# THE CRUEL RADIANCE

PHOTOGRAPHY AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Susie Linfield

The University of Chicago Press Chicago and London

## **CONTENTS**

List of Figures xi

Preface: The Black Book xiii

#### PART ONE: POLEMICS

- A Little History of Photography Criticism;
  or, Why Do Photography Critics Hate Photography?
- 2 Photojournalism and Human Rights: The Calamity of the Kodak 33

#### PART TWO: PLACES

- 3 Warsaw, Lodz, Auschwitz: In the Waiting Room of Death 65
- 4 China: From Malraux's Dignity to the Red Guards' Shame 101
- 5 Sierra Leone: Beyond the Sorrow and the Pity 125
- 6 Abu Ghraib and the Jihad: The Dance of Civilizations 151

### PART THREE: PEOPLE

- 7 Robert Capa: The Optimist 175
- 8 James Nachtwey: The Catastrophist 205
- 9 Gilles Peress: The Skeptic 233

Acknowledgments 259 Notes 261 Bibliography 295 Index 309

### **FIGURES**

- 1.1 Farnood, protest against reelection of Ahmadinejad. Tehran, Iran (2009) 2
- 1.2 Jerome Delay, women in cemetery. Baghdad, Iraq (2003) 26
- 1.3 Ahmed Dhiya, schoolboys. Baghdad, Iraq (2004) 29
- 2.1 Ulrich Jantzen, burnt woman screaming. Dhaka, Bangladesh(2001) 32
- 2.2 Unidentified photographer, prisoner of Stalin. Lubyanka Prison,Soviet Union (1931) 55
- 2.3 Unidentified photographer, child prisoner of the Khmer Rouge.Tuol Sleng, Cambodia (date unknown) 58
- 3.1 Heinrich Jöst, woman selling Jewish armbands. Warsaw Ghetto (1941) 64
- 3.2 Mendel Grossman, women kissing before deportation. Lodz Ghetto (date unknown) 80
- 4.1 Li Zhensheng, Cultural Revolution struggle session. Harbin, China (1966) 100
- 4.2 Jack Birns, captured Communists. Songjiang, China (1948) 121
- 5.1 Candace Scharsu, Memuna Mansarah and her father. Murray Town Amputee Camp, Sierra Leone (2000) 124
- 5.2 Stuart Freedman, boy looking at father's prosthetic legs. Makeni, Sierra Leone (2004) 146
- 6.1 John Moore, man after suicide bombing. Rawalpindi, Pakistan (2007) 150

- 6.2 Josef Koudelka, woman with bloody flag. Prague, Czechoslovakia (1968) 161
- 7.1 Robert Capa, POUM fighters dancers. The Aragon front, Spain(1936) 174
- 7.2 Robert Capa, blind immigrants. Gedera, Israel (1950) 195
- 8.1 James Nachtwey, starving man. Ayod, southern Sudan (1993) 204
- 8.2 James Nachtwey, hanging man. Unidentified location, Afghanistan (1996) 220
- 9.1 Gilles Peress, the Shah's torture victims. Tehran, Iran (1979) 232
- 9.2 Gilles Peress, corpse's feet with shoes and socks. Xerxe, Kosovo(1999) 257