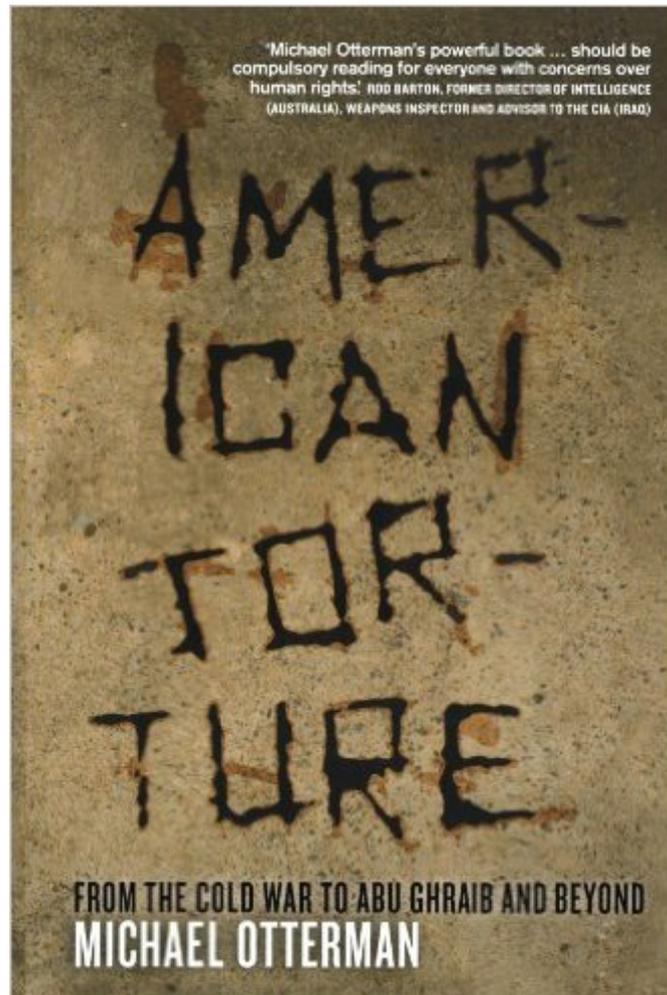


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American Torture: From The Cold War To Abu Ghraib And Beyond



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Otterman's work presented in his book *American Torture* will no doubt be recognized as a classic for those opposing the so called "coalition of the willing" war on Islam. his early chapters describe the torture being applied to detainees (POW's) and suspected terrorists. The 'human face' of torture and the complicity of professionals and the U.S. government in systematic torture of these unfortunate captives. the material is hard hitting and one gets the sense that Mike is pulling his punches in order to not horrify his audience. A wise move, indeed, as the torture is very ugly. My initial response was to ponder what darkness lies in mens hearts to do such things to fellow human beings. Combined with the widely broadcast pictures of torture at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, these chapters resound with Robert Lifton's *The Genocidal Mentality*. Lifton was the sole survivor of his family from Nazi Germany's death camps for Jewish, homosexual and others who are 'different' who live with us. The answer Lifton came to was that the entire process of exterminating Jews (or rephrased for today;s audience 'Ethnic cleansing') was done by bureaucrats who were simply following orders. This now seems almost obvious. The torturers were driven by the glue of society - obedience to authority. Authority and power unjustly used is the problem. Otterman does a fabulous job explicating the details of this process and lays the problem directly at the feet of the elected government's neo conservative policies and rhetoric. As a Psychologist, author of several books and University Professor, I was absolutely appalled by the involvement of my profession with

respect to their designing, implementing and supervising the practices described in Mike's book.

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