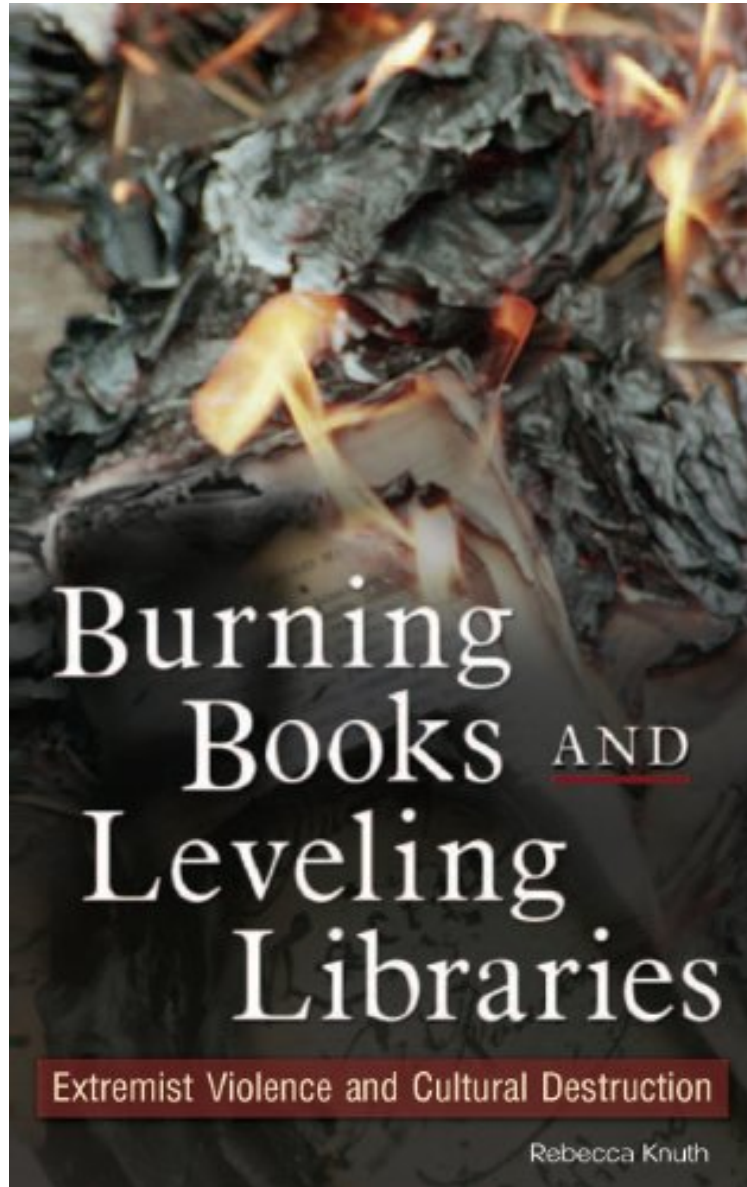


(Download free pdf) Burning Books and Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Cultural Destruction

Burning Books and Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Cultural Destruction

