

mark danner torture and truth

Mark Danner: Torture and Truth Unveiled

mark danner torture and truth is a phrase that evokes intense reflection on some of the darkest chapters of modern history. Mark Danner, an acclaimed journalist, author, and professor, has dedicated significant portions of his career to uncovering the realities of torture and human rights abuses, particularly in the context of U.S. foreign policy. His work stands as a critical exploration of how truth and accountability intersect with acts of state-sanctioned violence. In this article, we dive deep into the significance of Mark Danner's contributions, exploring his investigations, the ethical questions he raises, and the lasting impact of his writings on torture and truth.

Who Is Mark Danner?

Mark Danner is more than just a journalist; he is a voice for truth in an era often clouded by secrecy and misinformation. With a background in investigative reporting and academia, Danner has focused much of his career on issues of war, human rights, and political accountability. His work has appeared in prestigious publications such as *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*, where he has dissected complex subjects with clarity and moral rigor.

His expertise on torture, particularly in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, positions him as one of the foremost commentators on the use of enhanced interrogation techniques and their implications on both American values and international law. The phrase "Mark Danner torture and truth" is often linked to his groundbreaking reporting and the influential book "Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror," which sheds light on the ugly realities behind official narratives.

Exploring "Torture and Truth": The Book's Impact

At the heart of understanding Mark Danner's work lies his seminal book, "Torture and Truth." Published in 2004, this powerful investigation delves into the use of torture by the United States during the War on Terror, with a specific focus on the Abu Ghraib prison scandal in Iraq.

Uncovering the Reality Behind the Headlines

Danner's writing cuts through political spin, presenting detailed accounts of how torture was systematically employed. He draws on court documents, eyewitness testimonies, and government reports to reconstruct the events that led to widespread abuse. This approach not only informs readers of what occurred but challenges them to consider the broader ethical and legal consequences.

One of the key insights in "Torture and Truth" is the idea that torture is not just a failure of policy but a fundamental assault on truth itself. Danner argues that torture produces false confessions, unreliable intelligence, and ultimately undermines the very objectives it purports to serve. This perspective invites readers to think critically about the efficacy and morality of torture in any context.

The Legal and Moral Dimensions

Mark Danner also explores the legal frameworks surrounding torture, emphasizing how international law, including the Geneva Conventions, prohibits such practices. His reporting highlights the tension between national security imperatives and human rights obligations, a debate that remains highly relevant today.

Moreover, Danner's work challenges the reader to grapple with the moral implications of state-sanctioned violence. How does a democracy reconcile its commitment to justice with actions that contradict its core values? Through "Torture and Truth," Danner pushes us to confront uncomfortable questions about accountability and the price of security.

The Role of Journalism in Exposing Torture

Mark Danner's career exemplifies the crucial role journalism plays in holding power accountable. His meticulous investigations demonstrate how media can illuminate hidden truths that governments might prefer to keep under wraps.

Investigative Reporting in the War on Terror Era

Following 9/11, the U.S. government adopted aggressive interrogation methods justified by the need to prevent further attacks. However, these policies often operated in secrecy. Journalists like Danner stepped into this void to uncover what was really happening behind closed doors.

By publishing detailed exposés, Danner helped bring public attention to

abuses like those at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. His work contributed to broader discussions about human rights, legal boundaries, and the importance of transparency in democratic societies.

Challenges Faced by Journalists Covering Torture

Reporting on torture is fraught with challenges. Access to information is limited, sources may be reluctant to speak, and governments often classify documents to avoid scrutiny. Danner's persistence in navigating these obstacles underscores his commitment to truth-telling.

His example illustrates how journalists must balance sensitivity to victims and whistleblowers with the imperative to inform the public. This balance is essential for fostering informed debate and pushing for reforms.

Lessons from Mark Danner's Work on Torture and Truth

Mark Danner's body of work offers several key lessons that resonate beyond the specifics of torture and interrogations.

The Importance of Vigilance

One of the most striking takeaways is the need for constant vigilance against abuses of power. Torture often arises in contexts of fear and crisis, but allowing it to become normalized threatens the rule of law and human dignity.

Truth as a Weapon Against Injustice

Danner's investigations remind us that truth is a powerful tool in combating injustice. By exposing wrongdoing, journalists and activists can drive accountability and reform. This underscores the value of a free press and an informed citizenry.

