world (as is presently seen in the way the West is refusing to accept refugees from war-ravaged countries like Syria and Afghanistan and so many others) Books such as this one are deeply important - possibly reflecting the last gasps of a dying liberal culture. Or perhaps not, if many people read this - and this book will open their eyes, how could it not? - then all hope for a change for the better might not be lost. Warmly recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. superb By mb This is a great book. Well written, clear, and readable. But be prepared to be very sad, very angry, and very ashamed. Following a very detailed a useful history of the delineation of the idea of genocide and its entrance into law, Power traces genocides. Jews, Armenians, Cambodians, Bosnians, Rwandans - and the self serving moral cowardice, political pandering, and narrow understanding of 'interests' that made the international community and its power brokers do nothing until many people were dead. For anyone working on Syria or watching this conflict unfold, although not a genocide as such, it feels like deja vu all over again as you read this book. Strongly recommend it. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent reference. . . with a pinch of salt. By Walter B Reed Great book, providing accounts of Mass Atrocity/Genocide throughout the world occurring after the Nazi Holocaust. Very informative but disturbing book. Excellent reference and very easy to read. Doesn't take in to account American national interests and critical of US hesitancy with regards to military involvement in foreign affairs (at times appropriately so. . .) Would love to see a sequel after the author's completion of her tenure as the Ambassador to the United Nations.

"An angry, brilliant, fiercely useful, absolutely essential book." --The New Republic

.com During the three years (1993-1996) Samantha Power spent covering the grisly events in Bosnia and Srebrenica, she became increasingly frustrated with how little the United States was willing to do to counteract the genocide occurring there. After much research, she discovered a pattern: "The United States had never in its history intervened to stop genocide and had in fact rarely even made a point of condemning it as it occurred," she writes in this impressive book. Debunking the notion that U.S. leaders were unaware of the horrors as they were occurring against Armenians, Jews, Cambodians, Iraqi Kurds, Rwandan Tutsis, and Bosnians during the past century, Power discusses how much was known and when, and argues that much human suffering could have been alleviated through a greater effort by the U.S. She does not claim that the U.S. alone could have prevented such horrors, but does make a convincing case that even a modest effort would have had significant impact. Based on declassified information, private papers, and interviews with more than 300 American policymakers, Power makes it clear that a lack of political will was the most significant factor for this failure to intervene. Some courageous U.S. leaders did work to combat and call attention to ethnic cleansing as it occurred, but the vast majority of politicians and diplomats ignored the issue, as did the American public, leading Power to note that "no U.S. president has ever suffered politically for his indifference to its occurrence. It is thus no coincidence that genocide rages on." This powerful book is a call to make such indifference a thing of the past. --Shawn Carkonen From Publishers Weekly Power, a former journalist for U.S. News and World Report and the Economist and now the executive director of Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights, offers an uncompromising and disturbing examination of 20th-century acts of genocide and U.S. responses to them. In clean, unadorned prose, Power revisits the Turkish genocide directed at Armenians in 1915-1916, the Holocaust, Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, Iraqi attacks on Kurdish populations, Rwanda, and Bosnian "ethnic cleansing," and in doing so, argues that U.S. intervention has been shamefully inadequate. The emotional force of Power's argument is carried by moving, sometimes almost unbearable stories of the victims and survivors of such brutality. Her analysis of U.S. politics what she casts as the State Department's unwritten rule that nonaction is better than action with a PR backlash; the Pentagon's unwillingness to see a moral imperative; an isolationist right; a suspicious left and a population unconcerned with distant nations aims to show how ingrained inertia is, even as she argues that the U.S. must reevaluate the principles it applies to foreign policy choices. In the face of firsthand accounts of genocide, invocations of geopolitical considerations and studied and repeated refusals to accept the reality of genocidal campaigns simply fail to convince, she insists. But Power also sees signs that the fight against genocide has made progress. Prominent among those who made a difference are Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who invented the word genocide and who lobbied the U.N. to make genocide the subject of an international treaty, and Senator William Proxmire, who for 19 years spoke every day on the floor of the U.S. Senate to urge the U.S. to ratify the U.N. treaty inspired by Lemkin's work. This is a well-researched and powerful study that is both a history and a call to action. Photos. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From The New Yorker In the wake of the Holocaust, United States policymakers have been rhetorically committed to the idea of preventing genocide, and yet they have consistently failed to back up their words with actions. Although Power begins her magisterial chronicle of failure with the Turkish extermination of the Armenians during the First World War, she concentrates on America's recent reluctance to intervene in the mass slaughter of civilians in Iraq, Bosnia, and Rwanda. She argues that had the U.S. done so particularly in Bosnia and Rwanda it could have averted the murder of tens or hundreds of thousands; instead, geopolitical considerations, indifference, and worries over domestic support trumped American ideals. Though clearly

imbued with a sense of outrage, Power is judicious in her portraits of those who opposed intervention, and keenly aware of the perils and costs of military action. Her indictment of U.S. policy is therefore all the more damning.
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