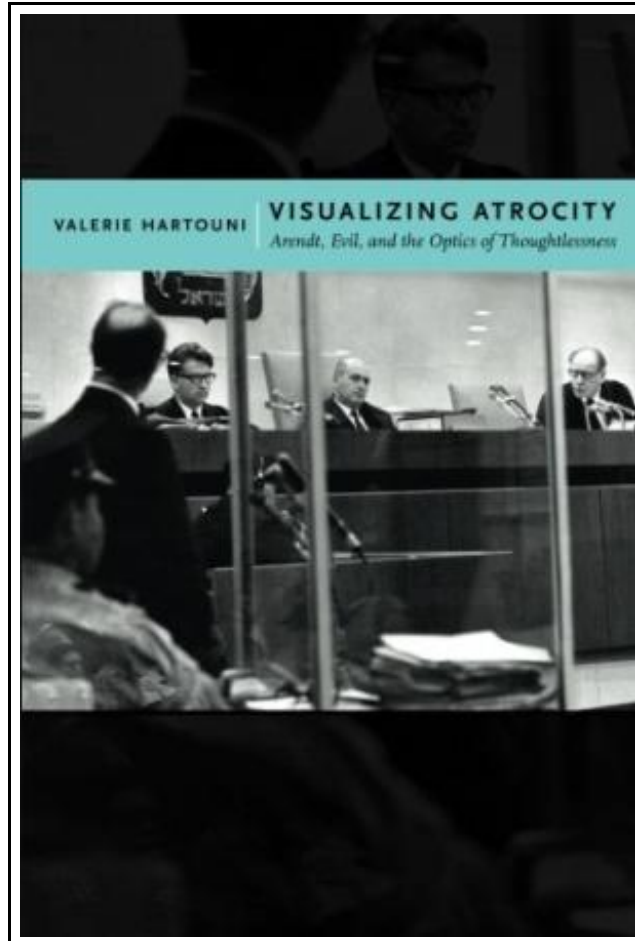


Visualizing Atrocity: Arendt, Evil, and the Optics of Thoughtlessness



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Reviews

It is one of the best books. Indeed, it really is a play, nevertheless an amazing and interesting literature. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

(Sofia Yundt)

VISUALIZING ATROCITY: ARENDT, EVIL, AND THE OPTICS OF THOUGHTLESSNESS

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New York University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Visualizing Atrocity: Arendt, Evil, and the Optics of Thoughtlessness, Valerie Hartouni, Taking Hannah Arendt's provocative and polarizing account of the 1961 trial of Nazi official Adolf Eichmann as its point of departure, Visualizing Atrocity reassesses the myths that have come to shape and limit our understanding of the Nazi genocide as well as totalitarianism's broader, constitutive, and recurrent features. These myths are inextricably tied to the atrocity imagery that emerged with the liberation of the concentration camps and played an especially important, evidentiary role in the post-war trials of perpetrators. At the 1945 Nuremberg Tribunal, particular practices of looking were first established, and later reinforced and institutionalized through Eichmann's trial in Jerusalem as simply part of the fabric of historical fact. These ways of seeing have come to constitute a certain visual rhetoric that drives contemporary mythmaking about how we know genocide and what is permitted to count as such. In contrast, Arendt's claims about the "banality of evil" work to disrupt this visual rhetoric. More significantly still, they direct our attention well beyond the figure of Eichmann to a world organized now as then by practices and processes that, while designed to sustain and even enhance life, work as well to efface it.



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