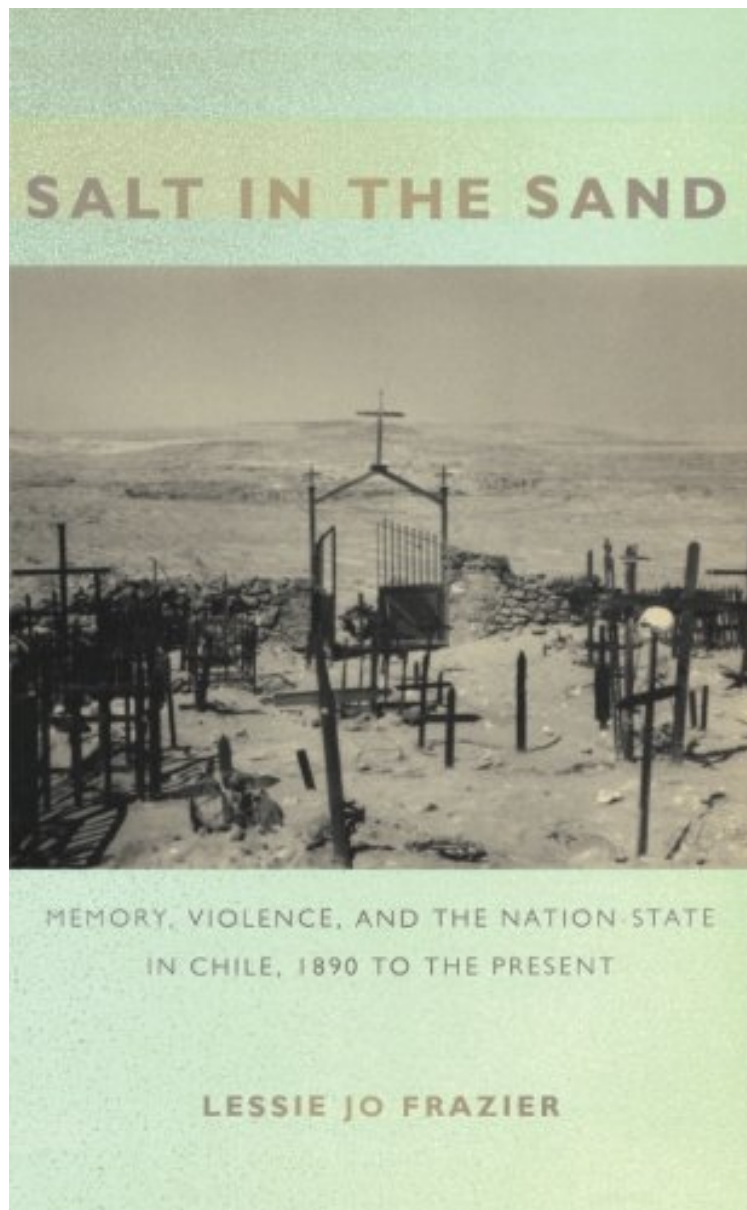


(Library ebook) Salt in the Sand: Memory, Violence, and the Nation-State in Chile, 1890 to the Present  
(Politics, History, and Culture)

## **Salt in the Sand: Memory, Violence, and the Nation-State in Chile, 1890 to the Present (Politics, History, and Culture)**

*Lessie Jo Frazier*

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2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By Lachicuela I found this book to be thoughtful and provocative; it tells a compelling and difficult story that links violence, social/political unrest, and memory with nation-state projects and the kinds of affective connections that these projects require in citizens. The author draws you in in her juxtaposition of well-known and forgotten incidents in Chilean history, and with her complex reading of these events. Of particular note, *Salt in the Sand* is groundbreaking in its vision of the state and how particular (state) projects require that constituents hold particular subjectivities --senses of themselves in relation to these projects. This book will appeal to those interested in social movements, nation-state formation, and the shifting relationships between citizens and states. Not for the faint of heart or for those wanting light bedtime reading, but well worth the trouble. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best of the Chile memory books! By LStevens Other books may deal with memory and human rights but few deeply take history and theory into account while still providing a rich, human sense of what it might be like to live through a devastating century. The best of the memory in Chile books; the best of the memory studies books.

*Salt in the Sand* is a compelling historical ethnography of the interplay between memory and state violence in the formation of the Chilean nation-state. The historian and anthropologist Lessie Jo Frazier focuses on northern Chile, which figures prominently in the nation's history as a site of military glory during the period of national conquest, of labor strikes and massacres in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth, and of state detention and violence during World War II and the Cold War. It was also the site of a mass-grave excavation that galvanized the national human rights movement in 1990, during Chile's transition from dictatorship to democracy. Frazier analyzes the creation of official and alternative memories of specific instances of state violence in northern Chile from 1890 to the present, tracing how the form and content of those memories changed over time. In so doing, she shows how memory works to create political subjectivities mobilized for specific political projects within what she argues is the always-ongoing process of nation-state formation. Frazier's broad historical perspective on political culture challenges the conventional periodization of modern Chilean history, particularly the idea that the 1973 military coup marked a radical break with the past. Analyzing multiple memories of state violence, Frazier innovatively shapes social and cultural theory to interpret a range of sources, including local and national government archives, personal papers, popular literature and music, interviews, architectural and ceremonial commemorations, and her ethnographic observations of civic associations, women's and environmental groups, and human rights organizations. A masterful integration of extensive empirical research with sophisticated theoretical analysis, *Salt in the Sand* is a significant contribution to interdisciplinary scholarship on human rights, democratization, state formation, and national trauma and reconciliation.

A path-breaking study of history and memory in Chile's legendary nitrate north that ties together the massacres of miners in the early twentieth century and the human rights abuses of the Pinochet era. A highly original contribution to memory studies, gender studies, and Chilean history. Peter Winn, editor of *Victims of the Chilean Miracle: Workers and Neoliberalism in the Pinochet Era, 1973-2002*