

INTRODUCTION

Nikki Marczak and Kirril Shields

As two of the newest members of the Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, we are humbled to have been entrusted with the editing of *Genocide Perspectives V*, the Institute's official publication. This, the fifth volume in the series, features Australian scholarship on genocide with essays written by established and well-known authors, as well as emerging scholars. The volume has also given contributors the chance to reflect on Professor Colin Tatz's significant contribution to Genocide Studies and his influence on their own paths and chosen areas of study.

In the early stages of developing this book, Tony Barta suggested *Genocide Perspectives V* be made a *Festschrift* to Colin. We felt this was perfect timing and the right volume to dedicate in his honour. Contributors agreed; Douglas Booth and Jennifer Balint had been discussing the idea of a book dedicated to Colin, and many others felt compelled to write on topics inspired by Colin's own work.

In recent years, Colin Tatz has released *The Magnitude of Genocide* (co-authored with Winton Higgins), his memoir, *Human Rights and Human Wrongs*, and his latest book, *Australia's Unthinkable Genocide* (published May 2017). At age 83, the speed at which Colin writes puts both of us, many decades his junior, to shame. His eloquence, ability to reach audiences, and original thinking remain a source of admiration for friends, family and colleagues alike. It is with a sense of the utmost respect and gratefulness shared by all contributors that we dedicate this volume of *Genocide Perspectives*, a publication he founded, to Colin.

The first essay is a piece by Douglas Booth, who has been able to fulfil his longstanding goal to write about Colin as a teacher, scholar and activist. The essay includes comments from several of Colin's colleagues. Readers who are familiar with Colin's work will see much truth in Doug's essay, and we hope it introduces Colin as a truly inspirational figure in the study of genocide and human rights to those who do not know him.

Influenced by Colin's work on Aboriginal issues, Anna Haebich, John Maynard and Jennifer Balint write on aspects of genocide in Australian history through different and complementary lenses. Anna reflects on *Bringing Them*

Home 20 years after the landmark Human Rights Commission report focused the nation's attention on the Stolen Generations and the legacy of forced removal of children. John Maynard discusses statements from journalists, government officials and other prominent people from the late 1800s and early 1900s in which the genocidal treatment of Aboriginal communities was explicitly acknowledged (though the term "genocide" had not yet been coined), and provides a personal view on the early work of Aboriginal rights activists including his own grandfather, Fred Maynard. Australia's refusal to grapple with its own history of genocide, and its poor record of prosecuting war criminals who settled in Australia, is explored by Jennifer Balint.

Essays discussing two of the "core" genocides of the twentieth century, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, present new research and fresh perspectives. Michael Robertson, Edwina Light, Wendy Lipworth and Garry Walter write on psychiatry under the Nazi regime, highlighting lessons learnt and ignored, and analysing the continuing relevance of the Holocaust to medical ethics today. In a case study of the Nazis' use of medical experiments, Konrad Kwiet, a stalwart of Holocaust Studies in Australia, and his co-author George Weisz, present newly discovered evidence of medical experiments conducted on Australian prisoners of war by Nazi doctors.

Geoffrey Robertson QC has generously allowed us to publish the powerful speech he gave at Sydney's Armenian Genocide Commemoration Ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of the genocide in April 2015. Nikki Marczak, who presented at that year's commemoration event in Melbourne, sheds light on how women were affected during the early stages of the Armenian Genocide. Another case study focusing on women, by Annie Pohlman, explores women's survival after the Indonesian mass killings and arrests of 1965–1966. Parallels between women's stories emerge clearly in those two essays. Also examining a case study from Asia, The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG presents an insider view of the situation in North Korea and questions whether the case constitutes genocide.

Several authors have taken a theoretical approach to their essays, asking profound questions about the nature of genocide and Genocide Studies, memory, legacy and the future of genocide prevention. Tony Barta analyses the (often competing) perspectives and prejudices within studies of genocide, reflecting on his own experiences and applying his concept of *surrealities* to genocide memory. Also tackling the complexity of genocide memory, Kirril Shields looks at how our understanding of the Holocaust is influenced and shaped by postmemory, exploring the legacy of Holocaust-era amateur photographs taken from a Nazi viewpoint. Deborah Mayersen's essay examines the issue of religious faith in the aftermath of genocide and adds a new dimen-

sion to that discussion by analysing genocide through the medium of graphic novels, one dealing with the Holocaust and two set in Rwanda.

On the factors contributing to genocide and the possibility of prevention, Winton Higgins expands on ideas raised in *The Magnitude of Genocide* concerning the culpability of the West, especially the United States, in fomenting genocides around the world, or failing to prevent them. Finally, we leave readers with the words of Colin himself, on the art of teaching about the Holocaust and genocide. A broad overview of his philosophy of teaching, the essay presents his personal views, developed over three decades, on the most effective multidisciplinary approaches to teaching how and why genocides occur, who contributes to them, the factors of racism, science and governance, and that insidious final stage of genocide, denialism.