Rebecca Knuth

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1935425 in Books 2006-05-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.21 x .63 x 6.14l, 1.17 #File Name: 0275990079248 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Rebecca Knuth : Burning Books and Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Cultural Destruction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Burning Books and Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Cultural Destruction:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Printed books become more precious
By Sophia Kugeares
Very enlightening book reveals the powerful role that books and knowledge play in human history. The concept of libricide should be included in all history courses from middle school on through higher academia. We should not be deluded into believing that with modern technology that books and other printed matter and other cultural artifacts are obsolete. On the contrary, books will become more precious with the scarcity of printed materials. There will always be a place in human culture for the printed word no matter how many kindles and e-readers are produced.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched - Important read to understand why burning Books does NOT help ANYONE!
By Lotus
As the "College and Research Libraries" review rightfully pointed out: "If policy makers read this book, a must for all library schools and those concerned with the fate of humankind and their culture, then we may very well be spared the repeat of such destructive tragedies." "I was looking for resources that had factual evidence the 'Why? What? How?' and the reasons of the burning of one of the largest libraries was burned down by the Sri Lankan regime in 1981. Was this burning of 90,000, mostly irreplaceable volumes, a clear signal of Cultural Genocide? Did this push the Youth who could not get into the universities just because they were 'Tamil', to create a resistance? Why didn't the Govt. regime solve the 'root of the problem' and avoid the innocent deaths? Fortunately I found a brilliantly done Video documentary on Library burning that supplemented this book well!! Link to see this:
www.cultureunplugged.com/play/1613/Burning-Memories
Recommend for Peace studies, Ethnic conflict, Genocide, Political Science, Library and Information Sciences.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Burning Books And Leveling Libraries is highly recommended, as is Knuth's previous study in the field, "Libricide."
By Midwest Book Review
Rebecca Knuth (Chair of the Library and Information Science Program, University of Hawaii) presents Burning Books And Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Culture Destruction, a scholarly study of nationalist, ethnic, religious, or political extremism taken to such lengths as to result in the wholesale destruction of libraries as an all-out assault upon cultural values the extremists despise. As Knuth shows, destruction of books goes hand in hand with destruction of people. Burning Books And Leveling Libraries especially focuses upon incidents of biblioclasm in the late 20th and early 21st century. Chapters examine the annihilation of books and libraries as tactic of political or ethnic protest, and move on to explore the execution and aftermath of libricidal, homicidal, and genocidal conflicts in Germany, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India, and more. The final chapter harshly scrutinizes the war in Iraq and the looting and vandalism of Iraqi libraries and other cultural edifices during the American occupation. Ultimately, Knuth reveals that using military might alone to advocate and enforce ideals is futile when humanitarian, security, and cultural concerns are ignored. Deftly researched and biting exact in its portrayal of extremist psychology and its terrible consequences, Burning Books And Leveling Libraries is highly recommended, as is Knuth's previous study in the field, "Libricide."

Whether the product of passion or of a cool-headed decision to use ideas to rationalize excess, the decimation of the world's libraries occurred throughout the 20th century, and there is no end in sight. Cultural destruction is, therefore, of increasing concern. In her previous book *Libricide*, Rebecca Knuth focused on book destruction by authoritarian regimes: Nazis, Serbs in Bosnia, Iraqis in Kuwait, Maoists during the Cultural Revolution in China, and the Chinese Communists in Tibet. But authoritarian governments are not the only perpetrators. Extremists of all stripes through terrorism, war, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and other forms of mass violence are also responsible for widespread cultural destruction, as she demonstrates in this new book. *Burning Books and Leveling Libraries* is structured in three parts. Part I is devoted to struggles by extremists over voice and power at the local level, where destruction of books and libraries is employed as a tactic of political or ethnic protest. Part II discusses the aftermath of power struggles in Germany, Afghanistan, and Cambodia, where the winners were utopians who purged libraries in efforts to purify their societies and maintain power. Part III examines the fate of libraries when there is war and a resulting power vacuum. The book concludes with a discussion of the events in Iraq in 2003, and the responsibility of American war strategists for the widespread pillaging that ensued after the toppling of Saddam Hussein. This case poignantly demonstrates the ease with which an oppressed people, given the collapse of civil restraints, may claim freedom as license for anarchy, construing it as the right to prevail, while ignoring its implicit mandate of social responsibility. Using military might to enforce ideals (in this case democracy and freedom) is futile, Knuth argues, if insufficient consideration is given to humanitarian, security, and cultural concerns.

