Justifying the Judicial System

Long before Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, ancient and modern democratic governments employed torture against non-citizens—usually foreigners or slaves—deemed a threat to society. Torture may be morally repugnant to enlightened societies, but is it justified if it obtains information that protects its citizens?

Decades of scholarly research by Darius Rejali, professor of political science at Reed College and the 2009 Moravian College Peace and Justice Scholar, reveals that torture is not only ineffective for gathering useful information, but also absolutely corrosive to democracy. “Torture corrupts democracy because it can destroy the judicial system,” said Professor Rejali, author of *Torture and Democracy*, which won a 2007 Human Rights Book of the Year Award. “The law [Geneva Conventions for the treatment of prisoners] is the most fundamental thing we have in war—it’s the best way to get information and the right thing to do.”

*Torture and Democracy* is a very accessible book because it was shaped in the classroom, noted Khristina Haddad, assistant professor of political science at Moravian and a former student of Professor Rejali. By acting as critical readers of the book’s draft, posing questions and arguments, “students helped shape an award-winning book that is likely to change future policies about torture,” said Professor Haddad. “It is a reminder of the power of a small liberal arts college and its students.”

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**MORAVIAN BOOKSHELF**

- *Despine and the Evolution of Psychology: Historical and Medical Perspectives on Dissociative Disorders* is an annotated translation of a landmark study in the history of psychology—Antoine Despine’s 1838 monograph of a cure of major dissociative disorder using animal magnetism, or hypnosis. Joanne McKeown, associate professor of French and primary editor of the book, devoted more than 10 years to the project, which brings this seminal work to English-language readers for the first time.

- Walter H. Wagner, adjunct professor at Moravian Theological Seminary and an ordained Lutheran minister, has written *Opening the Qur’an: Introducing Islam’s Holy Book*, a comprehensive and accessible, step-by-step text. The book provides historical, geographical, and theological contexts for the Qur’an, the Prophet Muhammad, and the early Muslim community, while exploring specific passages in detail.

- Adjunct instructor Mark Will-Weber’s *Run for the Diamonds: 100 Years of Footracing in Berwick, Pennsylvania* takes readers through the turns, stretches, and hills of American running by way of one of one of its oldest races. Berwick’s grueling Run for the Diamonds has attracted some of the world’s greatest runners and running pioneers, whose experiences are described with insight and admiration. Don’t miss fast-footed Moravians, including Kim Jaick ’02 (2002 women’s champ) and Heidi Wolfsberger ’02 (2005 women’s champ).