

Soul Repair Recovering From Moral Injury After War

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Soul Repair will help veterans, their families, members of their communities, and clergy understand the impact of war on the consciences of healthy people, support the recovery of moral conscience in society, and restore veterans to civilian life. When a society sends people off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them home to peace.

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~~Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War ...~~

Soul Repair is no exception. But it takes a very different and important approach, viewing the emotional damage caused by war not just as an illness to be treated, but as moral injury. Moral injury is a term the authors use for the fragmentation of our moral sense after we are sent off to w I've read a number of books about the trauma suffered by war veterans as research for my new novel, Along the Watchtower.

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Soul Repair: Recovery from Moral Injury After War. (Boston: Beacon Press, 2012) By Rita Nakashima Brock and Gabriella Lettini, with Camillo “ Mac ” Bica, Herman Keizer, Jr., Pamela Lightsey, and Camilo Mejia. A Study Guide for Congregations. Few major social institutions teach the moral integrity, courage, personal discipline, humility, sense of purpose and

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responsibility, and commitment to the lives of others better than the Armed Services.

~~Soul Repair: Recovery from Moral Injury After War~~

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The book Soul Repair: Recovering From Moral Injury After War takes a look at the notion of moral injury in returning combat veterans. Moral injury results from having to make difficult moral choices under extreme conditions, experiencing morally anguishing events or duties, witnessing immoral acts, or behaving in ways that profoundly challenge moral conscience and identity and the values that support them.

~~Review: "Soul Repair: Recovering From Moral Injury After ...~~

" Soul Repair is an eloquent, deeply human reminder that war is not just what takes place on a distant battlefield. It is something that casts a shadow over the lives of those who took part for decades afterwards.

~~Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War: Brock ...~~

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Soul Repair. Since 2012, The Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School has offered public education and conducted research on moral injury and recovery for military veterans. During this time, it has educated religious and non-profit communities, employers, educators, religious leaders, chaplains, seminarians, and medical care-givers about the ways to support processes of healing for those who experience military moral injury and their families.

~~Soul Repair—Brite Divinity School~~

“ The pastoral healer is a physician of fractured souls. We injure our souls by failing to follow our moral compass, or when our moral compass becomes misdirected because of the harm others do to us....Healing from lost innocence is not innocence regained. It is innocence mourned and moral integrity reestablished.

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~~What is Moral Injury? – Brite Divinity School~~

Soul repair: Recovering from moral injury after war. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. Center for Constitutional Rights (2013). The Right to Heal: Holding the U.S. Accountable for the Human Costs of War (Fact Sheet). Copland, L. (2013). Staff Perspective: On Moral Injury (blog post). Center for Deployment Psychology.

~~References – The Moral Injury Project – Syracuse University~~

This deep-seated sense of moral transgression includes feelings of shame, meaninglessness, and remorse from having violated core moral beliefs. Soul Repair will help veterans, their families, members of their communities, and chaplains to understand the impact of war on the consciences of healthy people, to support the recovery of moral conscience in society, and to restore veterans to civilian life. When a society sends people off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them ...

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Soul Repair will help veterans, their families, members of their communities, and clergy understand the impact of war on the consciences of healthy people, support the recovery of moral conscience in society, and restore veterans to civilian life. When a society sends people off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them home to peace.

~~Beacon Press: Soul Repair~~

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soul repair recovering from moral injury after war xv xvi psychiatrist jonathan shay who worked with us veterans of the war in vietnam first coined the term moral injury in 1994 and defined it as the violation of what is right by someone in legitimate authority in a high stakes situation which is accompanied by a physiological response of

~~Soul Repair Recovering From Moral Injury After War [PDF]~~

Soul Repair is no exception. But it takes a very different and important approach, viewing the emotional damage caused by war not just as an illness to be treated, but as moral injury. Moral injury is a term the authors use for the fragmentation of our moral sense after we are sent off to war.

The first book to explore the idea and effect of moral injury on veterans, their families, and their communities Although veterans make up only 7 percent of the U.S. population, they account for an alarming 20 percent of all suicides. And though treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder has undoubtedly alleviated suffering and allowed many service members returning from combat to transition to civilian life, the suicide rate for veterans under thirty has been increasing. Research by Veterans Administration health professionals and veterans ' own experiences now suggest an ancient but unaddressed wound of war may be a factor: moral injury. This deep-seated sense of transgression includes feelings of shame, grief, meaninglessness, and remorse from having violated core moral beliefs. Rita Nakashima Brock

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and Gabriella Lettini, who both grew up in families deeply affected by war, have been working closely with vets on what moral injury looks like, how vets cope with it, and what can be done to heal the damage inflicted on soldiers' consciences. In *Soul Repair*, the authors tell the stories of four veterans of wars from Vietnam to our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan—Camillo “Mac” Bica, Herman Keizer Jr., Pamela Lightsey, and Camilo Mejía—who reveal their experiences of moral injury from war and how they have learned to live with it. Brock and Lettini also explore its effect on families and communities, and the community processes that have gradually helped soldiers with their moral injuries. *Soul Repair* will help veterans, their families, members of their communities, and clergy understand the impact of war on the consciences of healthy people, support the recovery of moral conscience in society, and restore veterans to civilian life. When a society sends people off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them home to peace.

