The Psychology of Genocide

Genocide has tragically claimed the lives of over 262 million victims in the last century. Jews, Armenians, Cambodians, Darfurians, Kosovars, Rwandans, the list seems endless. Clinical psychologist Steven K. Baum sets out to examine the psychological patterns to these atrocities. Building on trait theory as well as social psychology, he reanalyzes key conformity studies (including the famous experiments of Ash, Milgram, and Zimbardo) to bring forth a new understanding of identity and emotional development during genocide. Baum presents a model that demonstrates how people's actions during genocide actually mirror their behavior in everyday life: there are those who destroy (perpetrators), those who help (rescuers), and those who remain uninvolved, positioning themselves between the two extremes (bystanders). Combining eyewitness accounts with Baum's own analysis, this book reveals the common mental and emotional traits among perpetrators, bystanders, and rescuers, and how a war between personal and social identity accounts for these divisions.

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The Psychology of Genocide
Perpetrators, Bystanders, and Rescuers

STEVEN K. BAUM
For Audrey Hummelen to honor Bert Hummelen,
And to the rescuers, *alles goeie mensen* – those good people
who live above hate.
To be human is to recognize the cultural perspectives that bind us to a tribe, sect, religion, or nation and to rise above them.

David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
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To love another person is to see the face of God.