"Knuth has written a powerful, thought-provoking book to expand on her first book, *Libricide* (2003). She lays the groundwork by defining extremist behavior, destruction, and biblioclasm, in the historical and modern contexts. This book is divided into three parts. Each focuses on different aspects of power: at local levels, as part of totalitarian regimes, and as a result of grabs for power. Knuth examines the relative role of power and how biblioclasm is used as a means to gain attention, force beliefs, or hegemonize societies. The book presents in-depth analysis through a combination of actual cases, background information, and theory. Most eye-opening is the chapter on the invasion of Iraq and the irresponsible actions of the Bush administration, which resulted in the looting and destruction of centuries' worth of cultural and historical artifacts. Each chapter has significant bibliographic citations that reflect excellent

research in the author's preparation for this book. Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above." - Choice

"Burning Books and Leveling Libraries is an important study for political leaders around the world, for library association officials, for political scientists, and for all persons seriously interested in the preservation of the world's cultural, intellectual, and artistic heritage." - Journal of Information Ethics

"Written in academic style, the book is a thorough look at the topic of library destruction. This book would be an excellent discussion tool for those who are concerned about intellectual freedom. This is not a read for the faint of heart. This book sounds the clarion call to protect our libraries and our books in any way we possibly can. This is a must read for all professional librarians, museum curators and cultural center directors" - Colorado Association of Libraries

"Drawing persuasively from history, political science, and social theory, Knuth creates a challenging and forceful framework for understanding violence against books and libraries. Knuth balances the rigor of her scholarship and the weight of her subject matter with an engaging, accessible style, creating a work deserving the attention of any educated reader interested in intellectual freedom or political extremism." - Oklahoma Librarian

"This carefully researched volume is a sobering investigation of how in one century's time the world has lost extraordinary amounts of recorded human heritage. While it is an excellent selection for any LIS collection, its astounding breadth makes it an ideal interdisciplinary reader for political science, history and sociology collections. Strongly recommended for academic library and larger public library collections." - Journal of Access Services

"[A] recommended addition for academic libraries that support LIS schools. Additionally, with its in-depth research and extensive resources this book is a good complement to history and sociology collections." - Reference User Services Quarterly

"Readers of this lucidly written, excellently organized, and passionately argued book may never be able to view libraries the same way again; libraries, the author demonstrates, are not just information portals or storehouses of ideas, but something more dangerous and often feared: they are battlefields. Knuth has so succinctly summed up dozens of biblioclasm tragedies, so neatly and agonizingly explained how politics, human psychology, and the heft of history lead to such events, that it is hard to conceive that they will not happen again. If policy makers read this book, a must for all library schools and those concerned with the fate of humankind and their culture, then we may very well be spared the repeat of such destructive tragedies." - College and Research Libraries

"[A] scholarly study of nationalist, ethnic, religious, or political extremism taken to such lengths as to result in the wholesale destruction of libraries as an all-out assault upon cultural values the extremists despise. As Knuth shows, destruction of books goes hand in hand with destruction of people. Burning Books And Leveling Libraries especially focuses upon incidents of biblioclasm in the late 20th and earth 21st century. [K]nuth reveals that using military might alone to advocate and enforce ideals is futile when humanitarian, security, and cultural concerns are ignored. Deftly researched and biting exact in its portrayal of extremist psychology and its terrible consequences, Burning Books And Leveling Libraries is highly recommended, as is Knuth's previous study in the field, Libricide." - MBR: The Bookwatch

"[F]or as long as libraries seem worth building and maintaining, extremists will have a good material target, even if they are thwarted by the likes of Google in their aim to erase the cultural record." - Academia

"In Burning Books and Leveling Libraries: Extremist Violence and Cultural Destruction, Knuth documents how extremists of all persuasions have destroyed books and libraries. She gives examples where the destruction of books is used as a tactic of political or ethnic protest, or as a result of power struggles and war, and concludes with a discussion of the cultural destruction of Iraq in 2003." - American Libraries

"Knuth reports on the destruction of libraries and books by extremists around the world during the 20th century and investigates some of the complex motivations behind these violent acts. She first looks at the use of biblioclasm as a tactic of political or ethnic protest at the local level. Next, she discusses the purging of libraries in the aftermath of power struggles in Germany, Afghanistan, and Cambodia. The final three chapters consider the fate of libraries when war creates a power vacuum--with special attention paid to the looting of Iraq's cultural institutions in 2003." - Reference Research Book News

About the Author REBECCA KNUTH is Chair of the Library and Information Science Program at the University of Hawaii, where she is also Associate Professor.