

**Frauen und Vertreibung: Zeitzeuginnen berichten**  
**(Women and Expulsion: Time-Witnesses report)**  
**Graz, Austria: Ares Verlag. 2008**

In her book, **Frauen und Vertreibung**, the German-born American, Prof. Dr. Brigitte Neary, permits fifteen German women from Eastern Europe to recall their brutal ordeals, 1944-1950. This historical time period witnessed the destruction of Eastern European Germans by the advancing Russian front and the subsequent “liberation” of Germany. The women describe in their own words the trauma they experienced decades ago as young girls or young women, of starvation, rape, beating, murder, plundering, and abduction. Red Army soldiers, but also Poles, Czechs, and Serbs were the perpetrators. These gripping accounts of human suffering at the hands of other humans demand questioning of what kind of human beings we are today and what, if anything, we have learned.

Prof. Neary is a sociologist and human rights advocate. The Foreword is by the prominent human rights advocate and scholar, Prof. DDr. Alfred de Zayas. He repeatedly condemns the persistent lack of interest, imposed silence, and violation of human rights surrounding these crimes.

This 160 pages long book is a single-authored extension of Prof. Neary’s book, **Voices of Loss and Courage** (Picton Press 2002, with Holle Schneider-Ricks). **Frauen und Vertreibung** includes additional geographic regions, timely and telling photographs, and makes this historically significant, but hitherto taboo material, accessible to a German-speaking readership. Past and present go hand in hand. In the not so distant future, our descendants and historians will be the bearers of history. We must insure there is a record of the collective trauma of millions of Germans. **Frauen und Vertreibung** significantly contributes to balancing the grossly distorted reporting of history. This book represents a step toward reconciling the publicly constructed memory regarding Germans and the personal memories of those who experienced the carnage: the time-witnesses and any others, eager for a balanced accounting.

Julius A. Loisch  
February 2009