Ethical Reflection in Policy Making

Finally, his work encourages policymakers to integrate ethical reflection into decisions about security and defense. Short-term gains achieved through unethical means can lead to long-term damage, both domestically and internationally.

The Continuing Relevance of Mark Danner's Insights

As global conflicts continue and debates around human rights persist, Mark Danner's exploration of torture and truth remains profoundly relevant. His writings serve as a cautionary tale about the dangers of compromising human rights under the guise of security.

In today's world, where misinformation and propaganda often cloud public discourse, the pursuit of truth that Danner champions is more vital than ever. Whether through journalism, academia, or public advocacy, the lessons embedded in his work inspire ongoing efforts to safeguard human dignity and promote transparency.

Mark Danner's dedication to uncovering uncomfortable truths offers a beacon for those seeking justice in complex and challenging times. His analysis of torture is not only a historical account but a call to remain alert, informed, and engaged in the defense of fundamental human values.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mark Danner in relation to 'Torture and Truth'?

Mark Danner is an American writer and journalist known for his work on human rights issues. He is the author of 'Torture and Truth,' a book that investigates the use of torture by the United States in the post-9/11 era.

What is the main focus of Mark Danner's 'Torture and Truth'?

'Torture and Truth' focuses on the use of torture by the U.S. government, particularly in the context of the War on Terror. It examines the legal, moral, and political implications of torture practices and challenges official narratives.

When was 'Torture and Truth' by Mark Danner published?

Mark Danner's 'Torture and Truth' was first published in 2004.

What evidence does Mark Danner use in 'Torture and

Truth' to discuss torture practices?

In 'Torture and Truth,' Mark Danner uses government documents, eyewitness accounts, trial transcripts, and investigative journalism to reveal the reality of torture practices employed by U.S. authorities.

How has 'Torture and Truth' contributed to public understanding of U.S. interrogation methods?

'Torture and Truth' has played a significant role in exposing the extent and nature of torture used by the U.S., prompting public debate about legality, ethics, and accountability in government interrogation methods.

Has Mark Danner's 'Torture and Truth' influenced any policy or legal actions?

While 'Torture and Truth' itself is a journalistic work, it has influenced public discourse and contributed to calls for investigation and reform concerning U.S. interrogation policies and human rights protections.

Where can readers find 'Torture and Truth' by Mark Danner?

'Torture and Truth' is available in print and digital formats through major booksellers, libraries, and academic institutions. It is also sometimes included in courses on human rights, journalism, and political science.

Additional Resources

Mark Danner, *Torture, and Truth: Unveiling the Complexities of Modern Interrogation*

mark danner torture and truth stand at the intersection of journalism, ethics, and international law, shaping critical debates about the use of coercion in intelligence gathering. Renowned investigative journalist and author Mark Danner has devoted much of his career to exposing the realities behind government-sanctioned torture, most notably in the context of the United States' post-9/11 counterterrorism policies. His work meticulously dissects the moral and factual dimensions of torture, challenging official narratives and highlighting the profound consequences of such practices on truth, accountability, and human rights.

Mark Danner's Investigative Approach to Torture

Mark Danner's pursuit of truth regarding torture is grounded in rigorous

investigative journalism combined with a deep understanding of historical and legal contexts. He approaches the subject with a critical eye, scrutinizing classified documents, leaked reports, and firsthand testimonies to unravel the layers of government secrecy. His reporting, appearing in prestigious publications like *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Yorker*, has shed light on previously obscured aspects of interrogation methods employed by intelligence agencies.

Danner's work is notable for its balanced yet probing tone. Rather than sensationalizing the issue, he situates torture within the broader framework of democratic accountability and international human rights law. His narratives avoid simplistic condemnations, focusing instead on the complex dynamics that lead to the adoption of torture and the subsequent impact on the veracity of intelligence gathered.

The Influence of "Torture and Truth" on Public Discourse

In his seminal book, **Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror**, Mark Danner offers an exhaustive exploration of the infamous Abu Ghraib prison scandal and the broader policy shifts that allowed enhanced interrogation techniques to flourish. The book critically examines how official denials and misleading information about torture practices obfuscated the truth and impeded justice.

By dissecting government memos, legal opinions, and eyewitness accounts, Danner exposes the systematic nature of torture and the complicity of various branches of the U.S. government. This work has significantly influenced public discourse by providing a credible, fact-based challenge to sanitized official narratives. It also underscores how torture often produces unreliable intelligence, contradicting claims that it is an effective tool for national security.

