



# Collective Memory and the Historical Past

*Jeffrey Andrew Barash*

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## **Collective Memory and the Historical Past** Jeffrey Andrew Barash

There is one critical way we honor great tragedies: by *never forgetting*. Collective remembrance is as old as human society itself, serving as an important source of social cohesion, yet as Jeffrey Andrew Barash shows in this book, it has served novel roles in a modern era otherwise characterized by discontinuity and dislocation. Drawing on recent theoretical explorations of collective memory, he elaborates an important new philosophical basis for it, one that unveils important limitations to its scope in relation to the historical past.

Crucial to Barash's analysis is a look at the radical transformations that the symbolic configurations of collective memory have undergone with the rise of new technologies of mass communication. He provocatively demonstrates how such technologies' capacity to simulate direct experience—especially via the image—actually makes more palpable collective memory's limitations and the opacity of the historical past, which always lies beyond the reach of living memory. Thwarting skepticism, however, he eventually looks to literature—specifically writers such as Marcel Proust, Walter Scott, and W. G. Sebald—to uncover subtle nuances of temporality that might offer inconspicuous emblems of a past historical reality.

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Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Collective Memory and the Historical Past, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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