

AIMS OF THE BOOK: HISTORY AND POWER

“This book is about history and power. It deals with the many ways in which the production of the historical narratives involves the uneven contribution of competing groups and individuals who have unequal access to the means of such production.” The power exerted over the making of historical narratives is as powerful as guns etc. xix

(Consider, for example, the recent discussion about the Martin Luther King Memorial)

“I also want to reject both the naïve propositions that we are prisoners of our pasts and the pernicious suggestion that history is whatever we make of it.” (xix)