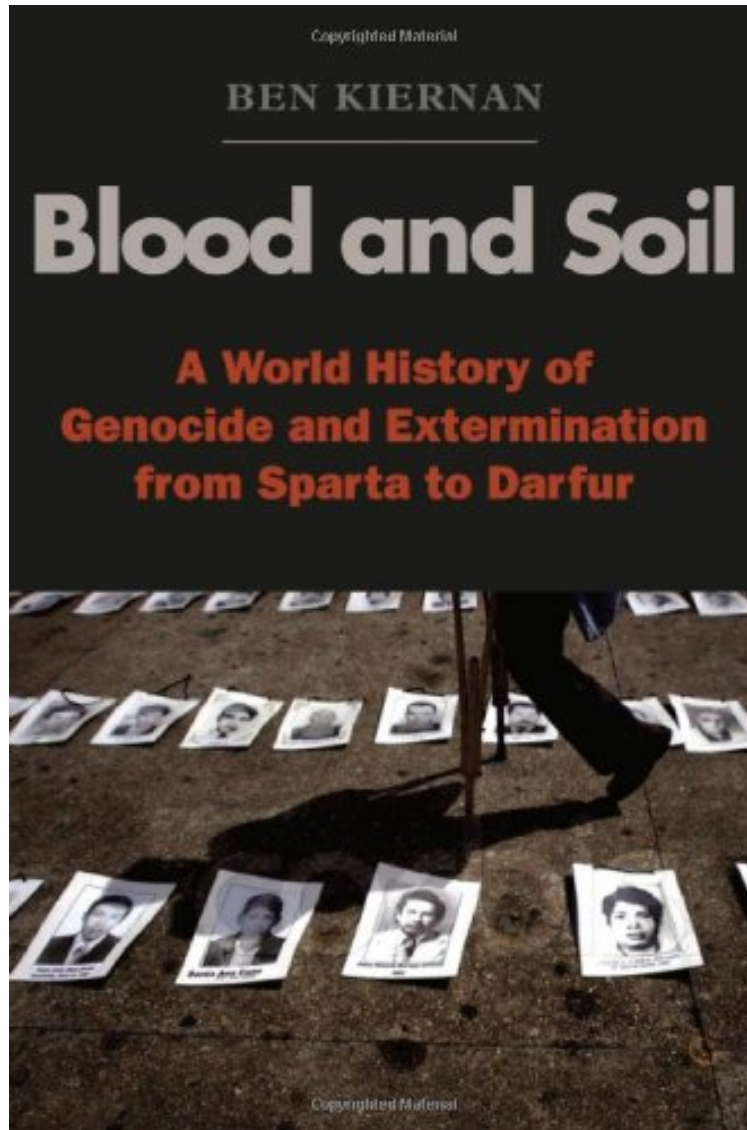


(Download ebook) Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur

Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur

Ben Kiernan

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Ben Kiernan : Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination from Sparta to Darfur:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Impressive Research but Dreadful Writing By Kevin Pallister Ben Kiernan amasses an impressive amount of research in his treatise on genocidal violence throughout history.

Unfortunately, the writing is poor, even by academic standards. The majority of sentences in the book contain quotes from sources, which interferes with the narrative flow. Most chapters also lack clear introductions and conclusions, and within chapters there is often a lack of structure or flow. Kiernan's theory of the common factors underlying genocides is interesting and plausible, though it seems to apply better to some of his cases than to others, and sometimes Kiernan's application of the theory's causal factors to historical cases is a bit perfunctory. Simply put, this book is a slog even for a reader with a keen interest in the subject matter. It's good as a reference source, but not an engaging read. If you are a student or casual reader looking for an entree to the subject, try instead the textbook on genocide by Adam Jones, which includes a lot of solid historical case studies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Glorifying the Past for a Gruesome Future* By Michael Griswold Ben Kiernan's *Blood and Soil* is a difficult read because of the subject matter. The idea of brutality on the scale of which Kiernan describes can be difficult for the average person to wrap their head around. After a while, the six hundred plus pages of *Blood and Soil* blur together painting a rather depressing picture of humanity. Kiernan's thesis is not hard in a nutshell in that a toxic soup of romanticized past glories (usually associated with agriculture or land) that have now been lost due to incompetence of current leaders or more often the presence of another group. When this is mixed together, mass extermination can result. While oftentimes, the intention required by modern genocide convention is not met, the result is largely the same. While one can always quibble over case selection, *Blood and Soil* is a book that although lengthy and time consuming, everyone who cares about humanity in general should read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Man's Inhumanity* By Chris Fogarty Four stars might be too few for this great book. It is a compilation of most of history's recognized genocides; a thick tome with much detail. It was also amazingly inexpensive at .com. Though I fully recommend it, it proved too overwhelmingly tragic for me to read all the way through. Perhaps it serves me better as a valued resource. It might well be the definitive work on genocide throughout history..

For thirty years Ben Kiernan has been deeply involved in the study of genocide and crimes against humanity. He has played a key role in unearthing confidential documentation of the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge. His writings have transformed our understanding not only of twentieth-century Cambodia but also of the historical phenomenon of genocide. This new book, the first global history of genocide and extermination from ancient times, is among his most important achievements. Kiernan examines outbreaks of mass violence from the classical era to the present, focusing on worldwide colonial exterminations and twentieth-century case studies including the Armenian genocide, the Nazi Holocaust, Stalin's mass murders, and the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides. He identifies connections, patterns, and features that in nearly every case gave early warning of the catastrophe to come: racism or religious prejudice, territorial expansionism, and cults of antiquity and agrarianism. The ideologies that have motivated perpetrators of mass killings in the past persist in our new century, says Kiernan. He urges that we heed the rich historical evidence with its telltale signs for predicting and preventing future genocides.

"In exploring the global 'prehistory' of the horrific forms of societal violence usually associated with the twentieth century, Kiernan identifies key factors that have been consistently associated with genocidal episodes. His book makes an original contribution to our understanding of the phenomenon." Michael Adas, Rutgers University