

# Remembering Air India

## The Art of Public Mourning

Chandrima Chakraborty, Amber Dean & Angela Failler, Editors



**A multi-layered examination of a Canadian tragedy, Air India Flight 182, and its representation.**

On June 23, 1985, the bombing of Air India Flight 182 killed 329 people, most of them Canadians. Today this pivotal event in Canada's history is hazily remembered, yet certain interests have shaped how the tragedy is woven into public memory, and even exploited to advance a strategic national narrative. *Remembering Air India* insists that we "remember Air India otherwise." This collection investigates the Air India bombing and its implications for current debates about racism, terrorism, and citizenship. Drawing together academic analysis, testimony, visual arts, and creative writing, this innovative volume tenders a new public record of the bombing, one that shows how important creative responses are for deepening our understanding of the event and its aftermath.

**Contributions by:** Cassel Busse, Chandrima Chakraborty, Amber Dean, Rita Kaur Dhamoon, Angela Failler, Teresa Hubel, Suvir Kaul, Elan Marchinko, Eisha Marjara, Bharati Mukherjee, Lata Pada, Uma Parameswaran, Sherene H. Razack, Renée Sarojini Saklikar, Maya Seshia, Karen Sharma, Deon Venter, Padma Viswanathan

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Excerpted from a review by Bob Rae in the *Literary Review of Canada*, June 2017

“*Remembering Air India* is an important book. It explores, through a number of essays, poems and excerpts from the public record, a question that should haunt us all still: why has this terrible disaster been relegated to the very margins of public memory?”

....

The book is filled with impressive arguments—Sherene Razack’s presentation on racism, for example—and thoughtful recollections and analysis that bridges the gap between scholarship and lived experience.

....

The focus of this book is not just on a failure of surveillance, policing, intelligence or the court system. Its theme is a wider, and painful, reality: the failure to embrace the Air India bombing and its aftermath as our own.

....

There are still lessons to be learned. Lessons about policing, security, taking threats of violence seriously. Lessons about how extremism can become deadly. But, equally, lessons about how the narratives of exclusion, loneliness, isolation, denial of experience, and racism pure and simple need to be embraced by all of us.”

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