The Intersection of Torture, Truth, and Ethics in Danner's Work

Mark Danner's exploration of torture transcends mere documentation; it engages deeply with the ethical questions surrounding state-sanctioned violence. He interrogates the paradox where governments, in their pursuit of security, may undermine the very principles of democracy and justice they pledge to uphold.

One of the key arguments in Danner's analysis is that torture corrodes truth rather than uncovers it. Psychological studies and interrogation experts cited in his work reveal that information extracted under duress is often unreliable, as victims may provide false confessions or misleading details

simply to end their suffering. This challenges the utilitarian justification frequently offered for torture, suggesting that the practice is not only morally indefensible but also strategically counterproductive.

Legal and Historical Contexts Explored

Danner situates the use of torture within a continuum of historical precedents, drawing parallels between contemporary practices and those employed during past conflicts. He details how legal frameworks have evolved—or in some cases, been subverted—to accommodate harsh interrogation techniques. This historical analysis includes references to international treaties such as the United Nations Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions, which categorically prohibit such methods.

His examination also extends to the internal legal debates within the U.S. government, highlighting how memos from the Office of Legal Counsel reinterpreted existing laws to justify "enhanced interrogation." By bringing these documents to light, Danner illustrates the tension between legal norms and political expediency, exposing how abstract legal opinions can have tangible human consequences.

The Impact of Mark Danner's Reporting on Policy and Awareness

Mark Danner's detailed revelations contributed to a growing awareness among policymakers, activists, and the general public about the extent and implications of torture in the War on Terror. His work, alongside other investigative efforts, helped catalyze congressional inquiries and debates over the legality and morality of interrogation tactics used by the CIA and the military.

While the full eradication of torture remains elusive, Danner's reporting has played a critical role in pushing for greater transparency and reform. The publication of the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on CIA torture in 2014 echoed many of the findings Danner had previously documented, confirming the widespread use of abusive methods and the questionable value of the intelligence obtained.

Challenges in Reporting on Torture

Investigating and reporting on torture presents numerous obstacles, many of which Mark Danner has navigated with journalistic integrity. These include restricted access to classified information, government censorship, and the risks of legal retaliation. Moreover, there is the ethical challenge of

representing the testimonies of victims without retraumatizing them or sensationalizing their suffering.

Danner's work exemplifies best practices in investigative journalism by adhering to meticulous fact-checking and corroboration. His ability to contextualize individual stories within larger systemic issues allows readers to understand not just isolated incidents but the structural factors that perpetuate torture.

Mark Danner Torture and Truth in the Modern Media Landscape

In an era marked by misinformation and political polarization, the role of journalists like Mark Danner is increasingly vital. His methodical approach to uncovering uncomfortable truths about torture serves as a model for responsible reporting. By emphasizing evidence over ideology, Danner helps foster informed public debate on issues that are often shrouded in secrecy.

Furthermore, his contributions have influenced documentary filmmaking, academic research, and legal advocacy, extending the reach of his findings beyond print journalism. This interdisciplinary impact underscores the significance of maintaining rigorous standards in reporting on human rights violations.

Key Takeaways from Danner's Work on Torture

- **Transparency is essential:** Exposing classified information and government memos is crucial for democratic oversight.
- **Torture undermines truth:** Coerced information is often unreliable, limiting its value for intelligence purposes.
- **Legal norms matter:** International and domestic laws provide important frameworks to prevent abuses, but they require enforcement.
- **Ethical journalism is critical:** Balancing the need for public knowledge with respect for victims' dignity is a complex but necessary endeavor.

Mark Danner's ongoing engagement with the themes of torture and truth challenges societies to confront uncomfortable realities about power, security, and human rights. His investigative work remains a cornerstone in the quest to hold governments accountable and ensure that the pursuit of safety does not come at the expense of fundamental freedoms.

