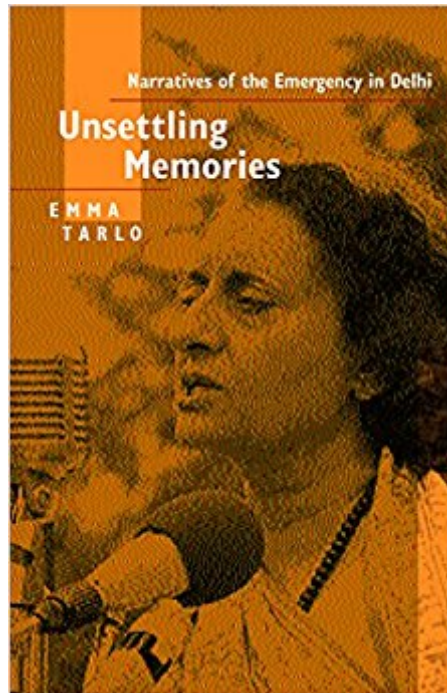




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# Unsettling Memories: Narratives Of The Emergency In Delhi



## Synopsis

This richly detailed ethnographic work tells the story of a period of deep civil unrest in India . In 1975 Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency which gave her the power to silence opposition through arrests and censorship and to introduce a new program of reform which included the draconian campaigns of slum clearance and family planning. In the capital city of Delhi access to basic civic amenities became dependent on the production of a sterilization certificate. For many of the city's poorest inhabitants whose homes had been demolished, the choice was between sterilization or homelessness. *Unsettling Memories* provides a gripping analysis of how state oppression was orchestrated and experienced in Delhi during the Emergency. Using personal narratives and previously unstudied archival material, it traces the process by which policies were subverted at the local level through a combination of violence, trickery and market forces. It fills a significant gap in the recent political history of India, shedding light on a period many would rather forget. Its documentation and analysis of the relationship between state archives and lived experience is methodologically innovative, charting new ground for anthropologists and political scientists concerned with the role of the state in everyday life.

## Book Information

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'It would perhaps be inappropriate to say that I read it with pleasure. since its subject matter [forced sterilisation campaigns and slum clearances] is so unpleasant, but Tarlo writes so beautifully and so elegantly that this really was something that I found I could not put down.' -Prof. Patricia Jeffrey, University of Edinburgh --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Emma Tarlo is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and author of *Clothing Matters: Dress and Identity in India* (1996), winner of the Ananda Kentish Coomarswamy Prize in 1998.

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