

THE KOENIGSBERG LECTURES
CIVILIZATION AND SELF-DESTRUCTION
THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CULTURE AND HISTORY



DR. RICHARD A. KOENIGSBERG

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
AUTHOR & SCHOLAR

**Learn more
about the lectures
in the series:**

HITLER'S HOLOCAUST

THE LOGIC OF MASS MURDER

UNDERSTANDING WAR

LOVE AND THE PATHOLOGY OF
GROUP VIOLENCE

Series Description

Three decades of research on the psychological basis of group violence have led Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg to some startling conclusions about the nature and purpose of warfare, genocide and terrorism. Get ready to challenge everything you thought you knew about war!

200 million people lost their lives in the Twentieth Century through a succession of wars, revolutions, and genocidal movements. Events that seem fantastic and bizarre have come to be accepted as "normal" in the course of human events. Historians document this human propensity toward destructiveness but fail to understand or explain it.

Dr. Koenigsberg is an original thinker and dynamic lecturer, whose fresh and controversial analysis of the root causes of group violence amounts to a critique of culture. His research and findings leave us with a profound and enduring message about the nature of war, genocide and terrorism - made only more urgent and important by current events. Join Dr. Koenigsberg on this ground-breaking journey into the 'Heart of Darkness.'

**"Koenigsberg
examined war,
through a lens
of psychology
and found
pathology."**

**Read an extended description of the series
on the next page . . .**

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CULTURE AND HISTORY

Three decades of research on the psychological basis of group violence have led Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg to some startling conclusions about culture and the human propensity for self-destruction.

It's been said that the line between civilization and 'the jungle' is paper-thin. Indeed, history is replete with vivid and gruesome illustrations of 'man's inhumanity to man.' The Holocaust, Rwanda, Kosovo and Darfur all evoke images of horror that we have come to associate with the term 'genocide.' But what of war?



200 million people lost their lives in the Twentieth Century through a succession of wars, revolutions, and genocidal movements. This magnitude of violence, butchery, and destruction is almost beyond human comprehension. Yet, this methodical slaughter for political ends has been largely taken for granted and accepted as 'normal' in the course of human events.



Historians document the carnage with names, dates, and places, and provide us with a litany of rational explanations



for why one group of human beings, at some point in time, felt it necessary to destroy some other group of human beings. However, the social sciences fail to provide an adequate explanation for mass participation in mass slaughter. Indeed, historians and social scientists have not contemplated the possibility that the repetitive killing, characteristic of warfare, genocide and terrorism, constitutes a profound human pathology.

*"Brilliant and fascinating.
Koenigsberg's work
is so good and insightful
that it should be
required reading in
the education of everyone
in the civilized world."*

~ Joe E. Wyatt

Society of Modern Psychoanalysis

Dr. Koenigsberg's examination of some of the bloodiest conflicts of the 20th and 21st Century challenges conventional assumptions about the nature and purpose of war, genocide and terrorism. His unique form of psychological analysis and rigorous methodology help us to become conscious of hidden narratives that operate "beneath the radar" of social history.



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As Freud studied the dreams of individuals, now we turn to examine the shared fantasies underlying the historical process. To make conscious the unconscious on the stage of social reality.

Is it possible for humanity to awaken from the nightmare of history in the 21st Century? Are we capable of becoming aware of the fantasies that drive us toward destruction? Join Dr. Koenigsberg on this groundbreaking journey into the 'Heart of Darkness.'

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