This Time We Knew

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ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"Why have Europe and America stood idly by for five years in the face of mass murder in Bosnia? Why have statesmen with the most powerful weapons in the world remained passive in the face of Serbian gunmen with ancient artillery, while 250,000 human beings perished? Only this book answers those terrible, central questions for our times."

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"The brilliant, provocative essays in this collection etch the outlines of the post-Bosnia new world order. The prevailing ethic is ‘moral relativism,’ and ‘willful cynicism.’ Essential and rewarding reading."

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"We didn’t know.” For half a century, Western politicians and intellectuals have in this fashion explained away their inaction in the face of genocide in World War II. In stark contrast, Western observers today face a daily barrage of information and images from CNN, the Internet, and newspapers about the parties and individuals responsible for the Balkan War and crimes against humanity. The stories, often accompanied by video or pictures of rape, torture, mass graves, and ethnic cleansing, available almost instantaneously, do not allow even the most disinterested viewer to ignore the grim reality of genocide.

And yet, while knowledge abounds, so do rationalizations for non-intervention in Balkan affairs—the threshold of “real” genocide had yet to be reached in Bosnia; all sides were equally guilty; Islamic fundamentalism in Bosnia is a threat to the West; it will only end when they all tire of killing each other—to name but a few. This Time We Knew punctures once and for all common excuses for Western inaction in the face of incontrovertible evidence of the most egregious crimes against humanity to occur in Europe since World War II.

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