## Contents

	Truth Commissions in Chronological Order	XI
	Foreword to the Second Edition by Kofi Annan	xiii
	Author's Preface	xiv
	Acknowledgments	xvii
1	Introduction	1
2	Confronting Past Crimes: Transitional Justice and the	
	Phenomenon of Truth Commissions	7
	The Emergence of Truth Commissions 10	
	Other Kinds of Official Inquiries: Underappreciated? 14	
	Unofficial Inquiries That Result in Broad Truth-Telling 16	
	National Context 17	
3	Why a Truth Commission?	19
	The Aims 20	
	A State Obligation to Provide the Truth 23	
	Assessing Impact 25	
4	The Five Strongest Truth Commissions	27
	South Africa 27	
	Guatemala 32	
	Peru 35	
	Timor-Leste 39	
	Morocco 42	
5	Other Illustrative Truth Commissions	45
	Argentina 45	
	Chile 1 47	
	El Salvador 49	

## viii Contents

Germany 52

Haiti 54

South Korea 1 55

Ghana 56

Sierra Leone 58

Chile 2 60

Greensboro, North Carolina, United States 62

Paraguay 63

Indonesia and Timor-Leste 64

South Korea 2 65

Liberia. Sh

Ecuador 2 68

Mauritius 70

Solomon Islands 70

Togo 71

Canada 72

Kenya 73

6 What Is the Truth?

75

10	Naming Names of Perpetrators	121
	Decisions by Past Commissions 122	
	Due Process and the Question of Whether and How to	
	Name Names 139	
	Consideration of Evidence 142	
	Detailed Summaries versus Assignment of Responsibility 143	
11	Healing from the Past	145
11	The Need to Tell One's Story 147	140
	The Danger of Retraumatization 152	
	Briefers, Referrals, and Other Forms of Support 155	
	Psychological Trauma Affects the Information Gathered 158	
	"Sponges of Trauma": Secondary Traumatization of	
	Commission Staff and Journalists 159	
	Conclusion 161	
12	Truste and Danage 'and	172
12	Truth and Reparations	163
	Faciley Trith Commissions Landing to Reducts Responditions 167	
	Other Experiences: A Mixed Record 172 Reparations without Truth-Telling: Possible but Precarious 178	
	The Difficulties of Designing and Implementing a	
	Reparations Program 179	
13	Reconciliation and Reforms	182
	Is Reconciliation Posible? 183	
	What Does Reconciliation Look Like? 189	
	Recommending Reforms and Other Follow-Up Measures 190	
14	Leaving the Past Alone	195
	Mozambique: Alternative Means of Confronting the Past 197	
	Cambodia: Thirty Years after the Khmer Rouge 204	
	What Role for the International Community? 207	
15	When, How, and Who: Basic Questions of Methodology	
	and Operations	210
	Sponsorship: Who Creates and Empowers a Commission? 210	
	Management and Staffing Considerations 211	
	Timing: When, and for How Long? 215	
	Money Matters: Budgets and Funding 216	
	How to Do It? Basic Questions of Methodology 218	
	Civil Society: The Essential Ingredient 223	
	Access to Official Information 227	

## x Contents

Threats of Violence and Intimidation 230 Other Considerations 233 234 16 Reflections: Looking Forward 239 Appendix 1: Other Truth Commissions Described Uganda 1 239 Bolivia 240 Uruguay 1 241 Zimbabwe 242 Uganda 2 243 Philippines 244 Nepal 244 Chad 245 Sri Lanka 247 Ecuador 1 248 Nigeria 249 Uruguay 2 251 Panama 251 Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 252 Democratic Republic of the Congo 253 255 Appendix 2: Charts 1 Forty Truth Commissions (in Chronological Order) 256 2 Examples of Other Official or Semi-official Inquiries into the Past 263 3 What Rights Violations Do Truth Commissions Cover? 265 4 A Comparison of Resources and Responsibilities 268 5 Assessing Impact I: Reparations Following Truth Commissions 274 6 Assessing Impact II: Prosecutions, Vetting, Apologies, and Reforms 280 7 What Works Best? 285 Interviews by the Author 287 Notes 297 Bibliography and Other Resources 338

Select Bibliography 338

Index

Truth Commission Reports 342

Websites of Ongoing Truth Commissions 344 Other Websites for Further Reference 344

345