

CONTENTS

Prologue: Seamus Heaney, *Poetry's Power against Intolerance*—

NORTHERN IRELAND / ix

Acknowledgments / xiii

Introduction / xv

PART I: TERROR AND TRAUMA

ONE: BEARING WITNESS / 3

Siamento, "The Dance"—TURKISH ARMENIA / 5

Someth May, Excerpt from *Cambodian Witness*—CAMBODIA / 8

Elie Wiesel, Excerpt from *Night*—UNITED STATES / 10

Erich Maria Remarque, Excerpt from *All Quiet on the Western
Front*—GERMANY / 15

Anthony Swofford, Excerpt from *Jarhead*—UNITED STATES / 18

Zbigniew Herbert, "Report from the Besieged City"—
POLAND / 20

Debra Fontaine, "Witnessing"—UNITED STATES / 22

TWO: ISOLATED AND APART / 24

Michael Herr, Excerpt from *Dispatches*—UNITED STATES / 25

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Excerpt from *The Gulag Archipelago*—
RUSSIA / 28

Begum Anis Kidwai, Excerpt from “In the Shadow of Freedom”—
INDIA / 33

Paul W. Morris, Excerpt from “Waking Up”—UNITED STATES / 39

THREE: COPING MECHANISMS / 45

Julio Cortázar, “Graffiti”—ARGENTINA / 46

Athol Fugard, Excerpt from *The Island*—SOUTH AFRICA / 51

Yvonne Vera, Excerpt from *The Stone Virgins*—ZIMBABWE / 56

Wang Meng, Excerpt from *The Anecdotes of Section Chief
Maimaiti*—CHINA / 59

Zakes Mda, Excerpt from *Ways of Dying*—SOUTH AFRICA / 62

Kay Boyle, Excerpt from *Decision*—UNITED STATES / 66

Imre Kertész, Excerpt from *Fatelessness*—HUNGARY / 72

FOUR: WRITING THE UNSPEAKABLE AND THE PRESSURE OF EMPTINESS / 84

A. M. Homes, “We All Saw It, or the View from Home”—
UNITED STATES / 85

Jonathan Schell, “A View of Mountains”—UNITED STATES / 88

Eugenio Montale, “Personae Separatae”—ITALY / 91

Toni Morrison, “The Dead of September 11”—
UNITED STATES / 92

Abba Kovner, “What’s Not in the Heart”—ISRAEL / 94

Dunya Mikhail, “O”—IRAQ / 96

PART II: COMMANDING OBLIVION

FIVE: SURVIVING SURVIVAL / 101

Ben Bagdikian, Excerpt from *Double Vision: Reflections on
My Heritage, Life, and Profession*—UNITED STATES / 102

Philip Gourevitch, Excerpt from *We Wish to Inform You That
Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from
Rwanda*—UNITED STATES / 108

Kenzaburo Oe, Excerpt from *Hiroshima Notes*—JAPAN / 117

Charlotte Delbo, Excerpt from *Days and Memory*—FRANCE / 123

Alexander Molot, “Earlier Winter”—CANADA / 126

SIX: LANDSCAPE AND MEMORY / 128

Edwidge Danticat, "Nineteen Thirty Seven"—HAITI / 129

Bloke Modisane, Excerpt from *Blame Me on History*—
SOUTH AFRICA / 131

Robert Graves, "Recalling War"—ENGLAND / 140

Saadat Hasan Manto, Excerpt from *Toba Tek Singh*—
PAKISTAN / 142

John Hoppenthaler, "A Jar of Rain"—UNITED STATES / 149

SEVEN: FADING MEMORY AND THE ROLE OF ART / 151

Varlam Shalamov, "Graphite"—RUSSIA / 152

Breyten Breytenbach, "New York, 12 September 2001"—
SOUTH AFRICA / 157H. D., Excerpt from "The Walls Do Not Fall"—
UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM / 159

Guillaume Apollinaire, "Shadow"—FRANCE / 164

EIGHT: BEATING BACK THE GHOSTS OF THE PAST / 166

Carol Edgarian, Excerpt from *Rise the Euphrates*—
UNITED STATES / 168Cynthia Ozick, Excerpt from *The Shawl*—UNITED STATES / 176

Can Xue, "Hut on a Mountain"—CHINA / 179

Vladimir Nabokov, Excerpt from *Prin*—RUSSIA / 184Toni Morrison, Excerpt from *Beloved*—UNITED STATES / 189

PART III: REMEMBRANCE

NINE: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT / 199

Urvashi Butalia, Excerpt from *The Other Side of Silence*—
INDIA / 200Wole Soyinka, Excerpt from "This Past Must Address Its Present"—
NIGERIA / 202

Fang Li-Zhi, Excerpt from "The Chinese Amnesia"—CHINA / 208

Tim O'Brien, "Speaking of Courage"—UNITED STATES / 211

Juan Gelman, "Under Foreign Rain (Footnotes to Defeat): XXV"—
ARGENTINA / 227

Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, Excerpt from “Who Killed India”—
INDIA / 228

Czeslaw Milosz, “Dedication”—LITHUANIA, UNITED STATES,
AND POLAND / 230

TEN: ROSE-COLORED MEMORY / 232

Italo Calvino, “Memories of a Battle”—ITALY / 233

Leslie Marmon Silko, Excerpt from *Ceremony*—
UNITED STATES / 240

Ayi Kwei Armah, Excerpt from *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet
Born*—GHANA / 246

Edmond Jabès, “The Desert”—EGYPT / 251

Joyce Carol Oates, “Words Fail, Memory Blurs, Life Wins”—
UNITED STATES / 253

ELEVEN: OBJECTS OF MEMORY / 256

Tadeusz Różewicz, “Pigtail”—POLAND / 257

Yannis Ritsos, “Underneath Oblivion”—GREECE / 258

Günter Eich, “Inventory”—GERMANY / 259

Anna Akhmatova, Excerpt from “Requiem”—RUSSIA / 261

Khaled Mattawa, “Letter to Ibrahim”—LIBYA / 263

Michael Ondaatje, Excerpt from *Anil’s Ghost*—SRI LANKA / 265

TWELVE: BUILDING BRIDGES / 268

Galway Kinnell, “When the Towers Fell”—UNITED STATES / 269

Czeslaw Milosz, “On Prayer”—POLAND / 274

Ion Caraion, “Tomorrow the Past Comes”—ROMANIA / 275

Victor Serge, “Constellation of Dead Brothers”—BELGIUM / 276

Fadhil Al-Azzawi, “Feast in Candlelight”—IRAQ / 278

Adonis, “A Mirror for the Twentieth Century”—SYRIA / 279

Pablo Neruda, “The Sadder Century”—CHILE / 280

Permissions / 283