Mark Danner Torture And Truth

mark danner torture and truth: *Torture and Truth* Mark Danner, 2004-10-31 Includes the torture photographs in color and the full texts of the secret administration memos on torture and the investigative reports on the abuses at Abu Ghraib. In the spring of 2004, graphic photographs of Iraqi prisoners being tortured by American soldiers in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison flashed around the world, provoking outraged debate. Did they depict the rogue behavior of a few bad apples? Or did they in fact reveal that the US government had decided to use brutal tactics in the war on terror? The images are shocking, but they do not tell the whole story. The abuses at Abu Ghraib were not isolated incidents but the result of a chain of deliberate decisions and failures of command. To understand how Hooded Man and Leashed Man could have happened, Mark Danner turns to the documents that are collected for the first time in this book. These documents include secret government memos, some never before published, that portray a fierce argument within the Bush administration over whether al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners were protected by the Geneva Conventions and how far the US could go in interrogating them. There are also official reports on abuses at Abu Ghraib by the International Committee of the Red Cross, by US Army investigators, and by an independent panel chaired by former defense secretary James R. Schlesinger. In sifting this evidence, Danner traces the path by which harsh methods of interrogation approved for suspected terrorists in Afghanistan and Guantánamo migrated to Iraq as resistance to the US occupation grew and US casualties mounted. Yet as Mark Danner writes, the real scandal here is political: it is not about revelation or disclosure but about the failure, once wrongdoing is disclosed, of politicians, officials, the press, and, ultimately, citizens to act. For once we know the story the photos and documents tell, we are left with the questions they pose for our democratic society: Does fighting a new kind of war on terror justify torture? Who will we hold responsible for deciding to pursue such a policy, and what will be the moral and political costs to the country?

mark danner torture and truth: *Human Rights Watch* ,

mark danner torture and truth: The Barbarization of Warfare George Kassimeris, 2006-09 The images from Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad have been a grim reminder of warfare's undiminished capacity for brutality and indiscriminate excess. What happened in Abu Ghraib has happened before: the World War II, and more recent wars and insurgencies in Algeria, Congo, Angola, Vietnam, Bosnia, Kosovo, Chechnya, and many others, all bear witness to the ever-present human capacity to commit barbaric acts if circumstances allow. What drives people to mistreat, humiliate, and torment others? In an age when real time war, violence, and torture are becoming addictive forms of entertainment, it is now more critical than ever to deepen our understanding of the extraordinary distortions of the human psyche and spirit that occur in wartime. Eight distinguished scholars explore, in this first collective effort, the effects of the barbarization of warfare on our cultures and societies. Contributors: Joanna Bourke, Niall Ferguson, Jay Winter, Richard Overly, David Anderson, Hew Strachan, Paul Rogers, Kathleen Taylor, Marilyn Young, Paul Rogers, Anthony Dworkin, Amir Weiner, Mary Habeck, and David Simpson.

mark danner torture and truth: Torture, Terrorism, and the Use of Violence (also available as Review Journal of Political Philosophy Volume 6, Issue Number 1) J. Jeremy Wisniewski, 2008-12-18 This journal has been discontinued. Any issues are available to purchase separately.

mark danner torture and truth: Constitutional Limits on Coercive Interrogation Amos N. Guiora, 2008-04-18 On September 11, 2001 terrorism instantly became the defining issue of our age. The resulting debates surrounding the inherent tension between national security interests and individual civil rights has focused national and international attention on how post-9/11 detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, and around the world have been interrogated. All concerned agree that, while interrogation practices represent a crucial meeting ground between human rights and counter-terrorism measures, the limits placed on interrogators are perhaps the most difficult to

define for they determine how far a civil society is willing to go in fighting the exigencies that terror presents. In *The Constitutional Limits of Coercive Investigation*, Amos Guiora offers a theoretical analysis and a practical application of coercive interrogation, and in doing so, suggests developing and implementing a hybrid paradigm based on American criminal law, the Geneva Convention, and the Israeli model of trial as the most relevant judicial regime. Guiora offers a unique contribution to the public debate by creatively utilizing a historical analysis of the system of justice for African-Americans in the Deep South of the past century to serve as a guide for the constitutional rights and protections which need to be granted or extended to an unprotected class. He then indicates which interrogation methods are within the boundaries of the law by both recommending protection of the detainees and providing interrogators with the tools required to protect America's vital interests.

mark danner torture and truth: *The Stickup Kids* Randol Contreras, 2013 Randol Contreras came of age in the South Bronx during the 1980s, a time when the community was devastated by cuts in social services, a rise in arson and abandonment, and the rise of crack-cocaine. For this riveting book, he returns to the South Bronx with a sociological eye and provides an unprecedented insider's look at the workings of a group of Dominican drug robbers. Known on the streets as "Stickup Kids," these men raided and brutally tortured drug dealers storing large amounts of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and cash. As a participant observer, Randol Contreras offers both a personal and theoretical account for the rise of the Stickup Kids and their violence. He mainly focuses on the lives of neighborhood friends, who went from being crack dealers to drug robbers once their lucrative crack market opportunities disappeared. The result is a stunning, vivid, on-the-ground ethnographic description of a drug robbery's violence, the drug market high life, the criminal life course, and the eventual pain and suffering experienced by the casualties of the Crack Era. Provocative and eye-opening, *The Stickup Kids* urges us to explore the ravages of the drug trade through weaving history, biography, social structure, and drug market forces. It offers a revelatory explanation for drug market violence by masterfully uncovering the hidden social forces that produce violent and self-destructive individuals. Part memoir, part penetrating analysis, this book is engaging, personal, deeply informed, and entirely absorbing.

