



Affective Communities in World Politics: Collective Emotions after Trauma (Cambridge Studies in International Relations)

By Emma Hutchison

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Emotions underpin how political communities are formed and function. Nowhere is this more pronounced than in times of trauma. The emotions associated with suffering caused by war, terrorism, natural disasters, famine and poverty can play a pivotal role in shaping communities and orientating their politics. This book investigates how 'affective communities' emerge after trauma. Drawing on several case studies and an unusually broad set of interdisciplinary sources, it examines the role played by representations, from media images to historical narratives and political speeches. Representations of traumatic events are crucial because they generate socially embedded emotional meanings which, in turn, enable direct victims and distant witnesses to share the injury, as well as the associated loss, in a manner that affirms a particular notion of collective identity. While ensuing political orders often re-establish old patterns, traumatic events can also generate new 'emotional cultures' that genuinely transform national and transnational communities.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Emma Hutchison is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland, Australia. She has a growing international reputation for her research on emotions and world politics. Illustrative of her contribution is her recent co-edited forum section on 'Emotions and World Politics' in International Theory.

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