If we can share our burdens, we can bear them. If we can bear them, we can change the circumstances that brought them about. In a world where anything goes, people have a hard time deciding what is right and what is wrong. Pastors have a hard time helping people discern right and wrong because the church's theological language of sin and redemption have so little currency and even less cultural relevancy. How can pastors help people deal with their feelings of guilt, shame, and responsibility when most many people don't believe in sin and have a limited or “flexible” moral framework? People need help assessing moral alternatives, reconciling what they have done with what they think is right, recovering from burdens of guilt and shame, and imagining moral options to serve the common good. It is the

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call of pastors, chaplains, and other spiritual caregivers to help people move from moral injury to pardon and, eventually, to sustained recovery and resilience—in essence this book will help pastors reclaim their pastoral tasks of soul care and moral guidance without succumbing to the temptation of moralizing. Using vivid examples, the author will look at how various religious communities seek, promote, and achieve personal wholeness and realize the common good. This understanding will inform pastors, so that they can help their congregants and communities become vital agents in a sea of, often, conflicting moral voices. The book will provide resources for identifying core assets, and how to assess the various codes and moral claims interacting within the kaleidoscopic climate in which we live. Drawing upon neuroscience, narrative spirituality, and collaborative communal engagement, the author gives tools to aid pastors, chaplains, and spiritual caregivers ameliorate the distress caused by dissonance and resulting in moral injury. The book will also provide resources for helping people bear the burdens of moral responsibility and for navigating the sometimes unbearable consequences of particular moral actions. The author concludes with suggestions for helping people suffering from injury to their integrity from misdeeds they endure, either as a result of their own actions or from those actions of others, move toward sustained resilience and more mature moral imagination. "There is no better guide, or collaborative partner, for navigating the moral territory of post-traumatic living than Larry Graham. In *Moral Injury: Restoring Wounds Souls*, Graham sounds a clarion call for religious leaders to cultivate habits of mind and body to meet the complex situations of our day. Rather than offering a birds-eye-view of the moral terrain, Graham invites readers to feel the earth under their feet and attune themselves to the climate of their moral environments. With his careful

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definitional work and theological acumen, he revivifies theological ethics for progressive Christians. [And beyond this audience, Graham displays the importance of theology in contemporary discussions of moral injury.]" – Shelly Rambo, Associate Professor of Theology, Boston University School of Theology "Larry Graham has created an extraordinary workbook for moral resiliency and healing. He restores hope for the excruciating pains of a broken conscience. A treasure house of timely and practical applications sure to enrich pastoral conversations!" - Paul W. Dodd, Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army (Retired) "This book is a must-read if we care about recovery from moral injury, not just in the wake of immediate trauma, but also in historical legacies that haunt us. Larry Graham illuminates how questions of God can be addressed in that process with grace and compassion, and he shows, via the experiences of people from a variety of cultures and faiths, how moral injury can be healed." - Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock, Ph.D., Senior Vice-President for Moral Injury Programs at Volunteers of America. She is the former Research Professor of Religion and Culture and Director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

A fascinating new lens on the history of Christianity asks how its early vision of beauty evolved into a vision of torture, restoring the idea of paradise to its rightful place at the center of Christian thought.

This book expands the conversation on moral injury to include a more formal role for society in it. The author utilizes an interdisciplinary practical theology combining liberation

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theologies and cultural studies to interrogate how dominant ideologies can complicate moral injury reintegration among veterans.

Military Moral Injury and Spiritual Care offers resources to inform and support practices of spiritual care for veterans and others affected by moral injury incurred in the context of military service. A dozen contributors, all experienced in the field, contributed to this work first published in Pastoral Psychology and now widely available. This book is published with the support of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School. Interreligious in its focus, the Center sponsors research and creates resources to inform and support religious leaders and communities of faith as they respond to veterans and their families and others affected by military moral injury. Proceeds from the book support the Center's work.

Rebecca Parker was a young minister in Seattle when a woman walked into her church and asked if God really wanted her to accept her husband's beatings and bear them gladly, as Jesus bore the cross. Parker knew, at that moment, that if she were to answer the woman's question truthfully she would have to rethink her theology. And she would have to think hard about some of the choices she was making in her own life. When Rita Nakashima Brock was a young child growing up in Kansas, kids taunted her viciously, calling her names like "Chink" or "Jap." She learned to pretend that she did not feel the sting of scorn and the humiliation of contempt. The solitude and silence of her suffering-decreed by both her mother's Japanese culture and her father's Christian heritage-kept the wound alive. It was the gap between knowledge born of personal experience and traditional theology that led Rita Brock and

