

THE KOENIGSBERG LECTURES
CIVILIZATION AND SELF-DESTRUCTION
THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CULTURE AND HISTORY



DR. RICHARD A. KOENIGSBERG

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
AUTHOR & SCHOLAR

**Learn more
about the lectures
in the series:**

HITLER'S HOLOCAUST

THE LOGIC OF MASS MURDER

UNDERSTANDING WAR

LOVE AND THE PATHOLOGY OF
GROUP VIOLENCE

Series Description

Three decades of research on the psychological basis of group violence have led Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg to some startling conclusions about the nature and purpose of warfare, genocide and terrorism. Get ready to challenge everything you thought you knew about war!

200 million people lost their lives in the Twentieth Century through a succession of wars, revolutions, and genocidal movements. Events that seem fantastic and bizarre have come to be accepted as "normal" in the course of human events. Historians document this human propensity toward destructiveness but fail to understand or explain it.

Dr. Koenigsberg is an original thinker and dynamic lecturer, whose fresh and controversial analysis of the root causes of group violence amounts to a critique of culture. His research and findings leave us with a profound and enduring message about the nature of war, genocide and terrorism - made only more urgent and important by current events. Join Dr. Koenigsberg on this ground-breaking journey into the 'Heart of Darkness.'

**"Koenigsberg
examined war,
through a lens
of psychology
and found
pathology."**

**Read an extended description of the series
on the next page . . .**

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CULTURE AND HISTORY

Three decades of research on the psychological basis of group violence have led Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg to some startling conclusions about culture and the human propensity for self-destruction.

It's been said that the line between civilization and 'the jungle' is paper-thin. Indeed, history is replete with vivid and gruesome illustrations of 'man's inhumanity to man.' The Holocaust, Rwanda, Kosovo and Darfur all evoke images of horror that we have come to associate with the term 'genocide.' But what of war?



200 million people lost their lives in the Twentieth Century through a succession of wars, revolutions, and genocidal movements. This magnitude of violence, butchery, and destruction is almost beyond human comprehension. Yet, this methodical slaughter for political ends has been largely taken for granted and accepted as 'normal' in the course of human events.



Historians document the carnage with names, dates, and places, and provide us with a litany of rational explanations



for why one group of human beings, at some point in time, felt it necessary to destroy some other group of human beings. However, the social sciences fail to provide an adequate explanation for mass participation in mass slaughter. Indeed, historians and social scientists have not contemplated the possibility that the repetitive killing, characteristic of warfare, genocide and terrorism, constitutes a profound human pathology.

*"Brilliant and fascinating.
Koenigsberg's work
is so good and insightful
that it should be
required reading in
the education of everyone
in the civilized world."*

~ Joe E. Wyatt

Society of Modern Psychoanalysis

Dr. Koenigsberg's examination of some of the bloodiest conflicts of the 20th and 21st Century challenges conventional assumptions about the nature and purpose of war, genocide and terrorism. His unique form of psychological analysis and rigorous methodology help us to become conscious of hidden narratives that operate "beneath the radar" of social history.



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As Freud studied the dreams of individuals, now we turn to examine the shared fantasies underlying the historical process. To make conscious the unconscious on the stage of social reality.

Is it possible for humanity to awaken from the nightmare of history in the 21st Century? Are we capable of becoming aware of the fantasies that drive us toward destruction? Join Dr. Koenigsberg on this groundbreaking journey into the 'Heart of Darkness.'

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Biographical Information

Trained as a social psychologist with a Ph.D. from the prestigious Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg began his career as a college professor. In challenging dominant theories of society as functional and ultimately beneficial, Koenigsberg turned his attention to irrational and destructive phenomena that are inexplicable in conventional models. Specifically, his research focus led to an in-depth study of the psychology of Adolf Hitler and Nazism.

The results of this initial inquiry were published in 1975, in Koenigsberg's first book, *Hitler's Ideology*. Since its release, historians, anthropologists, psychoanalysts, and numerous other social scientists in countries around the world have commented on the scholarly precision and originality of Koenigsberg's work.

In his more recent work, Dr. Koenigsberg has elaborated upon his original findings by identifying and revealing the motivations underlying the conspicuous societal destructiveness of war, genocide, racism, and terrorism. His other books include *Hitler's Ideology*, *The Psychoanalysis of Racism, Revolution and Nationalism*; *Symbiosis and Separation: Towards a Psychology of Culture*, and *Dying For One's Country: War as Sacrifice*.



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Dr. Koenigsberg's articles have appeared in such prominent journals as the *Psychoanalytic Review*, the *American Imago*, the *Psychotherapy Review*, and the *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture & Society*.

Dr. Koenigsberg has appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows and is a frequently invited keynote speaker at scholarly conferences. His writings are a continual focus of on-line internet forums devoted to psychology, history and the social sciences. Koenigsberg's straightforward style of delivery and his unique and insightful profile of the human condition combine with a chilling analysis of social history to produce a riveting and thought-provoking message which inevitably leads to lively dialogue and debate.

Dr. Koenigsberg lives in New York City, where he is the Director of the Library of Social Science, an organization he founded to promote and exhibit scholarly research publications within academic and professional communities.

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SCHEDULING INFORMATION

DATES ON HOLD

Interested campuses may place **up to three dates** on hold to schedule a lecture engagement with Dr. Koenigsberg. This does not bind you to sign a contract for any date you place on hold, nor does it bind us to hold any date open indefinitely. However, if someone else calls and requests a date that you have on-hold, we will contact your campus and offer a “right-of first-refusal” on the date before releasing it to another party. That way you don't need to worry about a date that you are interested in getting booked out from under you while you make your decision.

ENGAGEMENT FEES

For up-to-date Fees & Scheduling Availability
Call: (800) 243-8596
or email: info@conflictaslesson.com

Full-Day of Programs Encouraged
at no Additional Fee
(See “On Campus Extras” Below)

* All proposals considered - some flexibility may exist depending on existing schedule, availability and location.

ON CAMPUS EXTRAS

Depending on scheduling and availability, Dr. Koenigsberg may also be available for classroom lectures, receptions and dinner engagements with campus faculty, staff, students and community leaders at no additional cost.

ENGAGEMENT PROMOTIONS

Campuses that schedule Dr. Koenigsberg to speak will be provided with a complete package of promotional materials to assist in advance promotion of the event. Available PDF promotional materials include (Color and Black and White: Posters - 11 x 17,” Flyers - 8 1/2 x 11,” Table Tents, Press Release, Class Notices and Glossy Photo.

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