

Shocking Revelations: Disturbing Research Exposes the Brutality of Rape During Civil War by Dara Kay Cohen!

A topic as grave and disturbing as rape during civil war demands our attention. In this article, we will delve into the eye-opening research conducted by renowned scholar Dara Kay Cohen, shedding light on the horrifying realities faced by countless victims during periods of armed conflict.

The Civil War and Sexual Violence

War is hell, and during times of civil conflict, this hell extends beyond the battlefield. While the atrocities committed during war are numerous, sexual violence remains one of the most devastating weapons employed against civilians, particularly women and children.

Dara Kay Cohen, a political scientist and associate professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has dedicated her career to understanding the prevalence and impact of rape during civil war. Her groundbreaking research challenges us to confront the uncomfortable truth that sexual violence is not just an unfortunate side effect of war but a deeply systematic and widespread tactic employed by armed groups.

Rape during Civil War by Dara Kay Cohen (Kindle Edition)

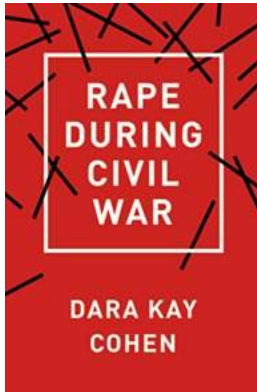
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Screen Reader : Supported



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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Print length : 290 pages



Understanding Dara Kay Cohen's Research

Cohen's research focuses on the strategic logic behind rape during civil war, aiming to understand the motivations of armed actors and the consequences for victims.

One of her notable studies, published in the American Political Science Review, analyzed the conflict in Sierra Leone, where she found that the use of sexual violence was not driven solely by individual soldiers' desires but was often a calculated strategy implemented by military commanders. This finding challenges stereotypes and forces us to acknowledge the systematic nature of rape during war.

Unmasking the Trends

Through her extensive research, Cohen reveals several crucial trends associated with rape during civil war:

1. Sexual Violence as a Tool of War

Cohen's research demonstrates that sexual violence is used as a deliberate tool to destabilize communities and spread fear. By subjecting women, men, and

children to unspeakable horrors, armed groups aim to assert dominance and control over territories.

The widespread sexual violence can be seen as a means of breaking the social fabric of communities, leading to profound psychological, social, and economic consequences for survivors and their societies.

2. Perpetrators and Motivations

Cohen's research emphasizes that rape during civil war cannot be attributed solely to the immediate desires and impulses of individual soldiers. Instead, it is frequently orchestrated by commanders seeking to reward their fighters, maintain discipline, or terrorize the enemy.

By examining the motivations behind sexual violence, Cohen challenges the prevailing narrative that positions rape as an unavoidable consequence of chaotic warfare. She compels us to recognize that rape is a weapon under the strategic control of those in power.

3. Distinct Consequences for Victims

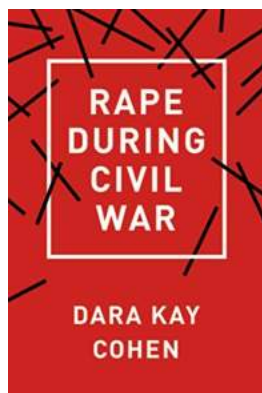
Cohen's work also sheds light on the long-lasting consequences for survivors of rape during civil war. She highlights the deep physical and psychological trauma endured by victims, often leading to lasting stigmatization, marginalization, and a loss of trust within their communities.

The scars of sexual violence persist long after the guns fall silent, exacerbating the challenges faced by post-war societies as they strive for peace and reconciliation.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of scholars like Dara Kay Cohen, the issue of rape during civil war has been brought to the forefront of academic and societal

discussions. Her groundbreaking research allows us to break free from misconceptions and confront the brutal realities faced by victims.

It is only through understanding the strategic nature of sexual violence and acknowledging the profound consequences for survivors that we can hope to combat this devastating tactic and work towards a more just and peaceful world.



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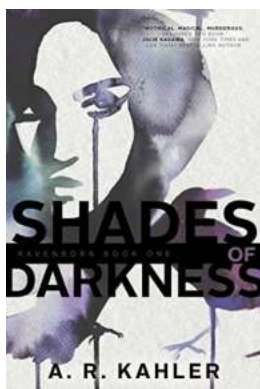
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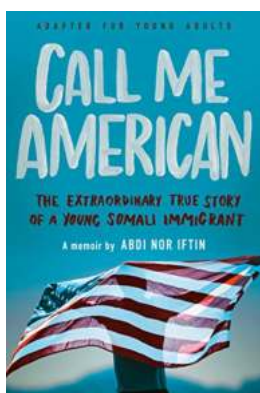
Rape is common during wartime, but even within the context of the same war, some armed groups perpetrate rape on a massive scale while others never do. In *Rape during Civil War* Dara Kay Cohen examines variation in the severity and perpetrators of rape using an original dataset of reported rape during all major civil wars from 1980 to 2012. Cohen also conducted extensive fieldwork, including interviews with perpetrators of wartime rape, in three postconflict counties, finding that rape was widespread in the civil wars of the Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste but was far less common during El Salvador's civil war. Cohen argues that armed groups that recruit their fighters through the random abduction of strangers use rape—and especially gang rape—to create bonds of loyalty and trust between soldiers. The statistical evidence confirms that armed groups that recruit using abduction are more likely to perpetrate rape than are groups that use voluntary

methods, even controlling for other confounding factors. Important findings from the fieldwork—across cases—include that rape, even when it occurs on a massive scale, rarely seems to be directly ordered. Instead, former fighters describe participating in rape as a violent socialization practice that served to cut ties with fighters' past lives and to signal their commitment to their new groups. Results from the book lay the groundwork for the systematic analysis of an understudied form of civilian abuse. The book will also be useful to policymakers and organizations seeking to understand and to mitigate the horrors of wartime rape.



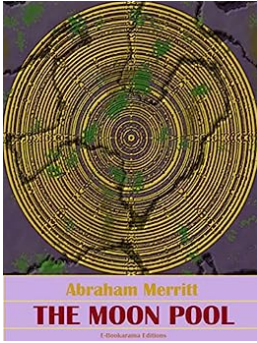
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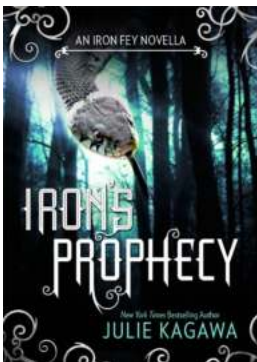
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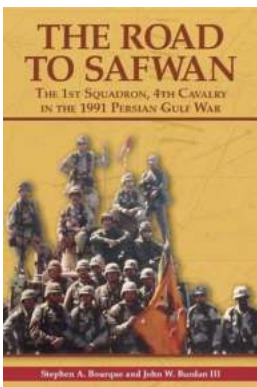
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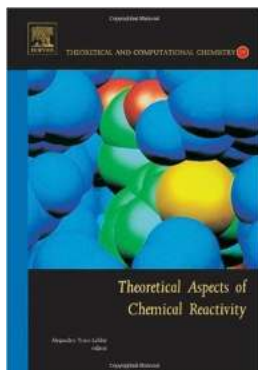
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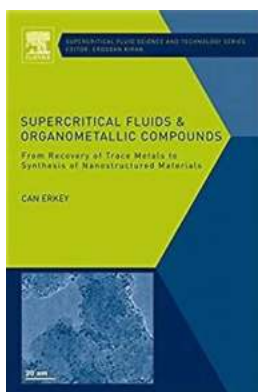
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