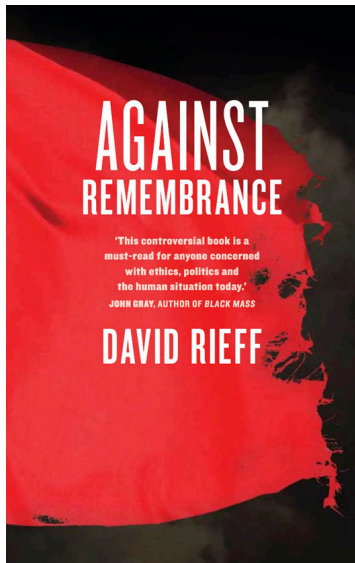


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David Rieff will be available for interview throughout April.

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## AGAINST REMEMBRANCE

by David Rieff

In *Against Remembrance*, David Rieff provocatively argues that the business of remembrance, particularly of the great tragedies of the past, are politicised events of highly selective memory. Rather than ending injustices, as we expect it to, collective memory in so many cases dooms us to an endless cycle of vengeance. Humanity, he says, simply cannot cope with the true ambivalence of historical events. And if we remember only partially, how can our memories serve us, or our society, as well as we hope?

*Against Remembrance* will give you pause for thought: maybe forgetting is the greatest blessing we have.

**David Rieff** is a New York-based journalist and author. Now a contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine*, he has written extensively for *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Le Monde*, *El Pais*, *The New Republic*, *World Affairs*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Foreign Affairs* and *The Nation*. During the 1990s, he covered conflicts in Africa, the Balkans, and Central Asia. He is the author of eight books, including *Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and the Failure of the West* and *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*. His memoir of his mother, Susan Sontag's, final illness, *Swimming in a Sea of Death*, was published in January 2008.

### Praise for *Against Remembrance*

*Against Remembrance* poses hard questions about the importance of collective memory. Are events like ANZAC Day an essential part of a decent public culture? Can commissions on truth and reconciliation help remedy injustice and prevent it in future—or are they mainly obstacles to peace? Drawing on his experience as a war correspondent and bringing to bear an impressive grasp of history, David Rieff explores the role of memory in the defining events of recent times, including the origins and aftermath of war and ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia, the malign inheritance of apartheid in South Africa and the supreme crime of the Holocaust.

- **John Gray**, author of *Black Mass*

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MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · [mup-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mup-info@unimelb.edu.au) · [www.mup.com.au](http://www.mup.com.au)