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Rebecca Parker to write this emotionally gripping and intellectually rich exploration of the doctrine of the atonement. Using an unusual combination of memoir and theology in the tradition of Augustine's Confessions, they lament the inadequacy of how Christian tradition has interpreted the violence that happened to Jesus. Ultimately, they argue, the idea that the death of Jesus on the cross saves us reveals a sanctioning of violence at the heart of Christianity. Brock and Parker draw on a wide array of intimate stories about family violence, the sexual abuse of children, racism, homophobia, and war to reveal how they came to understand the widespread damage being done by this theology. But the authors also undertake their own arduous and unexpected journeys to recover from violence and to assist others to do so. On these journeys they discover communities that begin to give them the strength to question the destructive ideas they have internalized, and the strength to seek out an alternative vision of Christianity, one based on healing and love. Proverbs of Ashes is both a condemnation of bad theology and a passionate search for what truly saves us. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Winner of the 2017 Dayton Literary Peace Prize From Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Wood, a battlefield view of moral injury, the signature wound of America's 21st century wars. Most Americans are now familiar with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and its prevalence among troops. In this groundbreaking new book, David Wood examines the far more pervasive yet less understood experience of those we send to war: moral injury, the violation of our fundamental values of right and wrong that so often occurs in the impossible moral dilemmas of modern conflict. Featuring portraits of combat veterans and leading

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mental health researchers, along with Wood's personal observations of war and the young Americans deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, *What Have We Done* offers an unflinching look at war and those who volunteer for it: the thrill and pride of service and, too often, the scars of moral injury. Impeccably researched and deeply personal, *What Have We Done* is a compassionate, finely drawn study of modern war and those caught up in it. It is a call to acknowledge our newest generation of veterans by listening intently to them and absorbing their stories; and, as new wars approach, to ponder the inevitable human costs of putting American "boots on the ground."

Moral injury has developed in earnest since 2009 within psychology and military studies, especially through work with veterans of the U.S. military 's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. A major part of this work is the attempt to identify means of healing, recovery, and repair for those morally injured by their experiences in combat (or similar situations). What this volume does is to provide insight into the identification of moral injury, the development of the notion, attempts to work with those affected, emerging ideas about moral injury, portraits of moral injury in the past and present, and, especially, what creative engagement with moral injury might look like from a variety of perspectives. As such, it will be an important resource for Christian ministers, chaplains, health care workers, and other providers and caregivers who serve afflicted communities.

A lifeline for healthcare workers in the midst of moral pain during the COVID-19 crisis On the front line of the COVID-19 response are thousands of healthcare providers working in

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strained systems with limited resources. Difficult decisions will be part of the experience of working under these circumstances. The moral dilemmas that providers may face in this crisis will undoubtedly lead to moral distress and emotional pain. Providers may have to make decisions about life and death, determining who gets life-saving equipment and attention and who does not. Working long and stressful hours may lead to accidental mistakes, oversights, or inaction. Providers working in overburdened or under-resourced systems may experience a sense of being thwarted in their effort to keep their oath and live their values. For providers who hold values such as service, caring, or protection, these potentially morally injurious events may have lasting consequences. Anger, guilt, and shame may plague those suffering from these seemingly impossible situations. If providers become mired in this moral pain, they may find their personal and professional lives become increasingly burdened by moral injury. The Moral Injury Workbook was developed to facilitate healing for people who have experienced a variety of moral violations and addresses a wide range of moral emotions—from guilt and shame to contempt and anger. It offers a step-by-step program to help readers move beyond their moral pain, reconnect with a fuller sense of self, and re-engage with deeply held values. This workbook is a lifeline for healthcare providers in the midst of moral pain. Oriented toward and guided by values of caring and compassion, the content of this workbook may be meaningfully applied to and engaged in the personal and professional practices of all who read it. The six core processes of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) are broadly addressed in the workbook to apply to a range of moral injuries. They may be used in service of the healing needed by those suffering in the presence and aftermath of this pandemic.

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2.6 million soldiers are currently returning home from war, the greatest number since Vietnam. With an increase in suicides and post-traumatic stress, the military has embraced measures such as resilience training and positive psychology to heal mind as well as body. But the moral dimensions of psychological injuries - guilt, shame, feeling responsible for doing wrong or being wronged - still elude much treatment. In *Afterwar*, philosopher Nancy Sherman turns her focus to that challenge. Trained in both ancient ethics and psychoanalysis, and with twenty years of working with the military, Sherman draws on in-depth interviews with servicemen and women to paint a richly textured and compassionate picture of the moral and psychological aftermath of America's decade of war. Sherman explores how veterans can go about reawakening their feelings without becoming re-traumatized; how they can replace resentment with trust; and the changes that need to be made by military courts, VA hospitals, and civilians who have been shielded from the heaviest burdens of war in order for this to happen. Americans, from politicians on downward, solemnly intone our "sacred obligations" to our veterans. Written with empathy, humanity, and deep insight, *Afterwar* provides no easy answers for how we can fulfill these obligations, but instead makes the case that the work of healing moral injuries is something that all of us, not just soldiers and psychologists, must do.

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