mark danner torture and truth: *The Political Responsibilities of Everyday Bystanders* Stephen L. Esquith, 2011-02-28 In a world where every person is exposed daily through the mass media to images of violence and suffering, as most dramatically exemplified in recent years by the ongoing tragedy in Darfur, the question naturally arises: What responsibilities do we, as bystanders to such social injustice, bear in holding accountable those who have created the conditions for this suffering? And what is our own complicity in the continuance of such violence—and indeed, how do we contribute to and benefit from it? How is our responsibility as individuals connected to our collective responsibility as members of a society? Such questions underlie Stephen Esquith's investigation in this book. For Esquith, being responsible means holding ourselves accountable as a people for the institutions we have built or tolerated and the choices we have made individually and collectively within these institutional constraints. It is thus more than just acknowledgment; it involves settling accounts as well as recognizing our own complicity even as bystanders.

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2013-09-16 Objective, critical, optimistic, and with a global focus, this textbook combines international relations theory, history, up-to-date research, and current affairs to give students a comprehensive, unbiased understanding of international politics. It integrates theory and traditional approaches with globalization and research on such topics as terrorism, new economic superpowers, and global communications and social networking to offer unusual breadth and depth for an undergraduate course. The text is enhanced by box features and 'Close Up' sections with context and further information; 'Critical Case Studies' highlighting controversial and complex current affairs that show how the world works in practice; and questions to stimulate discussion, review key concepts, and encourage further study. Unlike any other textbook, Global Politics in the 21st Century demonstrates the significance and interconnectivity of globalization and new security challenges in the twenty-first century and illuminates the role of leadership in transnational crises.

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mark danner torture and truth: American Foreign Policy in a Globalized World David P. Forsythe, Patrice C. MacMahon, Andrew Wedeman, 2013-05-13 In this volume, several leading foreign policy and international relations experts consider the long term prospects and implications of US foreign policy as it has been shaped and practiced during the presidency of George W. Bush. The essays in this collection - based on the research of well-respected scholars such as Ole Holsti, Loch Johnson, John Ruggie, Jack Donnelly, Robert Leiber, Karen Mingst, and Edward Luck - offer a clear assessment: while US resources are substantial, Washington's ability to shape outcomes in the world is challenged by its expansive foreign policy goals, its exceptionalist approach to international relations, serious questions about the limits of its hard power resources as well as fundamental changes in the global system. Illustrating one of the central ironies of the contemporary situation in foreign affairs and international relations: that at the very time of the 'unipolar moment,' the world has become globalized to such an extent that the unilateralism of the Bush Administration leads as much to resistance as it does to coercion, compliance, and cooperation. American Foreign Policy in a Globalized World will be of interest to students and scholars of politics and international relations.

mark danner torture and truth: Targeting Civilians in War Alexander B. Downes, 2011-05-15 Accidental harm to civilians in warfare often becomes an occasion for public outrage, from citizens of both the victimized and the victimizing nation. In this vitally important book on a topic of acute concern for anyone interested in military strategy, international security, or human rights, Alexander B. Downes reminds readers that democratic and authoritarian governments alike will sometimes deliberately kill large numbers of civilians as a matter of military strategy. What leads governments to make such a choice? Downes examines several historical cases: British counterinsurgency tactics

