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978-1-107-12437-0 - How Mass Atrocities End: Studies from Guatemala, Burundi,  
Indonesia, Sudan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Iraq

Edited by Bridget Conley-Zilkic

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## HOW MASS ATROCITIES END

Given the brutality of mass atrocities, it is no wonder that one question dominates research and policy: what can we, who are not at risk, do to prevent such violence and hasten endings? But this question skips a more fundamental question for understanding the trajectory of violence: how do mass atrocities *actually* end?

This volume presents an analysis of the processes, decisions, and factors that help bring about the end of mass atrocities. It includes qualitatively rich case studies from Burundi, Guatemala, Indonesia, Sudan, Bosnia, and Iraq, drawing patterns from wide-ranging data. As such, it offers a much needed correction to the popular “salvation narrative” framing mass atrocity in terms of good and evil. The nuanced, multidisciplinary approach followed here represents not only an essential tool for scholars, but an important step forward in improving civilian protection.

BRIDGET CONLEY-ZILKIC is Research Director of World Peace Foundation, where she currently leads research on the How Mass Atrocities End project. She is also an assistant research professor at The Fletcher School, Tufts University. Professor Conley-Zilkic has published multiple essays on mass atrocity prevention and response, and on the potential for museums to engage human rights issues. She received a PhD in Comparative Literature from Binghamton University in 2001.

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# How Mass Atrocities End

STUDIES FROM GUATEMALA, BURUNDI,  
INDONESIA, SUDAN, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA,  
AND IRAQ

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**BRIDGET CONLEY-ZILKIC**



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UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107124370](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107124370)

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First published 2016

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

How mass atrocities end : studies from Guatemala, Burundi, Indonesia, the Sudans,  
Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Iraq / edited by Bridget Conley-Zilkic.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-12437-0 (Hardback)

1. Atrocities—Prevention—Case studies. 2. Genocide—Prevention—Case studies. 3. Atrocities—  
Case studies. 4. Genocide—Case studies. I. Conley-Zilkic, Bridget.

HV6322.7.H69 2015

363.34—dc23 2015018947

ISBN 978-1-107-12437-0 Hardback

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## Contributors

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## Acknowledgments

This book has been a long time in the making. The idea of studying actual endings first occurred to Alex de Waal more than ten years ago as he reflected on his experience working with Sudan's Nuba population during the height of attacks against them in 1992. The assault subsided in ways that did not conform to assumptions about endings that framed the burgeoning anti-atrocity movement. Intrigued by the discrepancy, de Waal suggested that we launch a cross-case comparative study. Over the subsequent years, the project has taken many forms and benefitted from discussions with a wide range of case experts, theorists, and policymakers, too numerous to name. We thank all who participated in these discussions and who generously shared their insights. The possibility to focus the project and sponsor new research to develop the core ideas coalesced when de Waal and I were able to work together at the WPF. This volume would not be possible without Alex de Waal's intellectual and organization leadership, or the contributions by our chapter authors. To all of them, I express my deepest gratitude.