Following times of great conflict and tragedy, many countries implement programs and policies of transitional justice, none more extensive than in post-genocide Rwanda. Placing Rwanda’s transitional justice initiatives in their historical and political context, this book examines the project undertaken by the post-genocide government to shape the collective memory of the Rwandan population, both through political and judicial reforms but also in public commemorations and memorials. Drawing on over two decades of field research in Rwanda, Longman uses surveys and comparative local case studies to explore Rwanda’s response, both at governmental and local level. He argues that despite good intentions and important innovations, Rwanda’s authoritarian political context has hindered the ability of transitional justice to bring the radical social and political transformations that its advocates hoped. Moreover, it continues to heighten the political and economic inequalities that underline ethnic divisions and are an important ongoing barrier to reconciliation.

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Memory and Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda

Timothy Longman

Boston University
To my husband, Tracy Keene, who has put up with far too many trips during the process of research and writing this book. It was always a joy to come home to you.
“Much has been made of the doom of not remembering. But remembering has its limitations. Believe me, it is good to forget.”

“Yes,” I said. Though everything that I ever forgot I always remembered again later, so perhaps it didn’t count.

Lorrie Moore
A Gate at the Stairs
Umutara
Kibungo
Butare
Gisenyi
Kibuye
Kigali Rural
Gitarama
Byumba
Gikongoro
Cyangugu
Ruhengeri
Kigali
Kigali City
Kigali Rural
Ruhengeri
Byumba
Gikongoro
Cyangugu

Administrative map of Rwanda 1996–2006 with case studies highlighted.

Boundaries of selected communes are approximate.
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>Coalition for the Defense of the Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIDH</td>
<td>International Federation of Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRW</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICTR</td>
<td>International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>internally displaced people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIPRODHOR</td>
<td><em>Ligue Rwandaise pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits de l’Homme</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRND</td>
<td>National Revolutionary Movement for Development <em>(Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR</td>
<td>National University of Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>post-traumatic stress disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPA</td>
<td>Rwandan Patriotic Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPF</td>
<td>Rwandan Patriotic Front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTLM</td>
<td>Radio-Television of the Thousand Hills <em>(Radio- Télévision Libre des Milles Collines)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRC</td>
<td>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</td>
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