Reclaimative Post-Conflict Justice
Democratizing Justice in the World Tribunal on Iraq
By Janet C. Gerson and Dale T. Snauwaert
Foreword by Betty A. Reardon

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Book Description
This book presents an important contribution to our understanding of post-conflict justice as an essential element of global ethics, international law, and peace studies through an exploration of the World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI). The 2003 War in Iraq provoked worldwide protests and unleashed debates on the war’s illegitimacy and illegality. In response, the WTI was organized by anti-war and peace activists, international law experts, and ordinary people who claimed global citizens’ rights to investigate and document the war responsibilities of official authorities, governments, and the United Nations, as well as their violation of global public will. The WTI’s democratizing, experimental form constituted reclaimative post-conflict justice, a new conceptualization within the field of post-conflict and justice studies. This book serves as a theoretical and practical guide for all who seek to reclaim deliberative democracy as a viable foundation for revitalizing the ethical norms of a peaceful and just world order.

Praise
“This book might well serve global civil society as a training manual for any and all who seek to reclaim authentic democracy as the most viable foundation of a peaceful world order.”
Betty A. Reardon
Founder Emeritus, International Institute on Peace Education

“Gerson and Snauwaert have written a breakthrough scholarly study of post-conflict justice that should interest political philosophers, as well as citizens of conscience concerned with making international law relevant to issues of war and peace.”
Richard A. Falk
Professor Emeritus, Princeton University

“Gerson and Snauwaert's well researched book manages the difficult job of doing justice to the complex workings of the World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI)... A must read for all interested in a more just and peaceful world.”
Müge Gürsoy Sökmen
Editor, Making a Case against War: The World Tribunal on Iraq (2008)

“The WTI modeled democratizing justice by reclaiming the voice, authority, and dignity of people affected by official authorities’ decisions on war and peace... Reclaimative Post-Conflict Justice offers all global citizens a treasure trove of dignified pathways into the future.”
Evelin Lindner
Founding President, Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies
A Word from the Authors

The World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI) was an outstanding global people’s tribunal, one that documented what no government or official institution acknowledged – the illegitimacy and illegality of the Iraq War and occupation. The WTI modelled positive globalization as peace action – global citizens coordinating justice as accountability, agency, and responsibility.

Citizens and people’s tribunals typically publish documentation of their forums. However, *Reclaimative Post-Conflict Justice* places the WTI within the ethical and historical contexts of exemplar tribunals -- retributive, restorative, and alternative. The World Tribunal on Iraq (Sökmen, Ed., 2008) documentary text provides a history of the Iraq war and occupation from the perspectives of international law and state sovereignty, but importantly from violations against people of Iraq, the environment, cultural history, and of global civil society for the right to peace. This book brings out what is most innovative about the WTI’s “creative assertion” – how the WTI Coordination used a democratic ethic of participation, non-hierarchical organizing, deliberation, and consensus decision-making to demonstrate how non-domination, communicative action, and nonviolence can be the basis of justice.

Reclaimative democratizing justice in the WTI demonstrates the necessity of transnational interdependence and a global civic culture for conceptualizing democracy and justice. In the modern era, democracy and justice have been couched in the context of the nation-state. However, the increasing recognition of various dimensions of transnational interdependence -- economic, political, legal, ethical, cultural, and ecological -- suggests that our national conceptions of democracy and justice are outdated.

The WTI brought together thousands of people from all over the world, from diverse disciplines, experiences, and even ideologies. The WTI instantiated in practice many of the ideas concerning global democracy and justice that we have understood to have philosophical validity based upon reasoned argument and the standards of normative justification that that reasoning is based upon. It constitutes an enactment of fundamental normative principles that are of great significance for the ongoing pursuit of democracy and justice, locally and globally.

About the Authors

**Janet C. Gerson**, EdD, is Education Director at the International Institute on Peace Education and served as Co-Director of the Peace Education Center at Columbia University. She received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award in Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies and the 2014 Peace and Justice Studies Association Award for Public Deliberation on Global Justice: The World Tribunal on Iraq. She has contributed chapters to *Human Dignity: Practices, Discourses, and Transformations* (2020); *Exploring Betty A. Reardon's Perspective on Peace Education* (2019); *The Handbook of Conflict Resolution* (2000, 2006); and *Learning to Abolish War: Teaching toward a Culture of Peace* (2001).

**Dale T. Snauwaert**, PhD, is Professor of Philosophy of Education and Peace Studies and Director of the Graduate Certificate Program in the Foundations of Peace Education and the Undergraduate Minor in Peace Studies at the University of Toledo, USA. He is the Founding Editor of In Factis Pax: Online Journal of Peace Education and Social Justice, and received a Fulbright Specialist Grant for peace education in Colombia. He has published on such topics as democratic theory, theories of justice, the ethics of war and peace, the normative foundations of peace studies, and the philosophy of peace education. His recent publications include: *Betty A. Reardon: A Pioneer in Education for Peace and Human Rights*; *Betty A. Reardon: Key Texts in Gender and Peace*; and *Human Rights Education beyond Universalism and Relativism: A Relational Hermeneutic for Global Justice* (with Fuad Al-Daraweesh), among others.

*Reclaimative Post-Conflict Justice: Democratizing Justice in the World Tribunal on Iraq* is available now in Hardback from the Cambridge Scholars website, where you can also access a free 30-page sample.

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