during the Boer War, the starvation blockade used by the Allies against Germany in World War I, Axis and Allied bombing campaigns in World War II, and ethnic cleansing in the Palestine War. He concludes that governments decide to target civilian populations for two main reasons—desperation to reduce their own military casualties or avert defeat, or a desire to seize and annex enemy territory. When a state's military fortunes take a turn for the worse, he finds, civilians are more likely to be declared legitimate targets to coerce the enemy state to give up. When territorial conquest and annexation are the aims of warfare, the population of the disputed land is viewed as a threat and the aggressor state may target those civilians to remove them. Democracies historically have proven especially likely to target civilians in desperate circumstances. In *Targeting Civilians in War*, Downes explores several major recent conflicts, including the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Civilian casualties occurred in each campaign, but they were not the aim of military action. In these cases, Downes maintains, the achievement of quick and decisive victories against overmatched foes allowed democracies to win without abandoning their normative beliefs by intentionally targeting civilians. Whether such restraint can be guaranteed in future conflicts against more powerful adversaries is, however, uncertain. During times of war, democratic societies suffer tension between norms of humane conduct and pressures to win at the lowest possible costs. The painful lesson of *Targeting Civilians in War* is that when these two concerns clash, the latter usually prevails.

mark danner torture and truth: American Exceptionalism Hilde Eliassen Restad, 2014-12-17 How does American exceptionalism shape American foreign policy? Conventional wisdom states that American exceptionalism comes in two variations – the exemplary version and the missionary version. Being exceptional, experts in U.S. foreign policy argue, means that you either withdraw from the world like an isolated but inspiring city upon a hill, or that you are called upon to actively lead the rest of the world to a better future. In her book, Hilde Eliassen Restad challenges this assumption, arguing that U.S. history has displayed a remarkably constant foreign policy tradition, which she labels unilateral internationalism. The United States, Restad argues, has not vacillated between an exemplary and a missionary identity. Instead, the United States developed an exceptionalist identity that, while idealizing the United States as an exemplary city upon a hill, more often than not errs on the side of the missionary crusade in its foreign policy. Utilizing the latest historiography in the study of U.S. foreign relations, the book updates political science scholarship and sheds new light on the role American exceptionalism has played – and continues to play – in shaping America's role in the world. This work will be of great interest to students and scholars of US foreign policy, security studies, and American politics.

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mark danner torture and truth: Mosh the Polls Brian Cogan, Tony Kelso, 2008-10-08 This timely, highly readable edited collection undertakes an interdisciplinary analysis of the innovative ways in which both the political process and the entertainment industry appeal to voters under the age of 30 and how the intended audience receives these endeavors. Along the way, contributors shed light on the state of the modern American political system and its relationship to entertainment and popular culture. By integrating academic investigations with a 'real-world' point of view, the essays in this collection present information in an engaging, accessible manner that will show readers how the articulation of youth culture has influenced the political engagement of young voters.

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firmly grounded in current realities, *Global Politics as if People Mattered* is a fresh take on the proper place and potential of individuals in world politics—front and center, actively engaged in a way of life that is as politically personal as it is politically powerful.

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mark danner torture and truth: *When Governments Break the Law* Austin Sarat, Nasser Hussain, 2010-10-20 Recent controversies surrounding the war on terror and American intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought rule of law rhetoric to a fevered pitch. While President Obama has repeatedly emphasized his Administration's commitment to transparency and the rule of law, nowhere has this resolve been so quickly and severely tested than with the issue of the possible prosecution of Bush Administration officials. While some worry that without legal consequences there will be no effective deterrence for the repetition of future transgressions of justice committed at the highest levels of government, others echo Obama's seemingly reluctant stance on launching an investigation into allegations of criminal wrongdoing by former President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Rumsfeld, and members of the Office of Legal Counsel. Indeed, even some of the Bush Administration's harshest critics suggest that we should avoid such confrontations, that the price of political division is too high. Measured or partisan, scholarly or journalistic, clearly the debate about accountability for the alleged crimes of the Bush Administration will continue for some time. Using this debate as its jumping off point, *When Governments Break the Law* takes an interdisciplinary approach to the legal challenges posed by the criminal wrongdoing of governments. But this book is not an indictment of the Bush Administration; rather, the contributors take distinct positions for and against the proposition, offering revealing reasons and illuminating alternatives. The contributors do not ask the substantive question of whether any Bush Administration officials, in fact, violated the law, but rather the procedural, legal, political, and cultural questions of what it would mean either to pursue criminal prosecutions or to refuse to do so. By presuming that officials could be prosecuted, these essays address whether they should. *When Governments Break the Law* provides a valuable and timely commentary on what is likely to be an ongoing process of understanding the relationship between politics and the rule of law in times of crisis. Contributors: Claire Finkelstein, Lisa Hajjar, Daniel Herwitz, Stephen Holmes, Paul Horwitz, Nasser Hussain, Austin Sarat, and Stephen I. Vladeck.

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