

The Specter of Genocide

Dr. Shmulik Lederman

Office hours: Sunday, 15:00-16:00

E-mail: shmulikled@gmail.com

Phone: 052-6219608

Course Description:

The 20th century has been dubbed 'The Century of Genocide' by genocide scholars. It is estimated that 260 (!) million people were murdered by governments in the 20th century, 40-80 million of them in events that meet the legal definition of genocide in international law. The course will examine the specter of genocide. We will familiarize ourselves with the history of the term, its ambiguities, its legal definition and the many controversies over what genocide actually means. We will examine particular case studies – From the 1915 Armenian genocide, through the genocide of the Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) in WWII, the Cambodian 'auto-genocide' and the Indonesian occupation of East-Timor in the 1970s, to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Through these case studies, we will discuss the (sometimes) genocidal legacies of European colonialism, modern racism, extreme nationalism, ideological revolutions and the power of the modern state.

Course Requirements:

Full attendance.

Weekly reading assignments: Students are required to read the assigned items for every week.

Essay papers: Students are required to submit three essay papers, each two pages long. Each paper should address one reading item, analyzing its main argument and presenting an opinion (for instance, is it convincing; could there be another

explanation for the events/phenomena discussed; is it consistent with what you know of other genocides or cases of mass murder; does it neglect some important historical/political/moral issues, etc., according to the context).

The final grade is determined by attendance, participation in discussions during class and the essay papers.

Final paper: Students may submit a final research paper: either an exercise (a short, ten page long paper) or a seminar paper. Exercises must be submitted by September 30, 2016. Seminar papers must be submitted by the end of January 2017.

Reading List:

1. What is Genocide?

Raphael Lemkin, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe: Laws of Occupation, Analysis of Government, Proposals for Redress* (New York: Howard Fertig, 1973), pp. ix-xv; pp. 79-95.

Raphael Lemkin, "Genocide as a Crime under International Law," *The American Journal of International Law* 41(1) (Jan., 1947): 145-151

Rudolph J. Rummel, "Power, Genocide and Mass Murder," *Journal of Peace Research* 31(1) (1994): 1-10.

William A. Shabbas, *Genocide in International Law: The Crime of Crimes* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2000), pp. 1-13; 71-81.

"Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," *The United Nations Human Rights Website:*

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CrimeOfGenocide.aspx>

2. Genocide in Rwanda

Alison Des Forges, *'Leave None to Tell the Story': Genocide in Rwanda* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999), pp. 1-30; 31-64

Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001), pp. 76-102.

Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press 2006), pp. 122-152.

Hassan Bubacar Jallow, "The Contribution of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to the Development of International Criminal Law," in *After Genocide: Transitional Justice, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond*, eds. Philip Clark and Zachary Kaufman (Columbia/Hurst, 2009), pp. 261-279.

Phil Clark, "The Rules (and Politics) of Engagement: The Gacaca Courts and Post-Genocide Justice, Healing and Reconciliation in Rwanda," in *After Genocide: Transitional Justice, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond*, eds. Philip Clark and Zachary Kaufman (Columbia/Hurst, 2009), pp. 297-319.

3. The Armenian Genocide

Ronald G. Suny, "Religion, Ethnicity and Nationalism: Armenians, Turks, and the End of the Ottoman Empire," in *In God's Name: Genocide and Religion in the Twentieth Century*, eds. Omer Bartov and Phyllis Mack (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2001).

Donald Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 69-96.

Richard G. Hovannisian, "The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?" in *The Armenian Genocide: Cultural and Ethical Legacies*, ed. Richard G. Hovannisian (New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 2007), pp. 3-15.

Taner Akcam, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2007), pp. 11-148.

Richard G. Hovannisian, "Denial of the Armenian Genocide in Comparison with Holocaust Denial," in *Remembrance and Denial: The Case of the Armenian Genocide*, ed. Richard G. Hovannisian (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1999), pp. 201-231.

Robert F. Melson, "The Armenian Genocide as Precursor and Prototype of Twentieth-Century Genocide," in *The Genocide Studies Reader*, eds. Samuel Totten and Paul R. Bartrop (New York and London: Routledge, 2009), pp. 234-242.

4. Auto-genocide in Cambodia

Ben Kiernan, "The Cambodian Genocide – 1975-1979," in *Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*, eds. Samuel Totten, William S. Parsons and Israel W. Charny (New York and London: Routledge, 2004), pp. 339-359.

Ben Kiernan, *Blood and Soil: A World History of Genocide and Extermination, from Sparta to Darfur* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2007), pp. 540-554.

Alex L. Hinton, *Why did they Kill? Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide* (Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 2005), 126-169.

5. Indonesian Occupation of East Timor

John G. Taylor, "‘Encirclement and Annihilation’: The Indonesian Occupation of East Timor," in *The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective*, eds. Robert Gellately and Ben Kiernan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Geoffrey Robinson, *'If You Leave Us Here, We Will Die': How Genocide was Stopped in East Timor* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 40-65.

6. The Murder of the Roma (Gypsies)

Gilad Margalit, "The Uniqueness of the Nazi Persecution of the Gypsy," *Romani Studies* 10 (2) (2000): 185–210.

Michael Zimmerman, "The Wehrmacht and the National Socialist Persecution of the Gypsies," *Romani Studies* 5, 11 (2) (2001): 111-135

Michael Zimmerman, "Intent, Failure of Plans, and Escalation: Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies in Germany and Austria, 1933-1942," *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Symposium 2002*: 9-21.

Ian Hancock, "Responses to the Porrajmos: The Romani Holocaust," in Alan S. Rosenbaum (ed.), *Is the Holocaust Unique? Perspectives on Comparative Genocide* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1996).

7. Genocide: Past, Present, Future

David E. Stannard, *American Holocaust: Columbus and the Conquest of the New World* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992), pp. 57-75.

Alex Hinton, "Savages, Subjects, and Sovereigns: Conjunctions of Modernity, Genocide, and Colonialism," in *Empire, Colony, Genocide: Conquest, Occupation, and Subaltern Resistance in World History*, ed. Dirk Moses (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2010), pp. 440-456.

Helen Fein, "Genocide and Gender: The Uses of Women and Group Destiny," *Journal of Genocide Research* 1(1): (1999): 43-63.

Catherine A. MacKinnon, "Rape, Genocide, and Women's Human Rights," in *Genocide and Human Rights*, ed. Mark Lattimer (Burlington: Ashgate, 2007), pp. 133-144.

Adam Jones, "Genocide and Structural Violence: Charting the Terrain," in *New Directions in Genocide Research*, ed. Adam Jones (London and New York: Routledge, 2012), pp. 132-148.