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FACING THE PAST

Amending Historical Injustices through Instruments of Transitional Justice

Edited by

Peter MALCONTENT



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The history of this volume goes back to May 2010, when I hosted an international conference in Utrecht (the Netherlands) on the functioning of transitional justice instruments and their effectiveness. The idea behind this conference was to publish a comprehensive volume offering an integral view on how societies at the national and international level try to deal with mass atrocities through instruments of retributive and restorative justice. Many publications in this field only pay attention to one specific category of transitional justice (criminal tribunals, truth commissions, reparations etc.). And from those offering a more encompassing view many are outdated or too extensive and expensive as an introduction to the topic of transitional justice. With this volume its editor and contributing authors want to offer a new comprehensive and integrated volume that may serve as a valuable source of information for every academic, policymaker, politician and journalist trying to find his or her way in the complicated and still expanding world of transitional justice.

Much of the editing of this volume, including the writing of the introductory chapters, had to be done in spare time as a result of which the project was confronted with several delays. Therefore, I not only want to thank all contributing authors for their cooperation, but also for their boundless patience with me. I also would like to thank Jessica Dorsey, who assisted me in organising the Utrecht conference and also contributed to the editing of the volume, as did Jorrit Steehouder, who was of great assistance in preparing the final copy. I also would like to show my gratitude to Maria Kamphuis for her invaluable language comments. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Board of the Utrecht University Focus Area Cultures, Citizenship and Human Rights, whose generous financial contribution to the organisation of the Utrecht conference in 2010 offered the volume's editor and authors the necessary time and space to discuss its content and structure thoroughly.

Peter Malcontent Utrecht, 28 April 2016

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See for example: L. Stan and N. Nedelsky, eds., Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice (3 volumes), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

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