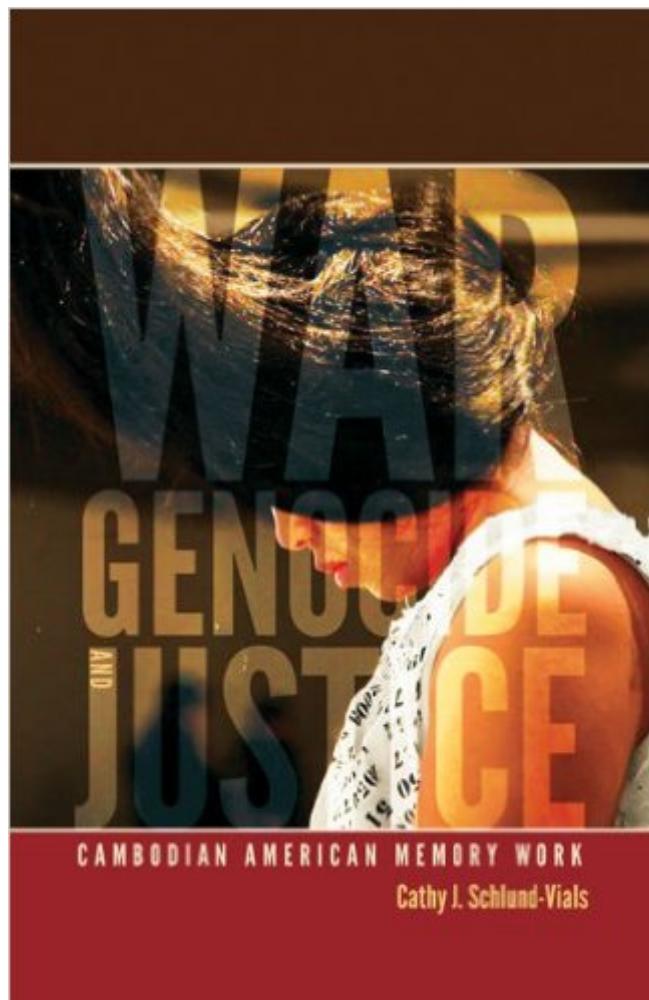


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War, Genocide, And Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work



Synopsis

In the three years, eight months, and twenty days of the Khmer Rouge's deadly reign over Cambodia, an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians perished as a result of forced labor, execution, starvation, and disease. Despite the passage of more than thirty years, two regime shifts, and a contested U.N. intervention, only one former Khmer Rouge official has been successfully tried and sentenced for crimes against humanity in an international court of law to date. It is against this background of war, genocide, and denied justice that Cathy J. Schlund-Vials explores the work of 1.5-generation Cambodian American artists and writers. Drawing on what James Young labels "memory work" — "the collected articulation of large-scale human loss" — "War, Genocide, and Justice" investigates the remembrance work of Cambodian American cultural producers through film, memoir, and music. Schlund-Vials includes interviews with artists such as Anida Yoeu Ali, prach Ly, Sambath Hy, and Socheata Poeuv. Alongside the enduring legacy of the Killing Fields and post-9/11 deportations of Cambodian American youth, artists potently reimagine alternative sites for memorialization, reclamation, and justice. Traversing borders, these artists generate forms of genocidal remembrance that combat amnesic politics and revise citizenship practices in the United States and Cambodia. Engaged in politicized acts of resistance, individually produced and communally consumed, Cambodian American memory work represents a significant and previously unexamined site of Asian American critique.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (November 11, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816670978

ISBN-13: 978-0816670970

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,718,909 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > Asian American #853 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies

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