The Genocide Debate
For Brigid
Contents

Acknowledgments ix

1 A Most Sensitive Matter 1
2 The Politics of Genocide Scholarship: The Case of Bangladesh 11
3 Arguing about Cambodia: Genocide and Political Interest 35
4 Who Suffered the Most? Genocide Studies and the Politics of Victimization 59
5 The Disputed Fate of the Ottoman Armenians 89
6 Genocide Provocation? The Case of the Ottoman Armenians and the Rwandan Tutsis 117
7 Final Thoughts 147

Notes 153
Bibliography 183
Index 193
The Jewish Studies program at Ithaca College has encouraged and aided my teaching and research on the Holocaust and on other genocides. In addition to much needed moral support, the program has provided funds for journal subscriptions, books, and travel. I am grateful to its founder, Barbara Johnson, and the current director, Rebecca Lesses.

Ithaca College has, on several occasions, supported my research endeavors. With a grant from the Provost’s Office at Ithaca College, I presented an early version of chapter 2 at the International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference in Galway, Ireland, in 2003. A Faculty Development Grant from the Provost’s Office allowed me to deepen my knowledge on this topic by traveling to Holocaust-related sites in Poland and Germany. Drafts of chapters 4 and 6 were presented at the International Studies Association annual conferences in San Francisco in 2008 and New Orleans in 2010. These presentations were made possible by travel funds from the School of Humanities and Sciences at Ithaca College.

A prior version of chapter 2 was published in the journal Patterns of Prejudice in 2007. I am deeply indebted to Barbara Rosenbaum for her patience and editorial guidance in improving the article.

Chapter 3 on Cambodia appeared in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in 2009. It was a pleasure to work with Michael Gelb, assistant editor, on this project. His intelligence, knowledge, and sharp editorial eye improved the style and substance of my arguments about the political disputes that surround the Cambodian genocide.

Naeem Inayatullah, of the Politics Department at Ithaca College, has been an interesting and engaging critic of my universalist worldview. He has not convinced me (nor I, him), but he often induced me to ponder further my assumptions and ideas.

Kevin McMahon, of the Political Science Department at Trinity College, does not delve into the field of genocides studies, but we have collaborated on occasion on publications in American Politics. I have valued greatly his friendship and advice as I have proceeded with this project.
Most of all, I have enjoyed our discussions about so many aspects of politics, policy, and life.

My debts to my wife Brigid, personal and professional, are far too extensive to fully enumerate here. I would not have completed this book or much else without her love, patience, and persistence. Above anything else, she taught me to love snorkeling off the beaches of Maui. Our annual two-week trips to swim with turtles and beautiful fish off that lovely island are the highlight of my year. I would not have taken them without Brigid’s initial interest. Unlike many academics in the United States, I am proud to take vacations and holidays (and admit that pleasure is the purpose of my trip), and Brigid has made so many trips to Maui and many other places more fun.