



## Restoration or retribution - South African and German experiences of dealing with the past

By Patrick Wagner

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 58 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.1in. Bachelor Thesis from the year 2003 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: Miscellaneous, grade: 1 (A), University of Kent (Department of Politics and International Relations), 35 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Numerous societies who are in a transition period between an authoritarian regime and democracy face the question of how to deal with their past. In most cases the option to forget what has happened and to concentrate only on the future is neither possible nor desired by the people. For many the choice is between setting up a truth commission and dealing with the perpetrators of gross human rights violations in special or conventional courts. Before discussing the South African and the German examples, part one of this paper examines the different concepts of justice proposed by the two mechanisms of dealing with the past. Part two then focuses on the South African experience to deal with the atrocities of the apartheid regime by means of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The commissions approach on how to deal with the past will be discussed alongside both its achievements and shortcomings....



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