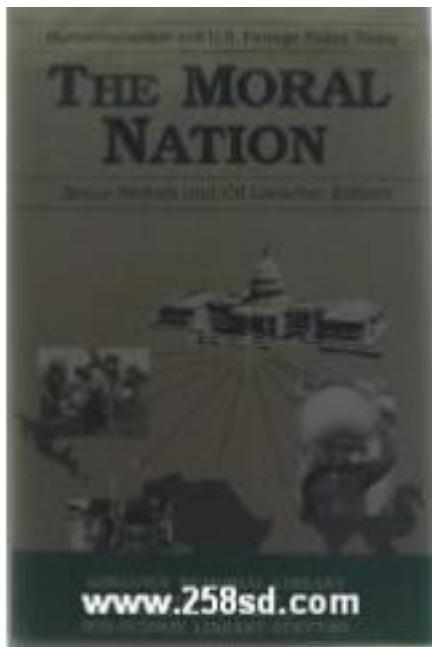


The Moral Nation: Humanitarianism and U.S. Foreign Policy Today



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780268013721

MEMORY IS THE ANSWER
Sydney H. Schanberg
My father was poor growing up and when his hard work brought him in middle age to a place where he was no longer poor—his memory of those difficult years informed his life in a manner that made him very good at helping others who were down on their luck. He took care of his family first but he didn't forget the others. These thoughts have rushed upon me because he died a little over a week ago—and when a parent dies we grope for meaning. Moreover—in the jumbled private days following his death—the outside world—murmuring for attention--was also discussing memory and morality.
Elie Wiesel—our teacher of the

Holocausti¼ a child of the
concentration campsi¼ was telling the President: ~This is why
survivorsi¼ of whom you spokei¼ Mr. Presidenti¼ have tried to teach
their contemporaries how to build on ruinsi¼ how to invent hope
in a world that offers nonei¼ how to proclaim faith to a generation
that has seen it shamed and mutilated. And I believei¼ we believei¼
that memory is the answeri¼ perhaps the only answer.\ "
Speaking of the concentration campsi¼ Mr. Wiesel said: \ "Mr
Presidenti¼ 1 was therei¼ I was there when American liberators
arrived. And they gave us back our lives. And what I felt for
them then nourishes me to the end of my days We are
grateful to this countryi¼ the greatest democracy in the worldi¼ the
freest nation in the worldi¼ the moral nation.\ "
Sometimes Presidents and policy makersi¼ caught and dis-
tracted by their geopolitical balancing actsi¼ seem to lose the
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