

After the end of the Cold War new opportunities emerged for reinterpreting and rewriting history, which caused changes in the collective memory of European societies. Many historical topics that had hitherto been hushed up could finally be researched and debated. One such topic was the large-scale expulsions and genocides that took place in twentieth-century Europe and affected about 90 million people from around 30 different ethnic groups. It is no exaggeration to state that the handling of these traumatic memories of the past is important for Europe's future. The most important question is how to deal with these memories in such a way that it may lead to reconciliation and not to conflict. What shall we do in Europe with this heavy historic heritage, with the painful memories of genocide, mass violence, expulsions and deportations? How can we prevent them being used in a politically destructive way?

These questions inspired the Centre for European Studies at Lund University to gather a group of researchers from different disciplines to develop a project idea about the remembrance of the peoples expelled in twentieth-century Europe. In 2007 a research network called "Whose Memory? Which Future?" was knitted together at Lund University. On 7–8 December 2007 the network convened a group of internationally recognised experts within the field of Memory studies for a two-day workshop organised by the Centre for European Studies in Lund on the theme Whose memory? Which Future? Remembering Europe's Expelled Peoples of the Twentieth Century. A planned large-scale research project was presented, whereby the invited scholars had a chance to comment on the proposal as well as to deliver short papers in connection with the project theme. This volume reports on the main proceedings from the meeting.



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