

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In 1993 the editors, who are members of the Committee on Culture, Health, and Human Development of the Social Science Research Council (New York), planned a series of volumes to examine anthropological questions on the relation of violence to states, local communities, and individuals. The first book, *Social Suffering*, explored the different ways in which social force inflicts harm on individuals and collectivities. In this, the second book in this series, we offer fourteen essays that explore the relation between violence and subjectivity from an off-the-center position. While the major part of the discussion is dedicated to what may be described as extreme situations, we include explorations into the more subtle violences of science and the state. All the essays address how violence shapes subjectivity and affects the capacity to engage everyday life. Together they contest a geography that makes a sharp division between “violence-prone areas” and “peaceful areas,” and suggest that such shorthand descriptions might themselves have contributed to the shaping of violence in the present global context.

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